

# HARVEST TIMES FOR YOUR FAMILY



**NEW COVENANT  
AND CHURCH**

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**GLS**

That All May Know the Truth of the Gospel

# HARVEST TIMES FOR YOUR FAMILY

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## BIBLICAL COVENANTS

**B**iblical Covenants unfold the redemptive story of man and is hence an important subject to be studied. Covenant is a binding agreement or a legal contract between two or more parties. For instance, marriage is a covenant made between husband and wife in the presence of the LORD as a witness (Mal. 2:14-15). In the Old Testament, the phrase “make a covenant” is most often a translation of the Hebrew *kārat berît*, which literally means “cut a covenant”. *Karat* means “cut off, cut down”; *berit* means covenant, treaty, or pact. The covenant ceremony involves cutting animals in half and parties involved in it will pass through the sacrifice in the form of '8'. The Blood of the Covenant will be sprinkled upon the parties and the written covenant (Gen. 15:7-21; Exo. 24:3-8; Jer 34:8-22).

In Scripture, we see two types of covenants. Some are unconditional covenants, which God will keep regardless of human actions. Others are conditional in that the people must obey the terms of the covenant in order to receive the promises related to it.

There are seven biblical covenants between God and man. They are (1) Adamic covenant, (2) Noahic covenant, (3) Abrahamic covenant, (4) Mosaic covenant, (5) Palestinian covenant, (6) Davidic covenant and (7) New covenant.

**Adamic Covenant** has two parts: the **Edenic Covenant** (innocence) and the **Adamic Covenant** (grace) (Gen. 3:14-24). The Edenic Covenant is found in (Gen.1:26-30; 2:16-17). It was a conditional covenant and also known as the *Covenant of work*. The Edenic Covenant outlined man's responsibility toward creation and God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is also called a covenant in Hosea 6:7. *“They like Adam transgressed the Covenant”* (ESV).

The Adamic Covenant included the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God's provision for that sin. So, it can be called the Covenant of redemption (Gen 3:15). First gospel message - proto evangelism. The promise of Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman. We are all seeds of men but Christ is the only one who is eligible to be called the “seed of the woman”. He was born of a virgin. Directly or indirectly all these Covenants point out to Him as our redeemer.

**Noahic Covenant** (Gen. 9:8-17). It was an unconditional Covenant made between God and Noah, that He will not destroy the earth again with a flood. God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant.

**Abrahamic Covenant** (Gen. 12:1-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-17; 22:15-18). It contains many promises including the

promise of a seed, Jesus Christ, through whom the whole families of the earth shall be blessed. God promised a nation and designated the best land on the surface of the earth to his descendants, circumcision was given as the sign of the covenant.

**Mosaic Covenant** (Exo. 19-24). It was a conditional covenant. People agreed to the covenant when they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do!” (Exodus 19:8). They reaped the consequences of their failure to keep the law. This is also called as Old Covenant and Christ replaced it by establishing the New Covenant (Heb 8:6,13; 9:15; Jer. 31:31-34).

**Palestinian Covenant** (Deut. 29:1- 29; 30:1-10) This Covenant is also called “Land Covenant” because Palestine is not a biblical word. The Roman Emperor Hadrian in his anger towards Jewish people renamed the Promised Land as Palestine in AD 135. This covenant was made between God and Israel just before the death of Moses (Deut 29:1). Part of that Covenant was fulfilled as the nation of Israel scattered all over the world because of disobedience. God promised to regather them again back to their own land. This promise was partially fulfilled in 1948 when Israel was regathered in their land. Complete fulfilment will take place at His coming and millennial Kingdom (Matt 24:31; Ezek 36:22-38)

**Davidic Covenant** (2 Samuel 7:8-16; 1 Chro. 17:11-14; 2 Chro. 6:16)

This is an unconditional covenant made between God and David. Angel told Mary that she is going to fulfil the Covenant God made to David through Jesus Christ. “Fear not, Mary... behold thou shall.... bring forth a son...and the LORD God shall give unto him the throne of his father David” (Luke 1:30-32). So, Matthew starts the genealogy of Jesus as the “son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matt. 1:1). Zacharias in his 'Benedictus' said, God “has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David” to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy Covenant...” (Luke 1:72-73). On that night when Jesus was born, angels appeared to the Shepherds and said, “Fear not...I bring you good tidings of great joy ...for unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

**New Covenant** (Jer. 31-31; Ezek 36:26-30) Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New covenant. He established it on the cross by shedding His own blood. Now its blessings are available to everyone who accepts Him as the Lord and Saviour. Israel as a nation will enjoy it when the Lord comes.

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# A CALL FOR GOOD WORKS GOD'S YARDSTICKS

*God created His people for good works. His probing eyes unceasingly search for the ones who satisfy His desire. **Bro. Thomas Paul** shows how God picks up one here, another there, and yet another in the remotest corner of the planet to do His work.*



**M**any rich philanthropists contribute a significant portion of their wealth in the name of philanthropy and other social causes. Many do it for popularity and to get a feel-good experience or to satisfy their selfish desires. The world also glorifies such people and put them on a higher pedestal, although the intention behind their "good works" could have been self-driven or even malicious. However, God has a different yardstick to measure good works. Bible says "all those who are born into God's family are called for good works" (Eph. 2: 10) and God is the source of all good works. God has laid down the principles in His Word and His eyes search for faithful ones. (Jer.5:3) A glean through the Word of God helps us to understand God's desires and expectations from His called ones.

### Reflectors And Refractors

Jesus calls His disciples the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) and asks them to reflect the light in them through good works that bring glory to the heavenly Father.

The creator God deserves praise from all animate and inanimate creations (Psalm 148). Since Herod neglected it, worms ate him "because he gave not God the glory" (Acts 12:23). God doesn't allow His glory to share with idols. God also needs refractors, who fulfill His will in their lives. Light refracts when it passes through a prism resulting in an array of beautiful colors. Committed ones display God's will in all spheres of their lives as colors of a spectrum.

In this context, an incident in Mathew 19:16-22 is worth mentioning. A man met Jesus seeking the requirements to inherit eternal life. He claimed his obedience to the commandments. But his longing for earthly treasures hindered him in fulfilling God's will in his life. He refracted many beautiful colors, yet failed in one; the path to perfection. He was very near to the kingdom, yet very far. "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Mathew 5:48). The foundation of all good works begins with these two traits.

### Victorious Runner

Paul compares the Christian life to a running race (1 Cor. 9:24). Those who adhere to running principles only can stand on the victory stand. The runner has to undergo tough physical and mental training for success. The Christian life is like a marathon race. The cardinal principle is "lay aside every weight and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience" (Hebrew 12:1). The runner has to

encounter up hills, down hills, and valleys on the way to the finishing line. Running strategies differ. Similarly, Christians have to undergo varied life situations. For which one has to vary the pace, wait and stop. When one is confused and does not know what to do, do nothing. When in a spiritual fog, do not run ahead, but slow the pace. Many stumble on the way as they have no more steam for the rest of the journey. The lives of Gehazi, Samson, Demas, and Judas Iscariot are warning signals. Give space to God fully surrendering for Him to act. God allows difficult situations to mold us to be like His Son. Thus, God equips His people for good works.

### Cross Bearers and Fruit Bearers

Cross and fruit seem paradoxical. But in truth, they are intertwined. The principle is crucifixion only leads to fruitfulness. Death is the precursor to abundant life. A corn of wheat has to fall and die to bear much fruit (John 12:24). Paul symbolically pictures the same theme in connection with resurrection (1 Cor. 15). The crucifixion of the self is the cardinal principle for fruit bearing. They bear fruit by "dying to themselves" (2 Cor. 4:12). Myrrh is symbolic of death yet it represents the sweetness that comes from the heart, dead to self-will, pride, and sin. The disciple allows the master to prune them to bear fruits in abundance. When the self dies, humility, servitude, and obedience sprout. Despite the suffering, Paul

had a burden for the churches (2 Cor. 11:28). Although a disciple lives here on this earth, his mind should be on the things above. As a faith walker, his perspectives are in tune with eternity. God allows His servants to be away from the hustle and bustle of the hectic life. In the solitary ravine experience, Elijah had God's abiding presence. The solitary Patmos and lonely wilderness were fruitful years for John and Moses. God's children live in this world, but with a unique identity, they serve humanity.

*Measure your life by loss and not by gain,  
Not by the wine drunk but by the wine poured forth,  
For love's strength is found in love's sacrifice,  
And he who suffers most has most to give.  
(Streams in the Desert)*

What Paul writes is relevant in this context. ".....that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men"(Titus 3:8).

### Good Worker and Evil Worker

Many crawl inside the church to cater to their self-interest disguising themselves as good workers. How to discern such evil elements? What are the distinguishing features? A good worker devotes his life to the master, "that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:4). To do the will of the Father was the life mission of Jesus. He expected the same devotion from disciples. In all spiritual and secular activities, one must bring glory to the Father in heaven. As a native of the land, they are to be law-abiding and submissive to all human authorities and show Christian values of fellowship in all spheres of life. In (Phil 4:8) Paul speaks of the principles one has to adhere to in thought life. It begins with truth

and ends with virtue and praise. These noble thoughts lead to good works. Paul uses the whole of Romans 16 for the commendable works of his fellow workers, Phebe to Quartus. Holy Spirit speaks of Tabitha as "this woman was full of good works"(Acts 9:36). An ordinary person known to a small locality whose small acts became extraordinary in God's sight. God counts quality, not quantity. In contrast, a diametrically opposite group is active in churches." Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of concision" (Phil 3:2). This is a warning to present-day churches also. Peter (2 Peter 2) and Jude vividly picture their evil doings. Paul calls them enemies of the cross, who stand for self-interest, possessions, prestige, and positions. They are propagators of falsehood and heresies. "For a good tree.....neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Luke 6:43). Discern them.

