

Seminar 5

THE NEW COVENANT: The Benedictions

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Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the LORD: – Jeremiah 31:31-32

"Blessed is the man who truly knows God as his Covenant God; who knows what the Covenant promises him; what unwavering confidence of expectation it secures, that all its terms will be fulfilled to him; what a claim and hold it gives him on the Covenant-keeping God Himself." – Andrew Murray

Every Covenant comes with declarations of intent. Declarations of the intended benefit or blessing. Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied the coming of this New Covenant that God was going to have with us through the Lord. By His blood, Jesus brought us into this Covenant. [Matthew 26:28].

Here are some of the benefits or blessings of the New Covenant.

1. AN EXCHANGED HEART

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. – Ezekiel 36:25-26

One of the things that God does for us in the new birth is that He performs spiritual surgery in our hearts. The surgery process is such that God circumcises our old heart and replacing it with a new one. This circumcision is the extinction of passions and the removal of spiritual impurity. [Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:29; Colossians 2:11; John 3:3,5; Jeremiah 17:9]

My old identity has been co-crucified with Messiah and no longer lives; for the nails of his cross crucified me with him. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives his life through me—we live in union as one! My new life is empowered

by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that he gave himself for me and dispenses his life into mine! – Galatians

2. A NEW SPIRIT

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. – Ezekiel 36:26

God gives us a new spirit; This is an incredibly significant point. This new spirit is the result of your new birth. By your new birth, you receive a new nature. God's whole nature and vitality have been re-created within your spirit. God puts you in Christ. You are transformed to a completely new creation in Christ Jesus when you are born again. You are not only a forgiven sinner, but also a completely new creation as a result of the new birth. [2 Corinthians 5:17]

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. – Romans 6:3-6

Jesus did not only come to die for you, He also came to die as you. He came to give death to who you were in the old creation. Not only did he come to give you death to your old nature, but moreover to give you a resurrected life.

Your old nature and identity have become irrelevant as a result of what God makes you in the new birth. You are no longer defined by being "Jew or Gentile" [Galatians 6:15]. You belong to a brand-new nation and species. Because you have placed your faith in Jesus, you have received Abraham's blessing. You have received a fresh start.

3. THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN THE BELIEVER

And I will put my spirit in you, causing you to be guided by my rules, and you will keep my orders and do them. – Ezekiel 36:27

I will put my Spirit within you; I will take the initiative and you will obey my statutes and carefully observe my regulations. – Ezekiel 36:27 [NET]

When the Lord spoke about this New Covenant through Prophet Isaiah, He expressed it as His Spirit coming upon mankind [Isaiah 59:21]. In the old covenant, exactly 50 days after they left Egypt, they came to the foot of Mount Sinai where God gave them the law. Now fast forward to the new covenant in Acts two, exactly 50 days after Jesus the real Lamb of God is crucified. They were in an upper room and were baptized in the cloud. In Acts 2, when the day of Pentecost was fully come, the Spirit of God rested on the believers in Christ.

The Old Covenant is a rules-based system; New Covenant is a system of the Spirit of God. Holy Spirit will do what He said He will. The Old Covenant was full of demand with little supply, in the New Covenant the supply column is oversupplied.

Under the Old Covenant it was rules on rocks with all kinds of demands. In the new covenant he gives us the supply of the indwelling Holy Ghost who writes his law on our hearts. This time God did not give them the law. He gave them the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is to the New Covenant what the law was to the Old Covenant.

The Spirit of God is who gives us life and power to live victoriously on this side of the cross. You cannot be empowered by rules but by a person; Jesus living in us as the Spirit of God. We become joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him. We can now be strengthened with might by God's Spirit in our innermost being according to the riches of his glory. [Ephesians 3:16]

THE GIFT

The gift of the father to the world is Jesus Christ. The gift of Jesus to the Church is the Holy Spirit. [Acts 11:17, Acts 2:38, Hebrews 6:4, Acts 10:45]. God's Holy Spirit now dwells in us. The Holy Ghost is to the new covenant what the law was to the old covenant. That is why the first temple had to be removed. God was moving out of the building and into a man.

4. THE LAW OF GOD IN YOU

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. – Jeremiah 31:33

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; – Hebrew 10:16-17

In the New Covenant, God's laws are not written in stone but in this new heart. The Law of God is inscribed in our hearts. One of the ways that the New Covenant is superior, is that written on people's hearts through the forgiveness of sins. In this way, our hearts become the new covenant temple of God.

