

GOD IS A COVENANT-MAKING GOD

KENNETH COPELAND AND GREG STEPHENS

APRIL 6-10, 2020

DAY 1 – LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST IS LIFE WITHOUT COVENANT

Life without Christ is life without covenant. In the Western world, we're not aware of the benefits and power of our covenant with Christ. God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. The Last Supper, the Passover, where Jesus ate with His disciples, was actually the covenant meal of the new agreement. E. W. Kenyon wanted to understand more about taking Communion and how that fit in with covenant.

STUDY IT

- I. Life without Christ is life without a covenant.
 - Anyone who has no covenant with God has no covenant rights.
 - A “gentile” is someone who doesn't know God, who is uncircumcised and without a covenant with God (Ephesians 2:11-12).
 - Before you were born again, you were a gentile, you were without Christ, being an alien from the commonwealth of Israel and a stranger from the covenants of promise having no hope and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12).
 - But now in Christ Jesus you have been brought near by the blood [of Jesus] (Ephesians 2:13).
 - It's easy to enter into covenant with God. Like the Apostle Paul, just call out, “LORD!” (Acts 9:5)
 - How did young David kill the giant, Goliath? It was through the covenant.
 - Goliath had no covenant with God to protect him and give him strength (1 Samuel 17:26).
 - David had faith in God's covenant. He was fully persuaded God would give him the victory.

- II. In the Western world, we're not aware of the benefits and power of our covenant in Christ.
 - There are many things in the First Covenant that are types, shadows, truths and concepts about Jesus. Not knowing much about covenants, we don't always recognize Him.



- The redemptive power of the Name of Jesus works because of covenant. Life is in Jesus' Name. Jesus shed His blood. By using the Name and the blood, I am redeemed.
- III. God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God.
- Scripture tells us that Abraham believed God and was called the "Friend of God" (James 2:23).
 - In the *King James Version*, the word *Friend* is capitalized to represent a covenant relationship.
 - God saw Abraham as a Friend. It's a serious relationship.
 - A covenant friend sticks closer than a biological brother (see Proverbs 18:24).
- IV. The Last Supper, the Passover, where Jesus ate with His disciples, was actually the covenant meal of the new agreement (Matthew 26).
- Jesus as the High Priest, Lord Advocate General of the Church, became our blood Brother and our covenant Friend.
 - Jesus washed Judas' feet knowing Judas was minutes from betraying Him.
 - They ate from the same plate. Jesus called him Friend (Matthew 26:47-50).
 - Jesus never broke covenant, not even with Judas.
 - Jesus is your covenant Friend, and He will never break covenant with you!
 - The Jews were commanded by God not to eat or drink blood because the life of the flesh is in the blood. The blood on the altar made atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:10-12).
 - If they did, they were to be removed from the covenant and from fellowship. They were to be sent away.
 - God showed the sacredness of blood, whether animal or man.
 - Life is in the blood. Without blood, you die.
 - It's profane to use the word *blood* wrongly. To say, "I bloody well will," that's profanity.
- V. E. W. Kenyon wanted to understand more about taking Communion and how that fit in with covenant.
- You can take Communion (the covenant meal) as often as you want to remember Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
 - The root word for *covenant* means "to cut, suggesting an incision, where blood flows."
 - E.W. Kenyon gave three reasons for cutting covenant with another.
 1. A strong and a weak tribe made covenant for protection and preservation.
 2. Two businessmen entering into a partnership cut covenant.





3. Two men loved each other devotedly, such as David and Jonathan, and cut covenant for that love's sake.
 - The method of cutting covenant involved two men or two representatives, together with friends and a priest coming together, pronouncing BLESSINGS and curses, exchanging gifts and declaring that all one has, the other now has, if necessary.
 - This covenant between God and Abraham (Genesis 17) was the foundation of all other blood covenants all over the world.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The word *Friend*, with a capital "F," is a word pertaining to covenant. Write what you think are the differences between a friend (not capitalized) and a covenant Friend.



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DAY 2 – FROM STRANGER TO HEIR THROUGH THE COVENANT

Through God's covenant, we have moved from strangers to heirs. In the book of Ephesians, Paul explains who we are in Christ—heirs of the covenant. God entered into covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