**God allows difficult situations to mold us to be like His Son therefore God equips His people to do good works.**

### God Watches, World Testifies

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro for persons whose heart is perfect in Him. He thus makes an inference of Moses as "very meek above all men which were upon the face of the earth"(Num. 12:3). David was the man after His own heart (Acts 13:22). Rechabites were unknown to the public, but they were under God's watchful eye (Jer 35:1-8). God reveals the obedience of this family to Jeremiah. God watches the actions, gestures, and attitudes of men. No one has to prove anything before God.

The world testifies to what they see. "Mighty prince among us" (Gen 23:6). "Can we find such one as this, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?"(Gen 41:38). These statements

from children of Heth and Pharaoh are testimonies of Abraham and Joseph. The Shunammite women perceived Elisha as a "Holy man of God"(2 Kings 4:8). Both God and the world acknowledge good works

### Watchman And Custodian

God entrusts Ezekiel as "a watchman unto the house of Israel"(Ezekiel 33:7). The watchman is responsible for man and God. He has to foresee the dangers ahead and warn the people at the right time. If the trumpet remains idle at the advent of danger, he is responsible for the dereliction of duty. People cannot ignore the sound of the trumpet. If so, they are responsible. In the New Testament era, God entrusts the watchkeeping to believers. When things move in the wrong direction, the watchman has to act. When the watchman sees godly principles violated, he has to blow the whistle the duty of a custodian is still arduous. In the wrecked ship, God made Paul the custodian of his fellow prisoners (Acts 27). He took this opportunity to convey God's message to strengthen them. In the same manner, believers are custodians of souls. The circumstances may not be favorable. But a duty-bound custodian has to pull someone off the fire.

### Always A Winner

A winner must have a success formula. The strength of the inner man gives him success all the time. In all adversities, he pleads for God's grace. God in His grace packs His power in the feeble earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:7). Longing for invisible eternal things and discarding all the temporal visible things is the hallmark of a winner. He never fails. Summing up with a verse of victory. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:57). Therefore, your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). AMEN.



## NEW COVENANT AND CHURCH

*The New Covenant doesn't apply to the Church directly as a legal party but as a gracious recipient of certain spiritual blessings. Bro. Thampi George Mattackal reveals how the Church enjoys all the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant because of the relationship with Christ, who is the mediator of the covenant and shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins.*



Covenant is a principle of relationship established by God under which man can live and have a relationship with Him. The detailed description of the New Covenant is mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31-40. It is also mentioned in Ezek. 36:26-38. It is called "New" because it is based on a new principle. The old was based on the law and the new is based on grace. The New Covenant is unconditional unlike the old covenant, which was conditional. The New Covenant is founded upon the obedience and the blood of the mediator of the covenant, unlike the old which depended upon the obedience of the people.

The New Covenant is made with Israel. "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah" (Jer. 31:31). The New Covenant is also mentioned in the New Testament in connection with the Church.

Does this mean that all the promises of the New Covenant are fulfilled in the Church? Or has the Church replaced Israel? What is the relationship of the Church with the New Covenant? These are some of the relevant questions to consider.

The New Covenant does not apply to the Church directly as a legal party but as a gracious recipient of certain spiritual blessings of the New Covenant. The Church receives all the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant because of the relationship with Christ, who is the mediator of the covenant. It is the mediator, who shed the blood. The Church is 'in Christ' and He is also the mediator of the New Covenant. His blood has a double effect. It seals the New Covenant that was made with the house of Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31) and also poured out for the forgiveness of many (Mat. 26:28), not just for Israel only. The same blood of Jesus that seals the covenant with Israel is also effective for the forgiveness of sins. We read in the Book of Hebrews that, we have come "to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant" (Heb. 12:24), not to the covenant. Jesus Christ mentioned the New Covenant when He instituted the Lord's Supper. It is to show that New Covenant is sealed by His blood.

Christ said, "This is my blood of the new covenant." He did not say, this is the new covenant, but instead "the blood" of the covenant (Mat. 26:28). When we drink the blood of the New Covenant, we

**The New Covenant does not apply to the Church directly as a legal party but as a gracious recipient of certain spiritual blessings.**

remember the blood of Jesus Christ shed for our sins. The Church is associated with Jesus who is the mediator and His blood; which is higher than merely coming to the covenant. The spiritual application of certain benefits of the New Covenant to the Church will not cancel God's unconditional covenant with the nation of Israel. We as the Church enjoy certain spiritual blessings of the New Covenant, not as Israel. The Church comes in as a new heavenly body out of Jews and Gentiles during the time of the rejection of the Messiah and His reception by Israel. The suffering Servant of Jehovah "will sprinkle many nations with his blood" (Isa. 52:15) and Peter alluded to this in

1 Pet. 1:1, 2. The spiritual blessings include regeneration, the forgiveness of sin, the assurance of eternal security, and freedom from future judgment (Rom. 5:9-11). The Church and Israel enjoy certain common blessings as both are God's people, but that will not make them one.

The direct promises and covenant were given to Israel. Paul in Ephesians says that Gentiles were *“without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world”* (Eph. 2:12). We as Gentiles, became the partakers of the promise on the ground of pure mercy. We have the promises of God in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:13; 3:6). We, who are outside the covenant of promise have received the blessings by grace in Christ, who is the mediator of the covenant.

*“Our position is to be united with Mediator of the New Covenant, and to enjoy all the privileges which He enjoys Himself, as having it established in His blood; though the covenant is not formed with us, it is established in Him before God, and we are in Him here below”* (J.N. Darby, The Collected Writings, Vol.24, P.65).

The Church did not fulfill the New Covenant. It will only be fulfilled when the national and ethnic Israel accepts Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Israel as a nation was not brought into the promised blessings of the New Covenant when Christ came for the first time. They rejected and crucified Him. As a result of their rejection, Christ rejected them in this dispensation. Meanwhile, we, the

Gentiles, who had no covenant with God, are called by the sovereign grace through the gospel. We are united with the glorified Christ and become members of the Body of Christ. God never made a direct covenant with the Church or with Gentiles. The promises we read in Gen.12 and the covenant that God made in Gen.17 are made with Abraham, not with the Church or Gentiles. There are promises about Gentiles in the Old Testament, but not to them. What happened on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) was the formation of the Church, not the fulfillment of the New Covenant that God made with the house of Israel and Judah. It will only be fulfilled when national and ethnic Israel accepts Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

**What happened on the Day of Pentecost was the inauguration of the Church, not the fulfillment of the New Covenant.**

The Church is not merely a number of saved individuals but is a Body united with Jesus Christ, the glorified head in heaven by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who baptized the believers into the Body of Christ. No one was baptized into the Body of Christ until Pentecost. The Church could not be formed before the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus Christ had promised would abide with us forever. What happened on the Day of Pentecost was the inauguration of the Church, not the fulfillment of the New Covenant. Paul wrote the Book of Romans about thirty years after the formation of the Church,

yet he wrote that the covenant belongs to the ethnic Jews (Rom. 9:4, 5). If the New Covenant is fulfilled in the Church, there was no need for Paul to write chapters 9-11, dealing with the future salvation of Israel.

The Church is a new entity. There is nothing in the New Covenant that makes the Jews and Gentiles together to form one Body connected to Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church. The Church is a called-out group of people from both Jews and Gentiles. It is that Gentiles are joining together with Jews to form one Body, the Church, connected to Jesus Christ as the Head. There is no middle wall of partition between them. This is what Paul revealed as a mystery hidden in the Old Testament. Paul in Eph. 3:6 writes, *“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together of one body.”* The Church is also called the 'Bride of Christ'. This is what God is doing in this Dispensation of Grace. The blessings of the New Covenant were not a mystery and it was revealed throughout the Psalms and prophets. The Church was not known in the Old Testament time. It was kept hidden in God in the past age. In contrast, Israel is primarily an ethnic entity, though there were provisions made for the Gentiles like Ruth and Rahab. There were children of God among Jews and Gentiles. But their faith did not break their Jewish or Gentile identity. They lived and died separately.

The Church is God's heavenly people and the promises to the Church are spiritual. In Heb. 3:1, the Christians are called *partakers*

of a heavenly calling. Our citizenship is in heaven. The Church is the 'assembly of firstborns enrolled in heaven' (Heb. 12:23). The Church is called the first fruit of God's creation, because of the sharing of the resurrected life of Christ. The spiritual application of certain benefits of the New Covenant to the Church will not replace Israel with the Church or cancel God's covenant with the nation Israel. The Jews are God's earthly people. The New Covenant includes earthly blessings also. The New Covenant's description in Jer. 31:35-40 talks about an earthly nation and a land. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised a nation, kings, and land. It will be accomplished on earth during the Millennium with Israel. They are God's earthly people. They will also experience the spiritual restoration of the New Covenant. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jer. 31:34). Meanwhile the Church enjoys the spiritual part of the New Covenant, which is the forgiveness of sin as the heavenly people of God. The Church will be reigning with Christ in the millennium (2 Tim. 2:12).

**The New Covenant treats both Jews and Gentiles on the principle of grace and that redemption is by the blood of Jesus Christ.**

The expectation of the Church is different. The Church expects to meet the Lord in the air and to be with the Lord forever (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). Jesus told His disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for

you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also (Jn.14:3). The restoration of the New covenant includes the restoration of the land and the people. "You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people and, and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:28). The coming of the Messiah and His rule is the expectation of the Jews. They expect the deliverer to come from Zion to remove ungodliness from Jacob (Isa. 59:20-21; Ps. 14:7). They will be blessed forever under Messiah and the New Covenant. The expectation of the Church and Israel is Jesus Christ, who is the mediator of the New Covenant. The expectation difference is dependent upon their dispensational relationship. The expectation of the Church is Christ coming from heaven to take away the Church from earth to heaven. This hope of the rapture of the Church is not connected with the New Covenant. The expectation of the Jews is the Coming of Christ not from heaven, but from Zion to rule the earth as the fulfillment of the New Covenant. The main aspect of the New Covenant is the forgiveness of sin by the blood of Christ. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, who shed His blood. The New Covenant treats both Jews and Gentiles on the principle

of grace and that redemption is by the blood of Jesus Christ. The Church Now enjoys the soteriological (salvation) aspect of the New Covenant. The message of the gospel is redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ. By preaching the message of the gospel, Paul calls himself a minister of the New Covenant. All those who belong to the Church and proclaim the message of the gospel are the ministers of the New Covenant without being under it.

