

The Truth About God's Covenant: Old, New, Everlasting

God's Eternal Covenant			
	The Everlasting (Eternal) Covenant	The Old Covenant	The New Covenant
Establishment of the Covenant:	Before the foundation of the world, God made provision by grace , to redeem the human race in the event that they failed His one test of <u>obedience</u> , signaling their rejection of God. The promise first spoken in the hearing of Adam and Eve as a curse to Satan and his seed and a promise of redemption to men (Genesis 3:15), offers mankind a second chance through the substitutionary death of the Son of God: Genesis 2:16, 17; Zechariah 6:13; Eph 1:4-6; 1 Peter 1:20; 2 Thess 2:13; Rom 3:21-26; 8:28-30	Spoken to Abram by God when led out of the land of the Chaldeans (Gen 12:3); re-established with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. Similar to Noah and other patriarchs (Genesis 8:20-9:17; Heb 11:7), God re-affirmed his Eternal Covenant to Abraham and his descendants: Gen 12:1-3; 17:1-9; 19. The covenant was to be based on faith in God alone - in His work of redemption. However, the covenant was made faulty by man's persistent attempts to solve his problems and save himself in His own strength. Exodus 19:3-8; Genesis 16; Hebrews 8:7,8	A restatement of the Eternal Covenant to those who would live by faith and be saved by God's grace and not by the works of the law; spoken explicitly through the prophets and fulfilled completely in Jesus Christ . The New is based on "better promises" than the Old. The Old was made void by man's attempts to fulfill the covenant in his own strength, whereas with the New, God will write His law in our hearts by virtue of the indwelling of Jesus Christ so that through Christ's strength, we may fully keep God's law. Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezek 11:19, 20; Habakkuk 2:4; Matt 11:28-30; John 10:11; 14:6; Hebrews 8:6-13
Ratification:	After the fall of mankind, God promises Adam, Eve and the entire human race the only sacrifice to deliver humanity from the curse of the law (Gen 2:16, 17; Gal 3:13) and to destroy sin eternally: Genesis 3:15 . God would provide the only vessel to atone and redeem lost humanity, Himself. This life covering was prefigured in the sacrificial death providing physical covering to the hapless pair: Genesis 3:21; 22:7, 8; Psalm 50:4, 5; Isa 45:20-25, 53:10-12; Matt 1:21-23; John 1:29; Colossians 1:19, 20; Hebrews 13:20, 21	At Mt. Sinai, God spoke to the Children of Israel who were recently released from bondage, to reaffirm His covenant to Abraham's descendants and they replied, "All that You say, we will do". The covenant was ratified with the sprinkling of blood upon the people and the altar after the reading of the Book of the Covenant in the people's hearing: Ex 19:1-8; 24:1-8; 31:12-18; 34:1, 3, 28; Psalm 50:4, 5; Hebrews 9:18, 19	The incarnation of Jesus was fulfillment of God's promise of a Deliverer/Savior: Philippians 2:5-8 Christ's sinless life exalted the Law of God [all 10 Commandments] as something to be kept in its entirety, fulfilling all righteousness: Rom 8:4; 12:1, 2; Hebrews 5:8, 9. Christ's death made atonement for sin once and for all and the shedding of His blood ratified the New Covenant (testament) : Hebrews 7:25-28; 9:16-28; Matthew 26:26-29; Romans 6:10; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Symbols & Signs of the Covenant:	True worshippers of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Abraham typified Righteousness by Faith : [Gen 15:6, Rom 4:9-17; Philip 3:7-10] Isaac typified those Born of Promise and faith: [Gen 21:10; John 1:12, 13; Gal 4:22-31]; Jacob typified those who Persevere Until the End : [Gen 32:24-30, Luk 9:62; 2 Pet 2:20, 21; Rev 3:21, 6:9]. Allegorically, Abraham prefigured God's willing sacrifice of his only Son; Isaac typified the willing submission with which Jesus accepted the role of sacrifice: Genesis 22:6-12; Isa 53:5-7. Christ's righteous adherence to God's eternal law [the 10 Commandments], and embracing the Covenant/Counsel of Peace [Zech 6:12, 13; Philippians 2:5-11] established on mankind's behalf were tokens of obedience necessary to fulfill the work of redemption: Gen 15:6; Rom 2:28, 29; 8:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-7	The typology of the earthly sanctuary, its services, the sacrificial system instituted by God in the Garden of Eden, strict adherence to God's eternal law [the 10 Commandments - especially the seventh-day sabbath], and obedience to the laws of Moses including the practice of circumcision, were outward signs of acceptance of the covenant established between God and the descendants of Abraham. More importantly, the inward change that would make the outward signs