

# Why do we need a Covenant?

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Gen 6:18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Gen 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

7 clean couples of animals and 1 couple of the unclean animals. Noach knew what was clean and unclean from his ancestors. Isn't it strange they took 7 clean and only 1 unclean couple? This was so that clean animals were also sacrificed. So question becomes WHY DO WE NEED A COVENANT?

Christianity says there are 8 major biblical covenants...but problem becomes when we isolate into these categories you miss a lot of valuable info that is not covered within these categories.

H1285 Covenant **ברית** beriyth ber-eeth' From H1262 (in the sense of cutting (like H1254)); a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh): - confederacy, [con-]feder[-ate], covenant, league.

Add the yod to Brit to make Brity, meaning MY COVENANT

We will cover both vocabulary and have a reading assignment

WHY does HaShem have to make a covenant with Noach about this ark? To reassure Noach, give him confidence, as he does not know where he is going since HaShem tells him clearly that He is going to destroy the earth. This must have brought on much fear for Noach in questioning did he build the ark properly and/or did he or any in his family do something to not be included/saved from this calamity. HaShem reassures and comforts Noach that HE will care for and save them, as he has promised.

GEN 6:18 is the first mention of the word BRIT/Covenant in scripture...but it is NOT the first covenant made.

Trumbull and Kenyon determined that often weaker tribes established covenants (including blood covenants) with strong tribes near or around their territory to secure their own survival.

We also see this idea of strengthening a territorial stance with King Solomon, who married many wives to covenant himself and Israel with surrounding tribes

Covenant can also be described as "Transcendence", meaning one tribe transcends (or is over) another. This is very important to our understanding of Preamble as it establishes which part within the covenant is ABOVE or OVER the other in the covenant

We see an example of this understanding in Avram (later Avraham), who deduces that there MUST be someone greater than all he sees around him that is OVER all creation

1st scriptural PREAMBLE: Gen 1:1 In the beginning Elohim created the heaven and the earth.

After stating that He (HaShem) created all this, He goes into detail of all His mighty acts

See Ex 20, where we find the Decalogue...10 words/commandments

And Elohim spake all these words, saying, I am 'ADONAI thy Elohim, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other elohim before me. (Exo 20:1-3)

The first verses (1-3) are the PREAMBLE of this covenant

Part 2 of a Covenant is the HISTORICAL PROLOGUE

Gen 1 (whole Chapter); Gen 6:18; Gen 15 (covenant of the halves with Avraham...include Gen 12 for history of Avraham)

Ex 20-28; and a very important part of covenant is found in Deut 28: And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of 'ADONAI thy Elohim, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that 'ADONAI thy Elohim will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of 'ADONAI thy Elohim. (Deu 28:1-2)

Jeremiah 31 - HOMEWORK - Make yourself an outline...what is the covenant, who it is with, etc. VERY IMPORTANT

We will study FIRST from Jeremiah, then cover the rest of the prophets. You will be amazed at the new covenant when we finish this. Read the book of HEBREWS, start with Chapter 6-9.

Remember, words in ITALICS...they are not really there! Mentally SCRATCH OUT those words. Hebrews contains the longest quote of the Tanakh (from Jeremiah). Extremely important to know Jeremiah to understand new covenant.

Recommend making an outline of both Jeremiah and Hebrews to compare and contrast. REMEMBER when reading Hebrews, the context DOES NOT CHANGE FROM BEGINNING OF CHAPTER 6 THRU END OF CHAPTER 9

Can also read Joshua 24 Ezekiel 36:26, Joel 2:28ff

Part 3: Stipulations/Sanctions

Part 4: Blessings/Curses

Part 5: Succession - Covenants do NOT stop with the original participant. This is seen clearly with Ya'akov/ Jacob. He cannot bless Yosef/Joseph because he has broken covenant by

marrying an Egyptian so Ya'acov ADOPTS Yosef's son...thus putting them BACK into the covenant. Gen 48:12 And Yosef brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

Perpetual Covenant requires a continuity...going from one generation to the next. This is a part of the covenantal program, passed down to your children and they will pick up on it.