I can conclude the discussion in the following way. The New Covenant was promised to the Jews in the Old Testament. This covenant is sealed by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, who is also the mediator of the New Covenant. The New Covenant was ratified at the cross, but not fulfilled since Israel rejected the Mediator. The fulfillment of the covenant with Israel is in the future. In the meantime, the Church enjoys the spiritual benefits of the New Covenant, because of the relationship with the mediator and the blood of the covenant shed for the remission of sins of all.

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# ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (GENESIS 15:7-21)

*The book of Genesis has around 11 chapters that have the details of the creation of the universe, mankind's fall, Noah's Flood, and the Tower of Babel however most of the book is given over to the story of Abraham and his descendants through which **Bro. Nitish Patel** shows how important the subject of redemption is in the sight of God.*



**I**n the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" (Genesis 15:18) Covenants are very important amongst men as a guarantee of agreements they have made. Covenants were involved in personal agreements (Genesis 31:44); treaties between nations (1 Kings 5:12) and even marriage is regarded as a covenant before God (Malachi 2:14). They cannot be set aside, disregarded, or added to once made (Galatians 3:15-16). This involved two parties meeting, a sacrifice cut in half and the two parties walking in between the pieces to seal their pledge or a sacrificial animal's blood sprinkled upon them (Exodus 24:8). God had told Abram when he came out of Ur of the Chaldees that he will become a great nation (Genesis

12:1-4). Then after Lot went away from him, God told Abraham that he will receive all the land he can see in every direction (Genesis 13:14-17). Then in Genesis 15, Abraham asked the LORD two questions, Firstly, "Lord God what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless" (v. 2), and in answer, the LORD declares that one born out of his bowels shall be his heir and inherit the land (vv. 3-7). Secondly, he asked "LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (v. 8) and in answer God graciously makes a covenant to give assurance of all the promises He has made to Abraham (15:7-21). This was done according to the way men made covenants in those days (Jeremiah 34:18-19).

**The Sacrifices (15:7-10):** In response to Abraham's question about how shall he know that he will inherit the land, the LORD tells him to fetch five sacrificial animals, a heifer of three years old, a she-goat of three years old, a ram of three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. God made several covenants with His people Israel (Romans 5:9). The word covenant means to "cut" which involves a sacrifice as a basis of it. The covenant must be ratified with blood. Five is the number of grace and this is going to be a

covenant where God does everything and man can do nothing. Each of the animals speaks of the work of Christ at Calvary. Five are needed to show something of the greatness of that work.

The animals were divided but the birds cannot be divided without breaking their bones and as they are a type of Christ whose bones were not broken, they are kept intact.

### **The Satanic Attack (15:11):**

Abraham scared away the bird coming upon the sacrifices. These birds are a type of Satan and his demons that would seek to attack the person and work of Christ, the basis of God's covenant of promise to bring blessing to all mankind (Matthew 13:4,19).

**Salvation and all the blessings from God are by grace and man has no part in it**

**The Sun Going Down (15:12):** As the sun went down, a deep sleep fell upon Abraham just as it did with Adam (Genesis 2:21). Abraham in a deep sleep is helpless to do anything. Such will be the state of Israel in Egypt. They

could not fight back but became completely enslaved, "Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses." (Exodus 1:11)

**The Suffering (15:13):** The LORD explains that this darkness represents their affliction. Suffering followed such a tremendous covenant whereby God would save this world from sin. Satan would not cease from now on to seek the destruction of this nation and the Seed, the Messiah, who will fulfill this covenant.

The total time in Egypt was 430 years from the time Jacob entered Egypt and their deliverance by Moses (Exodus 12:40-41) but the time of their suffering as slaves was 400 years (Genesis 15:13; Acts 7:6) This was fulfilled by the same Hebrew word used for Israel's affliction in Egypt (Exodus 1:11). It is a privilege that God gives us to be on the pathway of suffering "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake." (Philippians 1:29)

**The Sentence (15:14-17):** Egypt will be judged and give up great substance for Israel. Abraham will die in peace, a very old man, and be buried with his fathers. However, Israel will not inherit the Promised Land not one moment before God's justice required it. They would have to wait four hundred years until the Amorite's iniquity was full and evil had run its full course before the most severe judgment fell upon them through Israel's conquest. Israel also had to learn many lessons before this took place.

The amazing grace of God to the Amorite is shown in this verse where God is prepared to give them four to five hundred years to repent. God's mercy has no limit as to its depth but it does have a limit as to its length. The time of grace for the Amorite meant suffering for the people of God in Egypt. This is the position for the believer in the world today as Peter tells the believer in his epistles, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" (1 Peter 1:6). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

We too can say, "For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness." (2 Samuel 22:29)

**The Smoking Furnace And Lamp (15:17):** The sun signifying the blessed reign of Joseph in Egypt would come to an end and a horror of terrible darkness would descend upon Israel when a new Pharaoh would enslave them and cast their male children into the River Nile (Exodus 1:8, 14, 22) Usually, both parties walked between the parts of the animals to seal the agreement but here God alone passed through to ratify the covenant while Abraham was asleep and helpless. Salvation and all the blessings from God are by grace and man has no part in it (Ephesians 2:8-9). It was only God who bound Himself to do all that He promised.

Abraham had nothing to do except receive it by faith.

This covenant with Abraham which God voluntarily entered is called "a mercy promised", "his holy covenant" and an "oath which He swore" with Abraham so that his descendants could be saved from their enemies and live holy and righteous lives before God (Luke 1:71).

The smoking furnace is a type of suffering of the Jews. Egypt is called the "iron furnace" (Deuteronomy 4:20; Jeremiah 11:4). God allowed them to go through this for their own good, "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." (Isaiah 48:10). Let us also learn that when we suffer from the hand of God that it is for our good.

Despite all their sufferings throughout their history in Egypt, Babylon, and the Roman Empire, their present sufferings and the future tribulation, the burning lamp of God's presence would be with them in all their afflictions and pilgrimage. They would never be forsaken (Exodus 3:4, 7; 13:21). The Messiah will return to deliver them and give them their land. We too can say, "For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness." (2 Samuel 22:29)

**The Scope (15:18-21):** The scope of the covenant is revealed in that the land will stretch from Egypt to the River Euphrates which was home to many powerful nations there. Solomon the greatest king of Israel reigned over many nations and they gave tribute to him but Israel did not occupy these lands (1 Kings 4:21, 24). This will only be



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# EVANGELIST K. P. GEORGE

## A Pioneer missionary to Chikmagalur

**E**vangelist K.P.George was born in 1927 and his parents were Karimkuttickal Philip and Annamma. His early education was in Chengara near Mylapra in the Pathanamthitta District of Kerala. Those days, his father was working as an Assistant Tea Maker at Harrison Company's Tea Estate. During the school days Bro. George was interested in spiritual activities. But his parents were keen on getting a post of Supt. for their son in the same estate where Mr. Philip was working. Since Mr. Philip went to Chengara, an Assembly gathering was started there.

As Bro. T.I. Mammen, and Bro. T.K. Thomas from Mylapra started Bible study in Chengara, the Assembly became very active. After matriculation, Bro. George desired to learn the Bible systematically. In those days, there was Bethany Bible School functioning in Adoor under the leadership of Evg. V.T. Mathai, Bro. George too joined there.

### Call and Dedication for Gospel work

While studying at Bethany Bible School, Bro. George had the strong desire to go as an Evangelist. Once, Evg. V.P. Jacob from Mysore wrote a letter to Bethany Bible School about the work in Mysore and the need for more workers as the fields were ready for harvest in that area. This letter was read in the class by Evg. V.T. Mathai and immediately Bro. George stood up and expressed his willingness to go for the Gospel work in Mysore. This

decision caused great concern for many including his father. But Bro. George decided to obey the voice of the Lord.

After this incident, Bro. George was attending a convention in Mylapra in which Evg. M.E. Cherian of Madurai was giving the message and he made a call "who will go for us"? Bro. George responded to this call and openly reiterated his decision once again. Still, he continued in studying the Bible and engaged in spiritual activities in the local Assembly and nearby places.



### Marriage and Family

It was on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1949 that Bro. George got married at the age of 22 years. His wife was Chinnamma, daughter of Pekuzhi Varickamakkal P.C. Daniel and Mariamma from Anikkad. Bro. George was loved by this family.

Bro. George and his wife Chinnamma were blessed with

three children, two sons, and one daughter. The eldest son is Nelson George married to Blessy from the Karuvancherry family and they live in Mylapra. Bro. George's daughter, Lizi is married to Bro. George Mathew {Kunju} son of Evg. A.T. Mathew of Gudalur and they live in Pollachi. The second son was Johnson George who died in a road accident when he was just 21 years old.

### To Mysore and to Chikmagalur

In 1954, Bro. George and his family left for Mysore to do the glorious work of serving the Lord. For the first 7 months, they were staying with Evg. V.P. Jacob in Mysore and took part in spiritual activities along with him. During this period, he learned the Kannada language up to the 7<sup>th</sup> standard. He used to visit the Dist. HQs of Karnataka State for various ministries. Thus, he reached Chikmagalur also. Then there were only two Kannada believers there. Through these brothers, God spoke and they invited Bro. George to Chikmagalur for the ministry. He shifted to a rented accommodation with his family. Shortly thereafter, an Assembly gathering was started in his house.

As a result of his work in Chikmagalur, many Catholic friends came forward accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. At the same time, there were oppressions and threats from the nominal churches. Later, there used to be protests from those who were

against the Gospel. Although he had to undergo persecution, this missionary family was protected by God and He honored the work done by Bro. George.