and symbols of true worth required circumcision of the hearts of the people - that they may love God and truly embrace the covenant: Gen 17:10-14; Ex 31:12-18; Deut 5:1-22; 10:12-16; 30:6; Psalm 50:4, 5	Being born of Water and the Spirit: A new heart inclined to do God's will: Ezek 11:19; John 14:15; Hebrews 10:9; Baptism, an outward symbol of an inward change - symbolic of death to self and resurrection in Christ: Ezek 36:24-27, John 3:3-8; Christ's body (bread) and blood (wine) as symbols of the spiritual food eaten by the righteous: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Righteousness by faith: Embracing Christ's sacrificial death and His righteousness by faith as the only means of redemption: Romans 3:10-18; 8:1-4; Habakkuk 2:4; Gal 3:11; Sanctification: our continued growth towards perfection in godliness unto the end (Christ dwelling in us and fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Law): Rom 8:1-4; 1 Thess 5:23,24; Hebrews 10:14; Fruit of the Spirit are the outward manifestations of God (fruit) revealed in our character: Luke 13:6-9; John 15:1-8; Gal 5:22-26; That we love one another as Christ loved us: John 15:17; 13:34
God's Intention for the Covenant:	The promise entails: Restoration of the image of God in mankind: 1 Cor 15:45-58; 2 Cor 5:1-5; Rev 14:1-5; Eternal destruction of sin: 1 Cor 15:54, 55; Nahum 1:9; Rev 20:9,10,12-15; Restoring eternal communion and peace between God and mankind: 1 Thess 4:13-18, Isa 66:22, 23, Rev 21:7; Restoration of the heavens and earth to their glory before sin: Isa 65:17-25; Rev 21:5, 9-27, 22:1-6	The promise entails: Restoration of the image of God in mankind: 1 Cor 15:45-58; 2 Cor 5:1-5; Rev 14:1-5; Eternal destruction of sin: 1 Cor 15:54, 55; Nahum 1:9; Rev 20:9,10,12-15; Restoring eternal communion and peace between God and mankind: 1 Thess 4:13-18, Isa 66:22, 23, Rev 21:7; Restoration of the heavens and earth to their glory before sin: Isa 65:17-25; Rev 21:5, 9-27, 22:1-6	The promise entails: Restoration of the image of God in mankind: 1 Cor 15:45-58; 2 Cor 5:1-5; Rev 14:1-5; Eternal destruction of sin: 1 Cor 15:54, 55; Nahum 1:9; Rev 20:9,10,12-15; Restoring eternal communion and peace between God and mankind: 1 Thess 4:13-18, Isa 66:22, 23, Rev 21:7; Restoration of the heavens and earth to their glory before sin: Isa 65:17-25; Rev 21:5, 9-27, 22:1-6
Man's Interpretation of the Covenant:	The Patriarchs understood the covenant and embraced its promises by faith, not seeing its realization but counting God faithful to fulfill His word (Heb 11:7, 13-16, 39). The Antediluvian world had a knowledge of the true God and His promises through oral tradition, nature, and through the lives of the Patriarchs of their time. Their rejection of the covenant, starting with Cain (Genesis 4:3, 16), resulted in a lineage of people (<i>sons and daughters of men</i> - Genesis 6:1,2; Eph 3:1-6) who would reject God and devise counterfeits to His prescribed plan of redemption for mankind (Rom 9:13; Heb 12:16; 10:28, 30). Therefore, God in time raised up the Jewish Nation, entrusted all of His teachings and oracles to them so that they might be a light to the Gentiles to restore a knowledge of God and His Everlasting Covenant to mankind.	Descendants of the patriarch Abraham, the Jews, pervert the meaning of the universal covenant for all mankind and believed that salvation was for the natural descendants of Abraham alone. [John 4:9, 21, 22; 8:39-48; Acts 28:28, 29] Believing they had exclusive favor from God, the Jews hoarded the blessings He had intended for all mankind. They became prideful in the honor bestowed upon them, losing sight of the associated responsibility. Their complacency and lack of focused commitment to the covenant resulted in open disobedience to God. They went so far as to seek to emulate the nations to whom they were to be an influence, rejecting God and His plans for them: Exodus 32:1-35; Deuteronomy 31:19-22, 29; 1 Sam 8:7; Ezek 8:12-18; Dan 9:24; Acts 7:51-60; 10:28	Christians today interpret the New Covenant as a doing away of the eternal Law of God, particularly the ceremonial laws given to Moses (Deuteronomy 31:24, 26; Colossians 2:14) and the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11), the very Seal of the Decalogue. A doctrine of "once saved always saved" is often embraced which violates <i>free will to choose, given by God to all of His intelligent beings</i> . The latter interpretation of God's work of redemption devalues the cost of the sacrifice required to gain mankind's salvation, resulting in cheap grace - making null the righteous requirements of the law while yet receiving the benefits of the sacrifice: Romans 8:4; 12:1-2; Hebrews 10:26-30.