And I will put my spirit in you, causing you to be guided by my rules, and you will keep my orders and do them. – Ezekiel 36:27

The word translated "causing" means to motivate. In the New Covenant, we have an intrinsic motivation to please the Lord. We will naturally do things that please the Lord if we walk in the Spirit. Although we Christians are not subject to the Law, we do observe it. Jesus did not break any of the Laws as He had an innate desire and ability to fulfil the Law. He walked in the Spirit, and therefore did not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16). In the New Covenant, the grace of God is our teacher, trainer and instructor (Titus 2:11).

One of the things that has robbed most Christians of enjoying the abundant life has been a performance-based Christianity based on the law of Moses trying to live out of the wrong covenant, or it is the mixture of law and grace. There has to be repentance (mind change) in those of us that practice performance-based Christianity a call to repentance for those who do that. We can only enter into the fullness of what God has for us as we progressively change the way we think. [Romans 12:2].

We must realise that the Old Covenant was given to modify the behaviour of the old creation. It was a message of conformity. If you are being conformed, you are trying to change by superimposing a set of rules that are external. You are trying to change from the outside in.

The apostle Paul said in Romans 12:2 "be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Beyond being conformed to the mould of world around us, we can be conformed to the ways and thinking patterns of the Old Covenant system.

Under the Old Covenant they were being conformed to an outward law. If you are in the New Covenant, God desires that we be transformed to the inward law of the Life of God. If you are being conformed by laws from outside, you are trying to change by superimposing a set of rules that are external. You are trying to change from the outside in. If you are being transformed, there is a metamorphosis that is taking place inside of you as you. The Law of God is being inscribed in our hearts in the New Covenant. The New Covenant is about transformation. Our transformation works in us divine conformation into the image of the son.

5.THE ABILITY TO KNOW GOD

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD – Jeremiah 31:34

One of the benefits of the New Covenant is the ability to know God. This has been granted to everyone. To know God Himself is the greatest blessing and the greatest glory in the New Covenant. God cannot be known by the flesh, God can only be known by the Spirit; by intuition. We outline the three levels of knowing God below.

Everyone who has eternal life can truly know God. When you get born again and receive the life of God, you get a knowing of God you did not possess before.

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. – 1 John 5:20

And we [have seen and] know [positively] that the Son of God has [actually] come to this world and has given us understanding and insight [progressively] to perceive (recognize) and come to know better and more clearly Him Who is true; and we are in Him Who is true--in His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah). This [Man] is the true God and Life eternal. – 1 John 5:20 [AMP]

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. – John 17:3

[1 Corinthians 2:10-12; Ephesians 1:17-18; Colossians 1:9-10; Psalms 103:7]

17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom[a] and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. – Ephesians 1:17 [NLT]

6. FORGIVENESS OF SINS

...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. – Jeremiah 31:34c

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. – Hebrews 8:12

Forgiveness is one of the crucial blessings of the New Covenant [Hebrews 10:17; Colossians 1:14; Ephesians 1:7]. The new covenant is superior, because it is written on people's hearts through the forgiveness of sins. In this way, our hearts become the new covenant temple of God.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9

Forgiveness is based two things: 1. God's Faithfulness 2. God's Righteousness

Even if we want to remember our sins, God has chosen to forget it. God does not forgive like man. God does not mention your past. You can live life with a clear conscience. All of this was brought into effect by the Blood of Jesus. And this New Covenant is called The Better Covenant in Hebrews. This is what God gave us in Christ.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. – Romans 4:3-8

The beauty of the above scripture is that the New Covenant is the fulfilment of the promises of God to Abraham and David in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ!

7. ACCESS TO HEAVEN [and the Tree of Life]; RIGHT NOW!

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. – Revelation 2:7

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels. – Hebrews 12:24

We have been granted access into the City of God. The New Jerusalem is not a future construct but a current reality. This is an expression of truth that God has wants the church to understand. We must now move into experiencing this reality on a daily basis. We have

come to Zion. We are not going to Zion. We are not marching to Zion. The blood of Jesus gives us a right to the City of God. [Revelation 22:14 ESV]

This is not just theory; it can be our reality. This understanding should lead us to an encounter. The New Covenant gives us a permanent access to the house of our Father and to the new Jerusalem, in order to be with the Lord and partake of the Tree of Life. Every month a different fruit will refresh you in a unique way. [Revelation 22:1-3]

God wants us to live on earth from His City. New Jerusalem living is life above every curse. This is the reality we are to live from. We ought to be bringing the reality and the civilisation (the stage of human and cultural development and organisation that is considered most advanced) of the city of the living God to this realm. There are civilisations (Sophistication, Culture, Way of Life, Enlightenment) from heaven that needs to be experienced on earth. We will be world changers because we will bring heaven's civilisation to earth.