STUDY IT

- I. Through God's covenant, we have moved from stranger to heir.
 - God is a covenant-making God.
 - In the Garden of Eden, Adam sinned. Adam and Eve realized they were naked.
 - God said, "Adam, where are you?" The Hebrew actually says, "Why are you where you are? Naked? Who told you that?" (Genesis 3:9-11).
 - Adam tried to meet his own needs, without God, using fig leaves.
 - God clothed Adam and Eve with skins. He killed an animal, the first blood shed, an animal of sacrifice (Genesis 3:21). God entered into a covenant with him.
 - Adam's sin was about the tithe. The tree of knowledge of good and evil was God's tree; the fruit was Adam's tithe.
 - If they had waited until that fruit was ripe, taken it and set it down before the Father, He would have taught them what was good and what was evil without them having to experience the evil.
 - Jesus was taught the difference between good and evil without committing sin.
- II. To review we asked: Who is God? He is *El Shaddai*, everything you need; the God who is more than enough.
 - God: *El Shaddai*; Jehovah Rapha—He is who He says He is. He can do whatever He says He can do. He will do whatever He said He will do.
 - When God says something, it's immediately a covenant. He watches over His WORD to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12, *AMPC*).
 - The WORD of God is like a rosebud that unfolds, until it gets to Jesus—risen from the dead. Jesus is the Rose of Sharon, and we partake of His fragrance.
- III. In the book of Ephesians, Paul explains who the Christians are in Christ—heirs of the covenant.



- We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10).
- God had everything laid out before the foundation of the world.
 - Every human is in a book of life, the book of destiny—not the Lamb's Book of Life.
 - Through lies, the devil tries to sidetrack you from getting into the Lamb's Book of Life. When you get in that book, you are no longer a stranger from the covenants of promise.
- When you are born again, you're in a blood relationship with Almighty God (Ephesians 2:12-13).
- You have experienced the circumcision of the heart (Colossians 2:11).
- You are a covenant brother or sister with Almighty God and His Son, Jesus and an heir of the covenant (Galatians 4:7).

IV. God entered into covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

- About 400 years later, God renewed the covenant with Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6).
 - God said, "Keep My covenant;" the commandments were not yet spoken.
 - Moses came down with the laws of the covenant. He instructed the people how to live and please God.
- Those people chose to disobey the covenant, and they died in the wilderness.
- The new generation had to be told the terms of the covenant.
 - They were arranged by tribes on two mountains.
 - Those on Mount Gerizim shouted the BLESSINGS (Deuteronomy 27:11-12).
 - Those on Mount Ebal shouted the curses, and the people shouted, "Amen" (Deuteronomy 27:13).
 - They didn't say, "Amen," to THE BLESSING because they had lived in THE BLESSING all their lives with supernatural food (manna), water and protection.
- A covenant has BLESSINGS and curses. God didn't intend for His people to be cursed, but the results of breaking the covenant had to be announced (Deuteronomy 28).
 - "All these blessing shall come upon thee if you hearken unto the voice of The LORD" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). It's going to happen.
 - All these curses shall come upon you if you don't (Deuteronomy 28:15).





MAKE IT PERSONAL

It's obvious that a person who is a stranger is not an heir to an estate. The stranger will not be included in the will, nor will he or she inherit anything from that estate.

Knowing this, it's important to understand what makes you an heir rather than a stranger to God. How can you inherit from God? What do you inherit? When does the inheritance come to you?



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DAY 3 – WHAT YOUR COVENANT REALLY MEANS

You are in covenant with Almighty God, if you have been born again. David's armor to defeat Goliath was confidence in God's covenant. The Jews crossing the Jordan River was a picture of baptism. Jesus became the Lamb who was offered for our sin when He was sacrificed on the cross.

STUDY IT

- I. You are in covenant with Almighty God if you have been born again.
 - That means everything God has, He offers to you, including His authority.
 - The persistent devil will come to steal from you, if you let him.
 - Keep your focus on walking in the covenant to keep that from happening.
 - The king wanted Dr. Stanley's goat in the covenant gift exchange. Dr. Stanley got the king's staff.
 - Dr. Stanley found out that the staff gave him the same respect and authority the king had among the people in Africa.
 - An example of how it works: A general tells a low-ranking corporal to give Colonel Johnson instructions. The corporal is telling the colonel what to do. That corporal is representing that general by repeating his word.
 - Another example: If the corporal put on a general's uniform, people who did not know the corporal would think he was a general.
 - In the spirit, we are wearing God's armor. The devil doesn't know it's us.

- II. David's armor to defeat Goliath was confidence in God's covenant.
 - Brother Copeland believes that when David was fighting the lion and the bear, he had Samson's supernatural strength on his mind.
 - The anointing of God came on David, just like it did on Samson, and David killed the lion.
 - David's covenant with Jonathan extended to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.
 - David showed kindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake, and made a place at his table.