When the spiritual and evangelical activities progressed, Satan became more active and came up to create further problems. One Police Inspector was staying opposite Bro. George's house and the lady of that house was a strong oppressor of Christianity. This woman and the landlady of Bro. George's house planned to drive him away from that rented house. They tried to manipulate the water connection and in the process, the landlady, Bharathamma, slipped and fell down. She was bedridden for three months and sadly she passed away thereafter. This incident created fear in the minds of the neighbours. After this episode, nobody tried to remove this family from that rented house.

After a few months, the owner of their rented house came and told Bro. George like this "You must vacate this house tomorrow morning itself as a new tenant will come tomorrow" Bro. George prayed with a heavy heart – "where shall I go with my wife and three children?" Finally, he took a decision. "If God allows a situation to move out of this house, I will move to the base of a Banyan tree situated near the roadside". But God's plan was not that. The new tenant happened to fix up a better house with a Brahmin family and he moved in there that night. Bro. George and his family continued in the same house for four decades until they moved back to Kerala. At the same time, as it is God's doing, all the four daughters of that Brahmin family were born again and came to the Brethren assembly fellowship.

## Starvation and Poverty

Starvation was a regular visitor to this family. Although Bro. George used to have a smiling face always, he had to undergo several bitter experiences of suffering, sadness, and poverty. When there was no smoke coming out of the kitchen on many days, the neighbors used to ask "Are you not cooking for lunch?" Since it was difficult to tell them that there was no rice to cook, they used to burn the waste paper to show that smoke was coming out of the kitchen. But those things did not weaken him spiritually. They had a glorious aim and hope and they continued to run the race toward it. Once during the days of starvation, Evg. V.T. Mathai reached there without any notice. He was gladly received by Bro. George family. But they could not hide their grief and perplexity. Within a short time, Evg. Mathai realized the situation in the family and he went out saying that he would come back after an evening walk. Bro. George's family could not arrange anything for the guest. However, when Bro. Mathai returned home, he handed over a few bags filled with provisions sufficient for at least two weeks. There were such occasions of God's care in the life of this missionary family.

**Although he had to undergo persecution, this missionary family was protected by God and He honored the work done by Bro. George.**

From the human point of view, there could be only a few such missionary families who had to undergo such situations. On such occasions, Bro. George found comfort in Lord's words "My grace

is sufficient for thee".

Bro. George was not a person to speak out about his problems to others. Without any complaints or fear, he lived as an Evangelist maintaining his heavenly status. He had a very attractive personality, decent behavior, great Biblical knowledge, loving words, an admirable life, etc. Moreover, there were more characteristics of Bro. George in his dressing, in cleanliness, discipline in financial matters, etc.

## God's miraculous way of deliverance

Bro. George who was dedicated to evangelization had to suffer physical persecution on many occasions. But on certain critical occasions, he could experience God's hand of deliverance. Once when he was returning by bike from Hassan after work, a group of youngsters who oppressed Christianity was hiding on his way with the intention to kill him. They were waiting to hear the sound of his Bullet bike. But before reaching their hiding place his bike broke down and though he was good at repairing bikes he could not do so. Thus, he had to leave the bike there and travel to Chikmagalur by bus. The people who waited for his life got disappointed. Such were the ways God delivered him from the clutches of his enemies and offenders of the Gospel.

## Karnataka Bible School

Once while attending a YMEF camp in Kozhikode, Bro. George heard a testimony of Bro. K.A. Philip of Mylapra which prompted him to a spiritual challenge. He decided to do something for the Lord in Karnataka. He shared his desire of starting a Bible School in Karnataka with his co-workers like

K.V. Koshy, K.V. Mathew, C.V. George, etc, and Bro. George took up this great commission with great gladness and enthusiasm. In those days there were a few school teachers who were believers from Mylapra Assembly and they offered one month's salary every year for the Bible School. With that capital fund, the Bible School started. This contribution continued for 10 years. Thereafter, the Bible School became self-supporting.

### Karnataka Suvartha Seva Samithi

Evg. K.P. George realized that joint efforts will be needed to strengthen the Gospel work in Karnataka. As a result of this realization, KSS was formed. This organization is still functioning actively and continues to provide a helping hand for many Evangelists.

### God's church in Hassan

While working in Chikmagalur itself, Bro. George used to visit Hassan and engaged in the ministry there. As a result of this ministry, some Catholic youngsters got saved and gradually an Assembly gathering started in Hassan.

### Farewell

Evangelist K.P. George dedicated his life to the Lord in 1954 and continued his ministry for 62 long years which ended on December 6, 2016. He was a mighty warrior on the evangelical battlefield. Leaving only good memories, he left to the heavenly abode of the LORD of HOSTS for eternal rest. In the presence of hundreds of believers, his mortal body was laid to rest at the Chengara Assembly cemetery with the fond hope of resurrecting as the Lord comes to receive his bride, the Church.



## ANOTHER YEAR

Another year is passing by,  
 Twelve months have gone, how did time fly?  
 We stand on the threshold of yet another year;  
 Through the changing scenes of life, God is always near!

The year brought its share of sorrows and joys,  
 Laughter and gladness mingled with tears;  
 Some of our loved ones left for that fair Beulah Land,  
 We miss them so deeply but know the Lord is at hand!

We have tasted and known that the Lord is good!  
 He is Jehovah Jireh, He will always provide!  
 Our faith has been weak, we know we should never doubt,  
 But our God strengthens the weary, He gives power to the faint!

Forgive us our prayerlessness, selfishness, and pride,  
 Our sins of omission and commission, Praise God we are  
 covered by your blood!  
 Your benefits are many, we are so grateful!  
 Humble us, break us, may we your will fulfill.

Through the many unknown tomorrows, we look to the New  
 Year;  
 We have nothing to fear because God is Ebenezer!  
 Maybe this will be the year of Christ's return,  
 We reecho the words of John, "May it be soon!"

Kindle a fire in our hearts, help us to serve you more,  
 Make our prayers more fervent, our love ever pure;  
 Oh, for a burden to weep for the lost!  
 To tell them of Jesus who paid so great a cost!

So with confidence and courage may we awaken to this New  
 Year!  
 As Job said of old, "we hear of God only a whisper!"  
 "But the thunder of His power who can understand?"  
 In ELOHIM we have put our trust, HE IS ALL WE NEED!

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# MOSAIC COVENANT

*In this article, Bro. Thomson B. Thomas narrates the provision, purpose, and significance of the Covenant given to Israel at Sinai and tells us how in Jesus Christ, it is superseded by the New Covenant.*



In writing to the Ephesian believers, predominantly Gentiles, Paul says about what they lacked, before their conversion, in comparison to the Israelites. He says that they were “strangers from the covenants of promise” (Ephesians 2:11-12). This promise is the eternal promise of God, He gave in Christ to prepare a way for salvation for all humanity. In writing to Titus, Paul writes about this- “Hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began” (Titus 1:2; 2 Timothy 1.1). In fulfilling this promise, God took people through various stages dealing with them according to the necessity and regulating them in covenantal relationships. When the 'promise' was singular the 'covenants' are plural. This means the plurality of covenants, beginning from the Edenic Covenant to the New Covenant, in redemption history. The Israelites were delivered from Egypt with God's power, where they were slaves for more than four centuries. Two years after their deliverance, they were at the foot of Sinai. Jehovah God entered into a

covenantal relationship with that people. He gave His covenant to them, which is called Mosaic Covenant, as it was given at the mediation of Moses. This is also called as Sinai Covenant which indicates the place where it was given, and also the Covenant of the Law as it contained the Law which God wanted His people to keep in their lives.

### Provision of the Covenant

God descended on Mount Sinai and gave to Israel the Law of the Covenant, with the intent to forge them into a regulated, holy, society. By this God was setting them apart as a holy nation, peculiar people, and a holy priesthood. Moses read out the Law of the Covenant to all the people. “Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people” (Exodus 24:7). Obedience would bring blessing to the people or else curses. God wanted them to be obedient and become a blessing to all humans.

The Law of the Covenant consisted of moral laws Exodus 20:1-17, civil laws (Exodus 21:1-23:13), and religious (ceremonial) laws (Exodus 23:14-19; Leviticus 1-27). The greatest of these laws was the command to love God (Deuteronomy 6:5) and love neighbors (Leviticus 19:18). When the Law of the Covenant was read out by Moses, the people of Israel, in unison, said they would keep all its commands. This they said three times. (Exodus 19:8; 24.3; 24:7). In

response to this Moses took the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled it on the altar and the people and brought them into a covenant relationship with God (Exodus 24:1-8).

### Nature of the Covenant

From various passages in the scriptures, the nature and purpose of the Mosaic Covenant and its Law are given. From them, it is clear that it was not intended to abrogate the promise given to Abraham or as means of salvation.

**1. The Law was an addition, (Galatians 3:19; Romans 5:20):** The word "added" indicates that Law came later (Galatians 3:15-17) and that it did not remove the former. It was an addition to the Abrahamic Covenant. But this addition of the Law was needed as 'the covenant with Abraham lacked a sufficient emphasis on sin. If the promise to Abraham could generate faith, it is the Law that prepared men for repentance. The call to salvation included 'repentance and faith,' (Mark 1:15; 1 Thessalonians 1:8, 9). Though repentance is not the condition for salvation, it is an essential accompaniment of saving faith. The Law of the Covenant is essential to trigger guilt and bring a sinner to repentance.

**2. The Law was preparatory, (Galatians 3:9):** The word "till" or 'until' in Galatians 3:19 indicates that the Law was temporary or transitory and preparatory, (Romans 10:4). This temporary

nature of the Law is witnessed by the Old Testament itself. In the time of the Old Testament, Jeremiah spoke of the coming of the New Covenant, (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, David, when the priesthood was ordered and functioning at its best, spoke of its change, (Psalm 110:4). This doesn't mean the Law was removed but it was only fulfilled by the Lord, (Matthew 5:18).

**3. The Law was an instructor, (Galatians 4:1-3):** Under Roman law, children were considered nothing better than servants as long as they were minors. When they become majors, at the attainment of a particular age, they are given rights and considered responsible heirs. The tutors or instructors guided them in their growth. Paul says, that this was the use of the Law. It brought people to Christ.