8. A NEW NAME

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. – Revelation 3:12

And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. – Isaiah 62:2

IN MY NAME

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. – Mark 16:17-18

When you entered into Christ, He gave you His name. Your name and identity changed in Christ. As a child of God, you have been renamed. All of God's children have the same name. That name is a covenant relationship that gives us the identity of the person we are in covenant relationship with. When you get born again, your family changed. One name covers all of us, and that's Jesus. You are now in Christ. You have a new identity. You have to stop seeing yourself through the lens of your natural heritage. [Romans 8:17]

What does this Name represent? It represents Command, Control, Superiority, Authority, Dominion

And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. – Acts3:16

“Silver and Gold... Such as I have...” We have been given the Power of Attorney to use the Name of Jesus. In other words, “In the name of - on the behalf of someone. My covenant partner; in His power and authority”

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. – John 20:30-31 KJV

It is through faith in his name that we enjoy this incredible abundant life that He promised. Receiving His abundant life is no longer based on our performance. It is based on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Christ is the glory of God, and He is our promise land. Faith in His name brings us to the glory of God and His promises. We are in Christ and in Christ all of God's promises are yes and amen. Christ and his finished work are our promise land in the new covenant. [2 Corinthians 1:20]

9. THE BLESSING

29 And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses: And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. 30 I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. – Ezekiel 36:29-30

Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 13:2; Genesis 24:35; Psalm 112:1-3; Ephesians 1:3; Proverbs 10:22; Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 10:22; Ezekiel 44:30; Matthew 6:33

In Christ, we have entered a covenant with the Godhead that is based on better promises. As a partaker of Abraham's blessing, imagine God in Christ swearing to you that “In Blessing, I will bless you and in multiplying, I will multiply you”! [Hebrews 6:14] On the cross of Calvary, the Lord Jesus, with His blood, inaugurated a New Covenant.

What God has given us in the New Covenant, is what Israel had and more. This Blessing is not just an innovative idea, it is something that has been bestowed on you and confirmed by

a blood covenant: The Eternal Blood Covenant with the Blood of Jesus Christ [Zechariah 9:11; Hebrews 13:20-21]. You are blessed whether you know it or not; you are blessed even when you do not feel like it. Our Blessing is a done deal. It is a complete transaction, no unfinished business here. Our partnership with God through Christ has been ratified by the blood of the Eternal Covenant. Every Blessing that heaven itself enjoys is ours right now.

JESUS: THE LEADER OF THE NEW EXODUS

Throughout the New Testament there are correlations with Israel's Exodus out of Egypt. We see shades of the Exodus and the wilderness journey in I Corinthians 10; that is the first Exodus under Moses. Joshua leading them from the wilderness into the Promised Land was another Exodus.

THE MOSES/JOSHUA EXODUS VS THE NEW EXODUS

Every system of faith must have a priest and a prophet (representative or apostle); the one to declare the will of God, the other to minister in holy things. Moses was the apostle under the Old Testament, and Aaron the priest. In the New Covenant, Christ Jesus plays the dual role of both the Apostle and the High Priest. We are exhorted to consider, give thought to and fix our mind on ours, Christ Jesus. We ought to meditate much on the Person of Jesus. [Hebrews 3:1].

The Passover Lamb in the book of Exodus was a type and shadow of Christ, who is our Passover Lamb. One of the first in what we call the New Testament [Matthew 3:10] is that John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the true Lamb of God. Under the Old Covenant, they were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea [1 Corinthians 10:2]. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant, we are baptised into Christ who is the mediator of the better covenant. We are partakers of another Exodus led by our Lord, Christ Jesus.

Under the Old Covenant, Moses he gave them manna to eat, in the New Covenant Jesus is the True Bread of Life that came down from heaven. Under Moses they lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the New Covenant, the Lord fulfils this shadow on the cross by His death [John 3:14]. These and many other types were used as means to "preach the gospel preached unto them" [Hebrews 4:2].

In the Old Covenant, the Lord took the spirit that was in Moses and gave it seventy leaders [Numbers 11:16, 24-25]. The anointing of God's Spirit was limited to kings, priests, judges and a select few. In the New Covenant, the Lord gives His Spirit to all who come unto him. Our Leader is the Baptiser with the Holy Ghost. [Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:5]

When Israel crossed over into the promise land, they crossed the Jordan River. Joshua led the people into a physical promised land. In the New Testament, Jesus is leading us into a

spiritual promised land called “His Rest” [Hebrews 3:11, 4:5] in the finished work of Jesus Christ. In the New Covenant, Jesus is our Promised Land.

In the Old Testament we see the physical second Person in the Trinity (or second power in heaven) who is revealed to be the Lord Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus is the centre of all things; and He is the One the Father commands us to listen to [Matthew 17:5]. In His self-description, He uses language that is reserved for Yahweh to describe Himself. Beyond being the leader of the new Exodus, Jesus is God!