- When crippled Mephibosheth was sitting at the king's table, his legs couldn't be seen.
 - We are seated with Christ and our weakness can't be seen.
 - We eat with The LORD in the presence of the devil (Psalm 23:5). Ignore him. We have been given the victory (1 John 5:5)!
- III. The Jews crossing the Jordan River was a picture of baptism.
- When Joshua put his feet in the water of the Jordan, the waters rolled back all the way to Adam. Adam is a town about 15 miles away.
 - Jesus' victory rolled all the way back in time to Adam in the Garden.
 - The pattern of death, burial and resurrection is pictured in baptism as a person goes under the water, then is raised again (Romans 6:4).
 - John the Baptist baptized with the baptism of repentance (Mark 1:4). Jesus didn't need to repent.
 - Jesus' baptism was a symbol of His taking the office of High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.
 - The Father spoke over Jesus, "This is My beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). There's a new High Priest. Things have changed.
- IV. Jesus became the Lamb who was offered for our sin when He was sacrificed on the cross.
- The Jewish feast of Yom Kippur was the time of year the High Priest made an offering for the sin of the nation.
 - They chose two goats and a bull.
 - They cast lots to see which goat to sacrifice and upon which to put the sin of the nation.
 - The priest killed the sacrificial goat and bull for a sacrifice He offered their blood in the Holy Place.
 - The priest then laid hands on the other goat and spoke all the curses of the nation onto the goat. It was taken into the wilderness to die.
 - Jesus was the scapegoat when He was led outside the city, and He became the curse.
 - We receive Jesus' sacrifice in our place (Galatians 3:13).

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Pray with us:

Father, I receive all that You have to give me through the covenant and the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Teach me to know what Your grace has given me and how to receive it. Thank You. I pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.





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DAY 4 – THE COVENANT MEAL THAT WILL HEAL

Cutting covenant and following covenant procedures became the universal method of creating law. The children of Israel went into Egypt as a family to escape the severe famine. Moses led the people to live in covenant with God. Abraham did not consider his body, but only believed what God had promised. Joshua took over as leader after Moses died. Communion is the covenant meal that will heal.

STUDY IT

- I. Cutting covenant and following covenant procedures became the universal method of creating law.
 - By covenant, people would enter into agreement. Their agreement formed law and established the punishment for breaking the law.

- II. The children of Israel went into Egypt as a family to escape the severe famine.
 - Moses brought them out of Egypt 430 years later. They had grown to about 2 million people.
 - When they needed water in the wilderness, God told Moses to strike a rock and water poured out. The rock was a picture of Jesus who was beaten so that everlasting life would be available.
 - Later, they again needed water. God told Moses this time to speak to the rock. He disobeyed and struck the rock again.
 - Moses misrepresented God to them. This was very serious.
 - God wanted to teach the people a principle about the coming Messiah.
 - After the Rock (Jesus) is struck, it will not have to be hit again.
 - The water of life through Jesus is available to anyone who asks or speaks.
 - God promised to take care of the children of Israel.
 - “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Psalm 37:25).
 - The seed of the righteous don’t need to go out and make covenant with someone so they can eat.





- III. Moses led the people to live in covenant with God.
- Moses told them, "You will serve The LORD your God" (Exodus 23:25).
 - God sent an angel of war to go with Moses. He said, "The angel will bless your food and water, and I will take sickness from the midst of you, and the number of your days, I will fulfill" (Exodus 23:20, 25-26).
 - Moses gave instructions for what the people were to do after they entered the Promised Land.
 - They needed to be told what God had commanded when their parents left Egypt.
 - This was a new generation that had not been born when their parents witnessed God's presence at Mount Sinai and heard the commandments of The LORD.
 - They were to divide into two groups. One group would stand on THE BLESSING mountain, and the other group would stand on the cursing mountain.
 - The priests would proclaim the terms of the covenant, THE BLESSING and the curses (Deuteronomy 27-28).
 - They were to accept the terms by shouting, "Amen," and choose to walk in THE BLESSING.
 - God said, "Do not cut covenant with any other nation or with their gods" (Exodus 23:32).
- IV. Abraham did not consider his body, but only believed what God had promised (Romans 4:19).
- Brother Copeland says, "I consider not my body now 83 years old."
 - All Abraham would say is what God said to him.
 - Abraham had a blood covenant with his God. Every day, he saw the cut of circumcision on his body.
 - When Isaac was conceived, the seed to produce Isaac passed through the covenant cut on Abraham's body.
- V. Joshua took over as leader of the Jews after Moses died.
- Joshua led the people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land.
 - The priests stepped into the Jordan River first. When their feet entered the Jordan River, the water rolled back all the way to the city of Adam (Joshua 3:16).
 - God commanded the children of Israel to destroy the city of Jericho (Joshua 6).
 - They were not to take anything from Jericho; it was cursed (Joshua 6:18). The spoil of Jericho was to be their first fruits offering.
 - Achan disobeyed and took spoil for himself from Jericho. His act of disobedience caused them to lose to the next city they fought.
 - God did not fight for them because there was sin in the camp (Joshua 7:11).