**4. The Law was like a Mirror, (James 1.23):** A mirror shows us just as we are. Once we look into it and see anything to remedy on our face before we go out, we make rectifications. Similarly, the Law of the Covenant shows us just as we are. This use of the Law is seen in Jesus' dealing with the young rich lawyer who came to the Lord seeking salvation (Matthew 19: 16-26). The Lord was holding the Law, the mirror; before him to show that he was a breaker of the Law. The Lord asked him to sell all that he had, give to the poor, and follow Him. He walked away. He was breaking the tenth commandment, being covetous. He couldn't love his neighbor as well. The Law may be compared to a swing. To fall from a swing there is no need for the swing to break at ten places. If it is broken in one place, it fails. A person who breaks one commandment is a breaker of the Law!

### People under the Covenant

The Law was given to the people of

Israel. But God intended that all the nations in the world would be blessed through them. But Israel failed miserably. In the very place they agreed to keep all the Laws, they broke them (Exodus 32). They considered it only as a badge of pride. The Lord accused them saying that they made the Law of no effect by their traditions.

**Repentance is not the condition for salvation, it is an essential accompaniment of saving faith. The Law of the Covenant is essential to trigger guilt and bring a sinner to repentance.**

John 5 illustrates the working of the Law and the condition of the people under it. Around the Pool Bethesda, there lay many sick people. When an angel stirs the water, anybody who goes first into the water would be healed. There lay there an infirm man, for about thirty-eight years. His attempts to go into the pool first failed always. Now having lost all his hope for healing, he was waiting for death alone. But Jesus came his way, saw him, understood his predicament, and did him good. This pool of Bethesda reminds us of the Law. It means the house of mercy. Under the Law, for mercy, it was necessary to do its commands. But the infirm man could not go in first because of his infirmity. This was the state of the people under the Law also. They could not fulfill the Law's demands as their flesh was weak, Romans 8:3. But Jesus came to the sinful man and healed him. Just as the man was near the pool, Israel was very near to the Law. It was given to their fathers. But it did no good to them as they were, spiritually speaking, infirm. The inability of meeting the

demands of the Law is also seen in the words of the apostle Paul. He said he was not able to do the things he wanted to do but he did only things that he didn't want to do, (Romans 7). He finds in him a law that revolts against the Law of God. The rule about the Law is that those who do them shall live by the Law. But the sacred history attests that not even a single person has ever found justification in the sight of God by the keeping of the Mosaic Covenant.

### Fulfillment of the Covenant

Paul calls the Law as 'weak and beggarly elements,' (Galatians 3. 9). Here, it needs to be told that this weakness of the Law was not because the Law was faulty, but because the people who were supposed to fulfill its demands were weak. "Therefore, the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good" (Romans 7:12). "The commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death" (Romans 7:10). None could fulfill its demands. As the covenant was conditional, it brought judgment upon the disobedient. Anyone who would receive God's blessings should be obedient to the clauses of the Covenant, the Law. But as none could fulfill its demands, Jesus came and fulfilled the Law, (Matthew 5:17). He fulfilled the commands by His life and met its demands perfectly by His death on the cross. Anyone who trusts in the Lord Jesus is a partaker in the New Covenant that the Lord Himself has initiated (Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 8. 10-12; Luke 22.20; 1 Corinthians 11.25; 2 Corinthians 3.6). As the Surety of the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus undertook to meet all its demands, so that believers may enjoy all its blessings.

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# FINAL JOURNEY OF MOSES

*There are times when we are astonished to see after spending a smooth life, all of a sudden towards the end of life, the journey takes an unexpected turn, with unusual toil and troubles, but later it reveals only to see the Glory of God in a very endearing way. **Sis. Felicity Mathew** reveals this truth through the final journey of Moses.*



**T**he life of Moses was eventful, right from his birth. The time between his birth and death, he was awarded many titles, 'man of God,' 'servant of the Lord' 'the meekest man on the earth' 'a prophet in Israel whom the Lord knew face to face', 'deliverer of Israelites from the worst bondage', 'an intercessory prayer warrior', and so on. Every good event ends with an explicit finale, and it must be the best of the best memorable moments. What an eventful life he had! Surprisingly, Moses' end was the climax of all the other chapters of his life, especially, the experience with God at the top of mount Pisgah. Moses pleaded with God, to allow him to reach the promised Canaan. God answered 'Enough of that! Speak no more to me' (Deut. 3: 23-27). But God promised him to show the Promised Land from the top of mount Pisgah. By that time, Moses became old and he was well aware

of his physical weakness, He said "I am 120 years old today, I can no longer go out and come in" (Deut. 31: 2). Yet Moses was very enthusiastic and eager to meet his Maker and Creator at the peak of mount Pisgah of mount Nebo. He left the plain of Moab, which was a much easier and smoother road, to a steep and sturdy mount, absolutely a troublesome huge and tall mountainous terrain with rocks, stones, boulders, shrubs, herbs, thistle, thorns, briars, besides animals and dangerous creeping creatures. **Sometimes we too get astonished to see after spending a smooth life, all of a sudden towards the end of life, the journey takes an unexpected turn, with unusual toil and troubles, but later it reveals only to see the Glory of God in a very endearing way.** Nothing could move Moses, he set his face like a flint towards Pisgah. He became very strong to reach his Creator and Sustainer. At the age of 120, his eyes were not dim, his legs turned out to be very strong to climb to a height of 2500feet. Though Moses was all alone God was with him, therefore his natural vigour didn't diminish.

### Reaching Pisgah to see the Promised Land

Moses' eyes were enlightened to see the length and breadth of all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, all the

land of Naphtali, Ephraim, Manasseh, the valley of Jericho, the Western Sea, and the land of Judah. Moses must have been thrilled to see the land of Judah for, he had spoken so much about Lord Jesus, His birth, life, death and, resurrection. Moses must have been overwhelmed to look at the Promised Land, cherishing all about God's revelation regarding His Son Lord Jesus.

The Lord Himself mentioned about Moses "For if you believe Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me" (John: 5:46). "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning Me" (Lk. 24:44). Elsewhere we read "And beginning at Moses and all prophets, He expounded to them in all, the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Lk 24:27).

### Reaching Pisgah to be in the presence of God.

Moses climbed Pisgah in obedience to God's voice, to be in His presence. We sisters often get so busy and entangled with the bustle and hustle of the daily chores of life. To get a time of quietness, all alone with the Lord is absolutely needed for every child of God. Sitting with the Word of God, and

meditating in His presence is the most blessed time. Such a peaceful atmosphere is not easily available. Moses' journey to mount Pisgah, was not an easy climb at the age of 120. Unexpected troubles and perils are awaiting to discourage our effort to be in the presence of God with the Word. Paul said, "But none of these things move me nor I do count my life dear to myself so that I may finish my race with joy" (Acts 20:24).

It was Moses' greatest desire to see all that God has promised right from Genesis to Deuteronomy. "As the Psalmist says "Open my eyes that I may see the wondrous things from Your law". Neck-down problems can make us very shaky and can keep us away from the Lord. Apostle Paul in Rom 8: 35 to 39 is formulating seventeen perilous reasons which could not deter him from following the Master. Who can separate us from the love of Christ? It's a trumpeting statement with a clarion call. Hazardous problems may seem very complex, yet we have a victory since we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

### Reaching Pisgah to be in a heavenly bliss

Moses tasted heavenly bliss on this earth itself in the presence of God. God showed the beautiful land with green valleys and meadows flowing with milk and honey. Earthly cares couldn't vex him, his soul and mind were filled and occupied only with the Saviour and Redeemer of humanity. All worries about his own people in the wilderness couldn't disturb him. His heavenly divine experience with the Almighty God could not be distracted by the heedfulness for his own brethren. Nothing could take away his mind from his Maker and Saviour, though he left such a great number of the so-called 'stiff

necked' but his dear people in the wilderness. When we get to hear about the home call of a dear one, we do get bereaved about losing them on this earth, but get comforted as they are in the heavenly blissful state. We too will acquire the same experience when we reach the presence of Heavenly Father for whom we are waiting with all earnestness. Our care and concerns about our beloved ones are going to be cut off since we will not be in the flesh and blood in eternity.

### Reaching Pisgah to Accomplish Promises

Finally, God fulfilled all desires of Moses to see the Promised Land. **God's declaration came out in four words "This is the land..."** (Deut. 34: 4). Moses could see the entire Promised Land. Humanly speaking to get an entire view of the land is not possible. "His eyes were not dim" at the age of 120, has a wider meaning. **It is God who gives sight to the blind. God asked Moses "Go up to the top of Pisgah, lift your eyes towards the west, the north, the south, and the east, behold it with your eyes"** (Deut. 3:27). **God granted Moses a miraculous spectacular view of the entire Promised Land. When God says "I have caused you to see it with your eyes"... it's done completely. Praise God.**

### The Finale of Moses, homeward journey

Moses was overwhelmed as he accomplished all that was promised. He surrendered his life to the Maker for an upward, homeward journey. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21). We tend to have a good beginning in all aspects of our life, whether it is in spiritual or social or secular life, expecting a smooth journey ahead, but doesn't end well. "The end of a matter is

better than beginning" Eccl. 7:8. Many couldn't attain a blessed end when compared to their beginning. King Saul had a tragic end, though he had an unexpected royal call at a very early age. God chose Samson before his birth and used him mightily, granting him unusual physical power, but he abused all that he received from God by grace, deceived by the lust of flesh became blinded. As Apostle Paul says "for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded, He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day" (2 Tim 1: 12). No wonder towards the end of his life, he could testify "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim 4 7).

### Final Attestation by God at Pisgah

Finally, **Moses the servant of the Lord** died in the land of Moab **according to the word of the Lord.** 'According to the word of the Lord' in the original form means 'upon the mouth of the Lord'. Therefore, Jewish tradition believes that God took away Moses' soul with a kiss on His mouth. **God accepted his service and gave the best title one can get from God 'servant of God'. This title is an approval, appreciation, and attestation of his long service of 40 years in the Lord. In heaven we too are going to be welcomed as the servants of God (Rev 22: 3).** We don't read about anyone else except for Moses, whom 'God buried'. His life is the epitome of, God's companionship in loneliness, a light, and a ray of hope in the darkness, God's presence even up to the last breath on this earth. His amazing encounter with God at Mount Horeb ended in a most exciting finale at mount Pisgah with God. "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25: 23).