What is so key about ADAM? 1st man made in His Image, has the breath of HaShem and he IS the representative for all humanity. We also see this with Noach (Gen 6:18), who will ALSO be THE representative for all humanity. This is the continual unfolding of the plan of HaShem...not a mistake that HaShem needs to correct. See Ex 25 (literally says "build me a sanctuary so I can dwell IN THEM") where we also see the steps in the plan of HaShem unfolding in the Mishkan/tabernacle in wilderness, the Beit HaMikdash/Temple, then comes the 3rd Temple (with Messiah) where we learn more and finally there is NO Temple in the Olam Haba. With each 'phase' we learn more about THE PLAN OF HASHEM. With the covenants we have the idea that it is a process that is unfolding into new revelations of the eternal.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

What is the difference between a vision and a dream? a VISION is a piece/snippet of the puzzle, a DREAM is the whole plan

Derech HaShem (The "Way of God") is a philosophical text written in the 1730s by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto. It systematizes the basic principles of Jewish belief regarding the existence of God, God's purpose in creation, and the logical consequence of other concepts in Judaism.

We tend to look at covenants by them being mutual (both parties have a responsibility), but we need something to gauge/measure them by. This gauge is scripture/Torah. With regards to the Olam Haba, we see that the Torah does not tell us what are responsibilities are for obtaining the Olam Haba. Even the prophets do not prophecy of the world to come! Everything in this world is preparatory to GET US TO that PLACE TO COME. Why does Torah not tell us that if we do this and that, then our reward will be The World To Come? Olam Haba means Hidden World To Come, but it also means It is COMING...as in coming DOWN. It is COMING DOWN to US. The idea is Tikkun Olam...REPAIR The World To Come. John in Revelation describes this world, but it is still very, very limited...alluded to...like in the prophets.

HaShem wants us to focus on the RELATIONSHIP, not the REWARD. It is in THE WAY WE WALK. See the maturity of relationship in Avraham...'walk before me and be perfect'; whereas Noach had to be held by the hand, as a child. Avraham is greater than Noach because Avraham made converts while Noach only saved his own family. Maturity shows that not only do I and my family need HaShem...but ALL HUMANITY needs HaShem! Again, Adam, Avraham and Noach are THE REPRESENTATIVES of HaShem to ALL HUMANITY...like Messiah is and WE are.

Ahava, translated LOVE, but it means TO GIVE. This is why we cannot understand covenant, because we see it as RIGHTS...what do YOU OWE ME...what do I GET...but we forget our RESPONSIBILITIES. The focus in Torah is YOUR OBLIGATION. It is not about what you get, it is about what YOU are supposed to do!

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:26-28)

We need to KNOW and understand the purpose and plan of HaShem. Only when WE KNOW we are in that purpose and plan of HaShem to make us what we are supposed to be are we alright.

1st, loving HaShem...2nd, called. What is the divine plan, what is the purpose? To make US into the same thing that Messiah Y'Shua was/is. See For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Rom 8:29-30)

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-21)

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. (Rom 8:22-23)

What are we looking for? The manifestation of the Sons of HaShem. How can we tell who is the Bnei Israel/Children of HaShem?

When all is said and done, it is HaShem's job to determine who is or is not the Sons of HaShem. It is OUR job to be what we are supposed to be...a vehicle in the hand of HaShem...manifesting ourselves as THE REPRESENTATIVES of HaShem to ALL HUMANITY. When we come to this realization we will stop trying to be someone else (whom we are not) .

On Rosh HaShannah the RASHA (evil one) can repent/turn around and become good...but if he/she decided not to turn back to HaShem, there is a point where he becomes a RASHIM...and can be termed REPROBATE.

There is a Hebraic line...represented by the number 50. Moshe died at Mt Nebal - which means IN FIFTY. There are 49 levels of goodness...50th level is no return (death). There are 49 levels of wickedness...the 50th is no return (death).

To wrap up discussion on covenants and finish answer to question "Can Olam Haba come without covenant"?...problem is we want to control HaShem. What is wrong with NOT being able to understand/figure out HaShem, who says My ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts

Eph 1:1 Sha'ul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua through the will of God, to the holy ones who are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Messiah Yeshua: Eph 1:2 Grace to you and shalom from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah. Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah; Eph 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love;

We are more blessed than the generations before us BECAUSE we are growing up WITH the wheat AND the tares. We are in the midst of a wicked generation amplifies who and what we are...just like in the days of Noach, who was righteous in his generation...but we want to be like AVRAHAM in that we convert others/make disciples

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it is not yet revealed what we will be. But we know that, when he is revealed, we will be like him; for we will see him just as he is. Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure. (1Jn 3:2-3)

Vow is part of the covenant: H5087 נָדַר nâdar naw-dar' A primitive root; to promise (positively, to do or give something to God): - (make a) vow

5 Parts of Covenant: 1) Preamble, 2) Historical Prologue 3) Stipulations/Sanctions 4) Blessing/Cursing 5) Succession

The reward of Olam Haba is YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!