- VI. Communion is the covenant meal that will heal.
- During the Passover meal, Jesus established the new covenant.
 - At Passover, there were three pieces of matzo (bread) layered, representing Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - Jesus broke the middle piece of bread—the one representing Isaac—and said, “This is Me. I am the sacrifice, and I will fulfill it” (Matthew 26:26).
 - Matzo bread is typically striped and pierced—a symbol of the punishment on Jesus’ body as He took stripes for our healing (1 Peter 2:24).
 - Taking Communion and meditating on what Jesus did for you will heal you. It is the covenant meal that will heal. Take Communion today.
 - Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good. He came to make people alive—to bring them life.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

When you receive Communion, take time to think about the new covenant Jesus is offering you.

As you eat the bread, meditate and appreciate the complete healing that Jesus’ whipped and bruised body offers you.

As you drink the cup, bow before Him and see Jesus’ magnificent sacrifice that forgave your sin. Recognize that Jesus’ victory over the devil gave you victory in every area of life. And rejoice that Jesus’ blood ratified the covenant and opened the door for you to enter.

Give the Father and Jesus thanks for all they have done for you to be righteous and accepted in the kingdom of God.



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DAY 5 – WHEN YOU'RE FULLY PERSUADED OF YOUR COVENANT

God has covenant Creator Names and covenant Redeemer Names. After Joshua and the children of Israel destroyed Jericho and Ai, they arranged themselves on two mountains, just as Moses had instructed. God's promises are sure and dependable, and will not change. We are covenanted-minded people.

STUDY IT

- I. God has covenant Creator Names and covenant Redeemer Names.
 - The **El** names were in Creation—**Elohim and El Shaddai**.
 - Jesus' Name, **Emmanuel**, signified He was equal to the Creator God.
 - The **Yah** names (the Hebrew pronunciation of *Jehovah* is **Yahweh**) have to do with Redemption—**Yahweh Rapha, Jireh, Tsidkenu, Shalom, Shammah, Nissi and Sabaoth**.
 - Jesus is all of those Jehovah names and characteristics in the flesh.
 - These Names culminate on the cross. The LORD of Hosts was hung on the tree.
 - Every covenant has a word (the Father gave the words), a sacrifice (the Son made the sacrifice in His blood) and a seal (the Holy Spirit).
 - The fact that we can speak in tongues is proof that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
 - The fullness of the Godhead (the Word, the blood and the seal) dwells in Jesus (Colossians 2:9).
 - When we walk in love we walk in THE commandment.

- II. After Joshua and the children of Israel destroyed Jericho and Ai, they arranged themselves on two mountains, just as Moses had instructed (Deuteronomy 27:11-13).
 - To the north was the curse mountain; to the south was THE BLESSING mountain. They built an altar of sacrifice at the base of the curse mountain (Joshua 8:30).
 - That's a picture of what Jesus did for us. He was our sacrifice for sin!
 - The main word for sin in Hebrew is the same word used for the sin offering.
 - Note: There's no sin that doesn't have a sin offering. Sin is there; don't take it!
 - The sin offering (Jesus' sacrifice) is available, if you will take it.



- III. God's promises are sure and dependable, and will not change.
- "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all" (Romans 4:16).
 - Abraham was fully persuaded that what God had promised, He would do (Romans 4:17-21).
 - God made a promise to Abraham and swore by Himself (Hebrews 6:13-15).
 - Once a covenant is entered into, there is no dispute (Hebrews 6:16).
 - God confirmed His promise with a blood-sworn oath (Hebrews 6:17).
 - We who have fled for refuge to lay hold of our hope as an anchor for our soul (mind, will and emotions) have a strong, inner strength (Hebrews 6:18-19).
- IV. We are covenanted-minded people.
- Jesus blesses us. Once you know covenant, you can't fail!
 - You can be in a place of alarming symptoms, and the attack will come to your mind and body.
 - If your faith in God's WORD is not highly developed, you may not have the strength to resist the attack. You're a stranger from the whole idea of covenant.
 - One day, Kellie Copeland came home from school fighting flu symptoms.
 - Brother Copeland told her, "You're not the sick trying to get healed. You are the healed, and satan is trying to take your health away from you. Don't let him!"
 - When your faith is developed in God's covenant which is guaranteed by the blood of Jesus, you can operate in the authority God has given you.
 - Be fully persuaded God will do what He said He will do.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The covenant of God you have been invited to participate in gives you everything you need and gives you wisdom to take care of every situation. We want to rejoice with you in your victories! Send us your testimonies by [clicking here](#), or [contact us on Facebook™](#).

Join with us as we share the good news of Jesus Christ on every available voice. To find out more about partnership, [click here](#), or call us today at 1-800-600-7395.