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## GOD'S TITLE DEED TO ISRAEL

*God is faithful in fulfilling His covenant promises and associated prophecies. Bro. Rajan Thomas meticulously explains God's promises being fulfilled in the past and in the present giving hope for the future.*



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### Setting scene

Imagine the world of polytheism and idol worship entangled in superstitions and religious malpractices some 4000 years ago! In ignorance of the living God and His plans for human beings, men were perambulating without enlightenment. It was in such a scene that the living God revealed Himself and came in communication with Abraham, the father of faith and nations (Gen.12:1). Abraham was born almost in BC 2166 living in Ur (the border of today's Kuwait and Iraq at the north-western apex of the Persian Gulf). Ur was the capital city of ancient Sumerian civilization, and Abraham was a successful businessman in manufacturing and marketing idols. We read in Gen.12:1 that God called him and commanded him to depart from such an idolatrous environment

and in Heb.11:8 we read that his obedience was an act of faith and thus, he was named as the **father of faith** (Gal.3:6&7)

### Unconditional covenant

God honored Abraham's faith and entered into an **unconditional covenant** with him (Gen.12:1-3) by which He blessed him and his descendants and launched a plan that would be part of the entire World's history, past and future.

Included in the Abrahamic covenant are several provisions, including four personal promises. Later, these promises were confirmed to and through Isaac and Jacob, the patriarchs of the Jewish nation (Gen. 26:1-5, 28: 10-16).

It is notable that the Abrahamic covenant was the fundamental covenant (Gen. 12:1 to 3) and the whole program of God for Israel is based on this unaltered covenant. But that was further enlarged and amplified into three covenants: a) **The Land Covenant** (Gen.12:1, 15:18 or Palestinian covenant) b) **Davidic Covenant** (Seed /Throne covenant- 2 Samuel 7:12 to 16), and c) **The New covenant** (Jer.31:31-34)

### What is the Land covenant?

Gen: 12:1 'Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go out from your country, your relatives, and your father's household to the land that I will show you" This was the promise of a Land that Abraham had not seen, but he put his faith in God and set his sojourn ( Heb.12:8).

The territory and boundaries of the land are further revealed to Abraham in Gen. 15:18. "That day the Lord made a covenant with Abram: To your

descendants, I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River."

The river of Egypt is not the Nile, but the Wadi El-Ariash of the northern border of Egypt to the River Euphrates. That means God promised the major region of West Asia which came to be known as the '**Fertile Crescent**', which consists of today's Northern Part of Egypt (Sinai Peninsula), Israel-Palestine, Northern Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and southern Iraq up to the Border of Kuwait (Ur).

In other words, God promised and reserved for his descendants who became the nation of Israel wherever the Father of faith had put his steps on the sojourn. The Abrahamic covenant was unconditional (which has to be fulfilled ultimately). But due to idolatry and disobedience of the nation and its people, Israel thus far could not occupy the whole land that God promised even during the golden period of the reign of Solomon.



Marking on the modern West Asian map

**Violations in the utility of the land**

When the title deed of the land was awarded to the nation of Israel, God had stipulated certain rules regarding its utility as provided in the Mosaic Law, the prominent being the observation of the Sabbath of complete rest.

We read it in Lev. 25: 1 to 5. In accordance with this law, every seventh year, the land must be allowed to lie fallow, uncultivated – a complete rest for the land. This commandment had apparently gone unobserved for 490 years (from the time of Israel's occupancy of Canaan following Exodus from Egypt to the beginning of the Babylonian exile), during which seventy years that should have been Sabbath years had not been treated as such. Scientifically, by this rest, the soil is restored and revitalized.

The captivity lasted 70 years to correspond to the years the Sabbath years were not observed. Jeremiah 25:11, 12 and Jeremiah 29:10, as well as II Chron.36:20, 21 specify the land will enjoy her Sabbaths during the 70-year Babylonian captivity. The word of the Lord in Lev.26:34, 35 is also clear on this, and Daniel well understood Jeremiah's prophecy (Dan.9:2.)

This historical lesson of Israel's violation of God's commandment and consequent punishments admonishes every believer not to violate God's instructions and deviate from His ways, whether, seem small or big.

**Returned but dispersed**

After the Babylonian captivity, though God allowed them to return to the land that God promised to their ancestors, they were under the 'time of Gentiles' (Luke 21:24), political control by Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome.

It is during the golden years of the Roman period, Jesus was incarnated as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the 'glory of... people of Israel' (Luke 2:32). 'He came to what was his own, but his own people (nation of Israel) did not receive him' (John 1:11). The nation's rejection of the

Messiah, His trial, crucifixion followed by which they invited divine wrath upon them by publicly denouncing "Let his blood be on us and on our children" (Mt. 27:25). Pre-knowing their rebellious arrogant response, Jesus pronounced the divine wrath "Look, your house is left you desolate. You will not see from now until you say, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mt. 23:38) in line with the God's pronouncement in Duet. 28:64- "The Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other." This is a clear prophecy from the Lord that ended up in the storming of Jerusalem and fire destruction of the temple during AD 70. Consequentially they were dispersed and scattered all over the gentile nations around the globe; lost their land and national identity.

This historical lesson of Israel's violation of God's commandment and consequent punishments admonishes every believer not to violate God's instructions

**Toward the final restoration of the land**

God is always faithful in his promises. As the Abrahamic covenant was unconditional, the descendants of Abraham certainly shall reoccupy the entire territory of land as promised in Duet.30:3-5.

**"Vs.3- the Lord your God will reverse your captivity and have pity on you. He will turn and gather you from all the peoples among whom he has scattered you. Vs.4 - Even if your exiles are in the most distant land, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. Vs.5 - Then He will bring you to the land your ancestors possessed, and you also will possess it; He will do better for you and multiply you more than He did your ancestors."**

By B.C.720, the prophet prophesied "You shall be gathered one by one (Is.27:12). He repeated the prophecy in Isaiah 43:5-7, etc. as Also, in Jeremiah 12:15, 24:6, Ezekiel 20:42, 28:25-26, Hosea 12:9, Joel in 3:1, etc.

These prophecies are to be literally fulfilled ultimately by the national repentance of Israel at the glorious appearance of Christ (Zech. 12:10) and the setting up of the millennium. The whole land will be enjoyed by Israel in the millennium as indicated in Ezekiel 40 to 48. And as we read the millennium prophecies in the Book of Ezekiel, they would occupy the whole Land that God promised to Abraham in Gen.15:18.

**Mould is ready to be cast for ultimate restoration**

It is in this respect, we must evaluate the great wonder of the rebirth of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, and her subsequent modern history. After Rome had sacked the nation in AD.70, over 2000 years their generations had been living in deep distress and dejection wandering from one nation to the other without any national identity. Every curse that God pronounced upon them as recorded in Deuteronomy 28:14 to 69, in case they go aside from the words of the law, fell upon them in the history of their migration and Diaspora. Expulsions, mass slaughtering, mob attacks, mass burning, etc. that were never inflicted on any other people groups in history, had been the story of Jewish societies all over the world for about two millennia. The worse climax of all such anti-Semite brutal action was, between 1939 and 1945, the holocaust of 6 million Jews at the order of Nazi Hitler.

However, signs of the fulfillment of Due.30: 3-5 began to display in their modern history. The Jewish population in and around Jerusalem was only 5000 during AD 1550, but by 1914 it reached 94,000 by the Jews returning from various countries of the world, but they



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## SET APART

*Being set apart for Christ is not merely an outward act or appearance. It is a matter of our faith and willingness to walk like Jesus on the earth. **Sis. Ann Sandra Godly** beautifully explains this truth with the example of Jesus vs Pharisees.*



**D**uring His time on earth, Jesus ministered to the sick, the dying, the destitute, and perhaps most baffling of all, the worst sinners of society. Tax collectors, thieves, prostitutes, adulterers- Jesus turned no one away! Isn't it remarkable how our magnanimous Lord humbled Himself to save us all and leave no one behind? Despite being perfect, holy, and sinless Himself, He broke bread with social outcasts like Zacchaeus, a tax collector for the Roman Empire, and therefore excluded from Jewish society for participating in Roman oppression (Luke 19:1-5). He responded to shunned individuals like the Samaritan woman and the adulteress brought for stoning with love and tenderness (John 4:1-26, John 8:1-11). He understood the struggles of fallen man and paid the ultimate price by giving His life to save us from our sins!

It is therefore equally baffling to think that during His lifetime, Jesus

rebuked the Pharisees for their religious traditionalism. The Pharisees were a highly educated, conservative Jewish sect who were revered as interpreters of the Law. They were knowledgeable and well-respected in society. In fact, the term "Pharisee" is derived from the Hebrew word *parush*, meaning "set apart", and that is exactly what they thought of themselves- a special people set apart for God! However, Jesus had little regard for skin-deep piety and openly pointed out their self-righteous attitudes. For example, in Mathew 5:20, He says, "For I tell you unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". Mathew 23 records the Lord's scathing judgments against these "whitewashed tombs"- outwardly beautiful but dead within. Here are some of Jesus' words about the Pharisees:

**The Pharisees set themselves apart for their own selfish gain and vanity and not for God.**

*Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach but do not practice. They*

*tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their fingers. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long ..." - Mathew 23:1-*

*"Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."- Luke 20:46-47*

*"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."- Mathew 21:32*

How stunned the Pharisees must have felt to be at the receiving end of the Lord's rebukes! They were the cream of Jewish society and held enormous influence. Who was this man to question them, while He Himself polluted his company with mere rabble- fisherman, tax collectors, and the immoral? The Lord Jesus' words stung the

Pharisees and earned Him many enemies who would eventually plot His execution. The truth was hard for the Pharisees to handle, and the Lord's simple message- "all are sinners and must believe to be saved", eluded even the most well-meaning of them, like Nicodemus (John 3). They set themselves apart, but not for God. They set themselves apart for their own selfish gain and vanity- a purely outward appearance of holiness in order to have respect and power among the people of the community.

