

Study 0064

The Fundamentals of New Covenant Era Worship (2)

In our first instalment, we reached the conclusion that, the enactment of the New Covenant, like the enactment of the Old Covenant, was prefaced by proof of God's faithfulness, dependability, goodness, love, mercy, power, among others, through the preaching of the gospel, and the performance of miracles and healings. It is therefore imperative that every believer in Christ be aware of the covenant under which he is to operate in his relationship with, and worship of God. This study will look at the covenant itself and its enactment/establishment, and consummation.

Texts: Exodus 24:1-12; Deuteronomy 29:1-28; Hebrews 8:7-12

As we did with the last study, we shall look at the Old Testament pattern, and see what God expects of us New Testament worshippers. From our texts, we can make the following observations:

1. The content of the covenant God cut with Israel was documented in a book, called the "book of the covenant", and was read in the hearing of all Israel by Moses; followed by the declaration of the people to do "*all that the LORD hath said ... and be obedient*"
2. Then there was the sprinkling of the blood of animals sacrificed as burnt offering (a total dedication to God) and peace offering (a commitment to constant fellowship/communion with God), on the people, the book of the covenant, and the altar on which the animals were sacrificed, with the declaration by Moses, "Behold, the blood of the covenant which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words"
3. There was then the eating and drinking in the presence of God by a representation of the people including Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Joshua, and seventy elders.
4. There was also the need to continually teach the contents and consequences of the covenant to the people.
5. We see that forty years after, when the people were about to cross into the Promised Land, God again re-established the covenant with the people of Israel. This re-establishment of the covenant was prefaced with a statement of God's faithfulness, commitment, love, mercy, forgiveness, power, etc., and concluded with asking them to be committed to God's covenant, and to continue to serve God alone so that His prosperity would continue in their lives in the Promised Land.
6. Then we see a most fundamental statement concerning with whom the covenant was made: "*Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath; But with him that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day*" **Deuteronomy 29:14-15 (KJV)**. This indicates that the covenant was not just with the present generation, but also with future generations.
7. There was a caveat included in the covenant: they were to remain faithful to the covenant, and not turn aside to follow other gods, lest they be cut-off from the covenant, and be under the curse that becomes the lot of covenant breakers.

8. In all, God was telling them that He was, and has been, keeping His own part of the covenant (to make them His own special people—with the love, affection, protection, provision, blessings, etc., that go with that status); and noting that as long as they continue to keep their part (to be completely devoted to God and to completely keep or obey the provisions of the covenant), He will continue to keep them to Himself.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Where can we find the contents of the New Covenant under which every believer in Christ is expected to operate? (**Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Romans 10:8; Hebrews 8:8-10; 4:2**)

2. Who were the representatives with whom the New Covenant was consummated? (**Matthew 26:26-28**)

3. How was the New Covenant established or ratified? (**Matthew 26:26-28**)

4. How do believers in Christ enter into the New Covenant today? (**Romans 6:1-9; 12:4-6; Hebrews 6:2a; 1 Corinthians 12:4-14; Galatians 3:27-28**)

5. What is the New Covenant? (**Hebrews 8:8-11; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:25-27; Jeremiah 33:38-40**)

6. What is expected of the believer in Christ under the New Covenant? (**Galatians 2:16-21; 5:16-23; Romans 8:14**)

7. How do believers in Christ ensure that they do not forget the New Covenant today? (**John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**)

Conclusion

For the believer in Christ to be able to keep the New Covenant, his total and unquestioned submission to God is a must! This submission comes by way of a yielding of the believer to the Holy Spirit’s leading, which enables him to be obedient to the Covenant (**1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:5-9**).

It was the inability of the old covenant worshippers to obey the word of God which they had promised to keep that made the Old Covenant faulty. The Israelites of old thought that they could obey the words of God, and so, they declared that all that had been commanded by God, they would do. However, not being able to keep the covenant, no matter how hard they tried, God put in place a new covenant, which was a promise to make the believer in Christ to be able to keep God’s instructions. To achieve this, a person is first saved from the power and influence of sin (including forgiveness of his sins), and then given the grace to be able to keep the covenant through his submission or yieldedness to the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 2:20-21**).

The new covenant worshipper, thus, worships God in Spirit and in truth, because,