Emissaries of the Covenant:	All who would live by faith. The faithful throughout time who embrace Christ's righteousness by faith: (the Patriarchs and Prophets) Adam, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Elijah, Isaiah, Nehemiah, etc.; the 12 Apostles; Christians today who live by faith, keep the commandments of God, and purpose to endure to the end. God has called all of these to be His body [hands and feet on the earth], His church, and ultimately His bride (Rev 12:17, 14:1-5; Eph 4:15, 16; 2 Cor 11:2)	God established the Nation of Israel (Jews) as priests of the Living God to be messengers to the rest of the world of His Eternal Covenant, the promise of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world (John 4:42). The Jews were chosen because of a promise God established with their forefather Abraham. God wished that Abraham's descendants would exhibit the same faith that Abraham exhibited, both in words and deeds: Ex 2:10-18; Deut 5:29-33; 7:6-11; Ex 19:5, 6; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 60:1-12; Jeremiah 12:14-17; 16:19-21	The Christian Church today has been commissioned to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. The true Jew and heir of Abraham are, and have always been, those who have circumcised their hearts of sin/self, have claimed the promise of redemption <u>by faith</u> in Jesus Christ (the Eternal Covenant), and keep the commandments of God: Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:29; Daniel 9:4; Matt 28:19,20; John 14:15; Rom 2:25-29; Galatians 3:7, 19-29; 4:21-31
God's Intended Beneficiaries of the Covenant:	The entire human race; whoever accepts Christ's gift and righteousness for themselves: Isa 56:1-8; Rom 10:9-12; Rom 9:6-8; Heb 9:15; Acts 10:34, 35; Rev 14:6-12	The entire human race; whoever accepts Christ's gift and righteousness for themselves: Isa 56:1-8; Rom 10:9-12; Rom 9:6-8; Heb 9:15; Acts 10:34, 35; Rev 14:6-12	The entire human race; whoever accepts Christ's gift and righteousness for themselves: Isa 56:1-8; Rom 10:9-12; Rom 9:6-8; Heb 9:15; Acts 10:34, 35; Rev 14:6-12
Covenant's Fulfillment:	Jesus , the true Israel and Lamb of God is the fulfillment of the Eternal Covenant: Gen 22:8; Psalm 85:10; Isa 49:1-6; 53:1-12; Ezek 16:60-63; Dan 9:26, 27; Heb 9:15, 10:5-10	Never fulfilled because the Jews were unfaithful in performing the trust committed to them, namely keeping God's commandments <i>by faith</i> , honoring the God of Creation and being a light to the rest of the world. Because of their rebellion, the gift (Parable of the Talents - Matt 25:14-30) of being God's Ambassadors of the gospel was taken from them and given to those who would invest their gifts to the Lord.	The covenant has been fulfilled in the sinless life and death of Christ as atonement for sin. Jesus' death reveals both the mercy of God in saving mankind as well as His justice in ensuring that His immutable law, requiring a pure and holy sacrifice for the death of humanity be fulfilled: Psa 85:10; Gal 3:10-13. His death also breaks our former bonds of sin and yoke of death so that we may have the empowering of the Holy Spirit in our lives to do God's will like Christ: Hebrews 10:5-10, 14. God is awaiting a body of people who through the power of the Holy Spirit, demonstrate righteousness by faith and follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Philip 3:9; Rev 12:11; 14:1-4
Complete Realization of the Covenant Promises	Though redemption is complete in Jesus Christ, acceptance of the promise is still based on free will , where man must choose to accept the gift (Eph 2:8, 9) and live a life of obedience, emulating the righteousness of the Author and Finisher of faith (Heb 12:1, 2). Sanctification in the life of the faithful is ongoing until Christ's return: Heb 10:14; Rev 22:12	Never fulfilled or realized. It is impossible by works alone to stand justified before God and fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law which themselves, demand the death of the human race: Genesis 2:16, 17; Gal 3:10-13. Only by grace through faith will man be saved and further, only the works of righteousness exercised through faith in Jesus Christ can man be made perfect. Ephesians 2:8, 9; James 2:22	Man and all of creation's redemption will be fulfilled when mortality puts on immortality, corruption puts on incorruption, every tear is dried, we dwell in a new heaven and earth, and we eternally follow the Lamb wherever He goes: Romans 8:19-23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Revelation 21:3-7; 14:4, 5
Term of the Covenant:	Eternal: Psa 111:9	From Moses until the Death of Christ	The Death of Christ, to eternity