**Has our faith truly transformed every facet of our lives or like the Pharisees, are we too putting on a facade to hide our lukewarm hearts?**

As the Lord's people, we too are "set apart" for His glory. 1 Peter 2:9 says we are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light*". In John 17, Jesus prays that we remain sanctified in a sinful world (John 17: 15-19). However, we must ask ourselves, has our faith truly transformed every facet of our lives? Or like the Pharisees, are we too putting on a façade to hide our lukewarm hearts?

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect..."-Romans 12:2*

## GOD'S TITLE DEED TO ISRAEL

*Continued from page no.19*

could not legitimately owe any land or property. However, the First World War (1914 to 1917) turned into a catalyst to issue the Balfour Declaration by the British Government towards the '**establishment of a national home for the Jewish people**', by which Jewish communities in exile from various nations immigrated and owned lands and properties. By 1939 the Jewish population reached 449,000, with the returning Jews, and by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war in 1945, it reached 543,000 despite 6 million Jews being massacred in Holocaust. The Second World War also became a catalyst for the historic declaration of the Jewish nation on May 14, 1948, with a population of 716,700. The returned Jews owned lands and properties as partial fulfillment of Jeremiah 33:12-14.

The current population of Israel is 8,969,411 out of which 7,080,000 are Jews, owning land and properties. The world Jewish population is 14.2 million, and as per several prophecies those who remain all over the world shall return and occupy the Promised Land by the glorious appearance of Christ as prophesied by Him in Mt.24:31. Though the land was well developed to house a most modern nation with all necessary infrastructural facilities, desolate land is amply available for development, awaiting for the future immigrants to arrive and own it.

How amazing is the faithfulness of God in the ultimate fulfillment of covenant promises and associated prophecies!

## ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

*Continued from page no.10*

fulfilled by the greater than Solomon, the Seed of Abraham, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having chosen Abraham and promised to make a great nation out of him forever, he is given a land that will be his forever. Further covenants will be made so that there will be a throne forever, a kingdom forever and a King forever, the Seed of Abraham, our Lord Jesus Christ through whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

We too are blessed because of this covenant, "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ ... He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ ...." (Galatians 3:14-17).

*The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days,  
and God of Love;  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
by earth and heaven confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
forever blest.*

*The great I AM has sworn;  
I on this oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend.  
I shall behold God's face;  
I shall God's power adore,  
and sing the wonders of God's  
grace forevermore.  
(Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799)*

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## DAVIDIC COVENANT



**A** covenant is a word that expresses the relationship between two parties who make binding promises to each other to work together to reach a common goal. Covenant demands responsibilities and commitments. Covenant is different from a contract; a contract is an agreement one can break while a covenant is a perpetual promise. The concept of covenant is significant in the Bible. A covenant might be conditional or unconditional. There are seven different covenants in the Bible. They are (1) The Adamic covenant, (2) The Noachic covenant, (3) The Abrahamic covenant, (4) The Mosaic covenant, (5) The Palestinian covenant, (6) The Davidic covenant, and (7) The New covenant.

The Davidic Covenant is the covenant God had established with David. It refers to God's promises to David through Nathan, the prophet. The Biblical record of this covenant is found in 2 Samuel 7:8-16. A parallel passage is found in 1 Chronicles 17:7-14. Both of these passages (2 Sam. 7:8-16 & 1 Chr. 17:7-14) do not explicitly describe God's promise as a "covenant." But verses like 2 Sam. 23:5 (everlasting

covenant - KJV), 2 Chr. 7:18 (I have covenanted with David - KJV), and Psalm 89:3 (I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David) do describe God's promise as a "covenant."

### A. Historical Background

The historical background of the Davidic covenant is well-known to the majority of Christians. King David had come to power and authority in the kingdom. When he settled into a luxurious living, he realised that God's ark was in a tent (2 Sam. 7:1-2). So, he wanted to construct a house for God and expressed his desire to Prophet Nathan. Without knowing the will of God, Nathan answered David to proceed to construct the same. But God spoke to Nathan that David is not the one to construct a house for God, but his son will construct the house of God. God proceeds to make certain promises to David concerning future blessings upon David and his descendants (2 Sam. 7:3-16).

### B. Provisions of the Davidic Covenant

God had promised several promises to David in 2 Samuel 7:8-16. They are the provisions of the Davidic Covenant.

**1. Provision of the Land:** God had already given the promise of the land in His Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 15:18-21). In Davidic Covenant, God reaffirms the promise of the land. This provision is clearly stated in 2 Samuel 7:10-11: "And I will establish a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will malicious people

oppress them anymore as previously, even from the day that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies." Though this provision of the land was partially fulfilled during the reign of King Solomon (1 Kings 4:21), this promise will be literally and completely fulfilled by the Messiah in His millennial reign (Rev. 20:4, 6; Psalm 72:8).

What God intimated as a promise to King David that his son Solomon would build the temple turned into the provision of an eternal kingdom which would endure forever.

### 2. Provision of the House:

Secondly, God had promised the provision of the house. This provision is clearly stated in 2 Samuel 7:11b-12: "The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom." The desire of King David was to build a house for the Lord to keep the Ark of the Covenant. But the Lord has decided to build a house for David. The Hebrew word for 'house' is 'bayith.' Bayith is more than a residence. It was used for a family, parents, children, etc. For example, Noah went into the ark with his 'whole house' (Gen. 7:1) which is

obviously not with the building he lived in. Jacob ordered 'his whole house' to dispose of their foreign gods (Gen. 35:2). The posterity of a family, king, or dynasty would be called his 'house' (Exo. 2:1; 1 Kings 11:38; 13:2). For 2 Samuel 7, the meaning of a 'dynasty' is most fitting, especially since the expression "your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever" (2 Sam. 7:16), could only mean that David's 'dynasty' would rule forever. David expressed his desire to build a house (temple) for God, but God promised to build a house (dynasty) for David. The fulfillment of this is seen in Solomon and Davidic Dynasty.

**3. Provision of an Everlasting Throne and Kingdom:** Thirdly, God had promised the provision of an everlasting throne and a kingdom. This provision is stated in 2 Samuel 7:13b, 16: "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. . . Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." This everlasting kingdom will be established by the Lord Jesus Christ in the future.

This was also revealed through the Prophet Daniel in Daniel 7:13-14: "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a son of man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, honour, and a kingdom, so that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; His kingdom is the one which will not be destroyed." Peter affirms the same in 2 Peter 1:10-11: "Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the

entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."

**4. Provision of the Son of God:** Fourthly, God had promised the provision of the Son of God to rule the everlasting kingdom. This provision is stated in 2 Samuel 7:12-16: "When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and with strokes of sons of mankind, but My favour shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

The assurance of God's promises rests completely on God's faithfulness and does not depend upon the obedience of David or the nation of Israel.

Here, in this provision, God informed David that his son will succeed him as the next king of Israel and he (Solomon) would build the temple in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:12-13). Please note a 'forever' reference in verses 13 and 16: "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (v. 13); "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever" (v. 16). A shift from Solomon to Christ is evidently included here in the promise. What God intimated as

a promise to King David that his son Solomon would build the temple turned into the provision of an eternal kingdom which would endure forever. Another Son of David will rule forever. This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ who is called the Son of David in Matthew 21:9.

The prophecy of Isaiah confirms the provisions of the Davidic Covenant in Isa. 9:6-7: "For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us, and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore." The genealogies found in Matthew 1 (1:1, 6, 17) and Luke 3 (3:31-32) indicate that Jesus Christ is a physical descendant of David. The Gospels clearly teach that the birthplace of Jesus Christ was Bethlehem, the City of David (Matt. 2:1, 6; Luke 2:4, 11, 15). Bethlehem was David's hometown where Prophet Samuel anointed him to be the king of Israel (1 Sam. 16:1, 4, 13).

Gabriel, the angel of God, announced the fact to Mary that God would give Jesus the throne of His father, David. This is stated in Luke 1:31-33: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the

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## THAT WONDERFUL PLACE



Jenny was excited and upset at the same time. Her father was leaving for Kerala the following morning and she will be left behind with her mother and grandparents. This would be for the first time that dad would be away for so long, she sobbed.

Dad made her sit in his lap and told her that she should be super thrilled as he is going to build a house for them. A house with her very own room. And Jenny can't even imagine the surprise that awaits her in their new abode. Have you ever wondered about such a place? Where could that be? What it is like? Who else lives there? The Bible talks about one such place and God has given us some hints about what it will be like. However, a lot of it is still a mystery to us because God is still preparing it for us. At least that's what Jesus told His disciples before He left the world.

He said He was preparing it for us. Just imagine, if God created the world and everything in and around it in six days, how amazing will this under-construction place be? If His creation in six days can be such breathtaking, how would a

creation like this be which He has been preparing for us? If you can think of a beautiful mountain, waterfall, or even the prettiest flower you've ever seen then, think of a place even more amazing than that, I think that's what that place will be like.

God can use whatever he wants gold, diamonds, or probably more amazing things we have never seen with our eyes. Maybe that's why the Bible doesn't give us a complete description of this place because we wouldn't even be able to understand how amazing and beautiful it really is.

We can talk more about what this place is like later. Firstly, we should talk about how we can get to that marvelous place and what are some ways we can prepare to go there. Don't worry you don't need to pack your luggage. In fact, God specifically says that we shouldn't spend all our time on earth trying to collect a lot of things because we can't take any of them with us.

It might seem strange that we won't need any of our things like our favorite doll or toy or even a change of clothes!! God will give us everything we need plus much more. We won't even be bored in heaven because God knows what we need and He's getting it all ready for us.

One of Jesus' disciples named Thomas asked Jesus: We don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way? (John 14:5). Jesus answered: I am the way, the truth, and the life no one comes to the

Father except through me.

Our GPS doesn't talk like this. This sounds like a strange riddle but what Jesus was saying is that if you believe the Bible and believe that Jesus died and rose again for you, then you believe in the truth and He will take you to this wonderful place.

The Bible is there to help us in life right now and is like a direction map that will lead us on the right path and then eventually to this great place. The best part of all is what this place will be like. Most of this is written in the last two chapters of the Bible. It says that God will wipe every tear from our eyes and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. Everything will be made new again! You won't be able to get hurt anymore and there won't be any fighting or hitting or crying ever! Did you hear that, ever? The Bible tells us a little about what it will look like, it talks in Revelation about the city walls and how they are decorated with precious stones. The wall will be made of pure gold and then 12 different kinds of beautiful stones will cover and decorate it. Some of these stones we don't even know about on earth.

There will be twelve gates and each one will be made of one humungous pearl bigger than you! On top of that, the streets will be made of gold! I can't even imagine how amazing it will be. No dirt or dust just shiny beautiful streets and walls filled with different colored stones reflecting the light



from God.

The only tricky part before we get there is how we move from this world to this amazing place. If we believe God that He died and rose again, need His forgiveness and try to live the way God wants; then God writes our name in the book of life. (Philippians 4:3) Everyone who believes and accepts Jesus will go to this place and live there forever.

Then there are two ways we can move to this awesome place. The first way is if we die and the second way is when Jesus comes again while we're alive on earth. The thought of death can be frightening (for grown-ups too) but, if we keep reminding ourselves how great heaven is maybe it wouldn't have to be so scary.

The second way we can go to this home is called the second coming. When God decides it's time for everyone who believes in Him to live with Him, He is going to come to receive us. It says in the Bible that nobody will ever know when this will be but He will come and we'll all know and see Jesus. There will be angels and trumpets and it'll be very exciting for all those who believe.

As you can see, it is going to be a fabulous place to be with God who made us and wants to reward us. God loves us even more than our parents and promises to take the best care of us. He hasn't forgotten us either, he says three times in the last chapter of the Bible that Jesus is coming soon and to keep doing what is right and holy.

**Tabbsum Roy Paes**

## HT Bible Quiz FOR KIDS!

QUIZ NO. 39

Dear Children,

The quiz for this month is very easy.

- 1) Name this wonderful place that God is preparing for us.
- 2) Quote the references from the Bible where it is mentioned.
- 3) What are the preparations you have done for this place?

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Children between the age group of 4 to 12 yrs can participate in this quiz.
- Kindly send your answers by **eMail ONLY**
- Send us **your name, age and WhatsApp Number** with the answers, we can then acknowledge your names if you have got all your answers right.
- The answers for the quiz will have to reach us before 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Send your answers to : **tabbu.roy@gmail.com**

### WINNERS OF QUIZ NO. 38

**Roselyn Lilly Shiju, Thane**  
**Sharona Jestus, Chattisgarh**

## DAVIDIC COVENANT

*Continued from Page No.23*

house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." As per the teaching of the Word of God, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will literally fulfill these promises in the future. Christ will return to the earth in His second coming after the Great Tribulation and He will establish an earthly millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:4) on this present earth and then His everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:10-11).

### C. Character of the Davidic Covenant

When God established the Davidic Covenant, He did not specify any conditions on it. Therefore, it is an unconditional covenant. The assurance of God's promises rests completely on God's faithfulness and does not depend upon the obedience of David or the nation of Israel.

### Conclusion

The all-knowing God who made this covenant about 3000 years before had partially fulfilled His promises, and we have observed that He will definitely fulfill the remaining provisions in a literal fashion. He who is all-powerful will be able to accomplish them in His time. The study on the Davidic Covenant would help us to trust our all-knowing and all-powerful God.

## HT Bible Quiz FOR YOUTH

QUIZ NO. 12 (Leviticus Chapters 1 to 10)

### Q A Check the odd one out: (Chapters 1 & 2)

1. Bull , donkey, sheep , goat. (animals for the burnt offerings)
2. Turtle dove, pigeon, Eagle. (Birds for the burnt offering)
3. Fine flour, oil, lentils, frankincense (used for grain offering).
4. Oven , Basin, pan, covered pan (grain offering is baked)

### Q B. Choose the correct word from the bracket and fill the blanks:

5. Every grain offering you shall season with \_\_\_\_\_. (salt, oil, spices)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and Abihu offered profane fire. (. Nadab, Ithamar, Eleazer).
7. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are non sweet aroma offering. ( peace offering, trespass offering, sin offering)

### Q C. Match the items in column A with items of column B and rewrite (Chapter 8)

A.	B
8. Breast plate	To anoint Tabernacle
9. Turban.	Girded with sash
10. Oil.	Urim and Thumim
11. Tunic.	Holy crown

### Q D. Who said to whom.? (Chapter 10)

12. "You may distinguish between holy and unholy, unclean and clean."
13. "look this day, they have offered their sin offering."
14. "Why have you not eaten the sin offering in a holy place?"

- FM

### INSTRUCTIONS

- If you are twenty (20) years old or less then you can definitely be a part of "HT Bible Quiz For Youth."
- In case of postal delay, please visit our website: [www.glsindia.com](http://www.glsindia.com) and look into our blog .
- Send us **your name, age and WhatsApp Number** with the answers.
- The answers for the quiz will have to reach us before 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Send your answers to : [harvesttimesquiz@gmail.com](mailto:harvesttimesquiz@gmail.com) Or WhatsApp on - 9820954340, Title: HT QUIZ

### CORRECT ANSWERS FOR HT QUIZ NO.11

- Q A:** 1. Holyness to the Lord. Exo 39:30  
 2. Fine linen - Exo 39:28.  
 3. Pure Gold - Exo 39: 30.  
 4. Emerald - Exo 39:10  
 5. Beryl - Exo 39:13.

- Q B:** 6. Pots. - Exo 38:3  
 7. Silver - Exo 39:2  
**Q C:** 8. Acacia wood - Exo 37: 25.  
 9. Five cubits. Exo 38: 1  
**Q D:** 10.. Craft men to Moses.- Exo 36: 5.

11. Lord to Moses. - Exo 40:2  
**Q E:** 12. Bezael and Aholiab.- Exo 36:2  
 13. Scarlet. - Exo 36: 8  
 14. Square.- Exo 38: 1  
 15. Two and a half. - Exo 37:6.

### THE WINNERS OF HT QUIZ NO. 11

**Kezia Anil Abraham, Mumbai**  
**Geoff Oommen Philip, Bangalore**  
**Gia Beena Philip, Bangalore**  
**Catherine Grace Shiju, Thane**

**Jonathan Paul Jim, Kochi.**  
**Eve Ami Thomas, Navi Mumbai.**  
**Karen Sara Bob, Kerala.**  
**Nitu Sitaram Saw, Mumbai**

**Joan Jane Jones, Bangalore**  
**Joanna Molly Jestus, Chattisgarh.**  
**Jeshrun Jariwala, Roorkee**  
**Aksa Sara John, Kerala**  
**Annet V.P, Chennai**

Kumar Nadasen, a legal consultant. He resides in Thane, Maharashtra.



## Birth of Lord Jesus Good Tidings of Great Joy

**T**wo thousand years ago, that night in Bethlehem, a town situated in the Judean Hills, five miles south of Jerusalem, was the most beautiful night in the history of the world. The myriads of twinkling stars that adorned the heavens added splendour to that night. The wondrous divine glory shined in that night, as a prelude to the most spectacular historical event that would visit the earth that day. Never in the history of the creation of man had occurred such a glorious event, that God would come down on the earth in human flesh and dwell amongst us!

Caesar Augustus, the Emperor of Rome issued a decree for conducting a census. Because of the royal decree, Joseph and Mary, his betrothed wife had to travel to Bethlehem all the way from Nazareth although Mary was heavy with Child by miraculous conception. Thus, through the decree of Caesar Augustus, God fulfilled His divine decree that the Saviour of the world would be born in Bethlehem Ephrata, as prophesied long ago (Micah 5:2).

“And Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, Jesus, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the Inn”; as people from all over the land poured into Bethlehem for the census (Luke 2:7).

Not far away from the city of David, the shepherds were keeping watch over their flock in Galilee that night. As the shepherds kept watch over their flock, they were wonder-struck at the sight of an angel of the LORD, as the glory of God shown around them. As they stood frozen at that amazing sight in fear, the angel comforted them saying, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring

you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).

All of a sudden, they saw a company of the heavenly host appear with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men”. God's goodwill in sending the Messiah brought the message of peace on earth. The goodwill of God towards humanity is glory to God in the highest and peace on the earth. It is the highest expression of His redeeming love and mercy for the fallen man. Nowhere could we see the love of God strikingly exhibited than at the cross. It was the fulfilment of long-promised Biblical prophecies to save humanity from the punishment of their sin.

Apostle Peter says that “Jesus was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge”. God delighted to save man from the jaws of eternal death and for that very purpose He sent His Son, the delight of the Father, to die on the cursed cross, to take our rightful place there. The risen Saviour said, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations...” Dear reader, have you repented for your sins? Have you received forgiveness for your sins? Have you received the assurance of salvation? If not, come to the Saviour right now and be washed by His precious blood and experience the assurance of salvation!

**Kumar Nadasan**

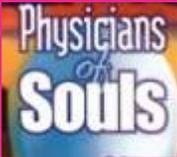
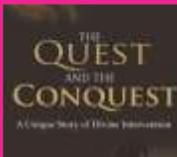
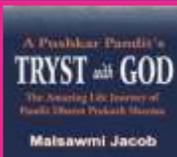
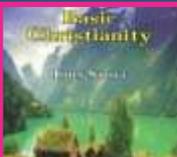
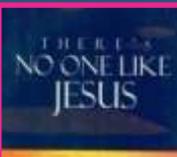
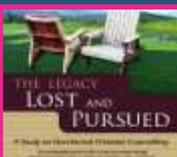
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