

October 6, 2019

“Making All Things New:
A Journey Into A New World”
“A New Promise” –Core 4

“And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.” Genesis 15:6 ESV

A. God made a covenant with His people...

“So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, ‘I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—’” Genesis 15:18

1. God made a covenant with Adam for Adam and Eve.

“But the LORD God warned him, ‘You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.’” Genesis 2:16-17

2. God made a covenant with Noah for Noah and his family.

“Then God told Noah and his sons... ‘Yes, I am confirming My covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.’” Genesis 9:8, 11

3. God made a covenant with Abram, later to become Abraham, for Abraham and his children and their children.

“So the LORD made a covenant with Abram...”

4. God made a covenant with Moses and a whole nation.

“Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:5-6

5. God made a covenant with David and a whole nation and anyone who was allied with Israel...all pointing to Jesus.

“Now go and say to My servant David, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of My people Israel...I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! And I will provide a homeland for My people Israel...And I will give you rest from all your enemies. “Furthermore,

the LORD declares that He will make a house for you... I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for My name. And I will secure his royal throne forever...Your house and your kingdom will continue before Me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.’” 2 Samuel 7:8-16

6. God made a covenant with all of us through Jesus!
“You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.” Hebrews 12:24

B. What is a covenant or a testament?

As described on page 27, Core52:

1. A covenant is a legally binding agreement between two parties.
2. The greater of the two parties established the conditions.
3. The conditions specified the rewards if the agreement was kept and the punishment if it was broken.
4. The covenant was typically ratified by a blood sacrifice showing how serious it was.

Here is Abraham’s covenant:

“The LORD told him, ‘Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ So Abram presented all these to Him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side...Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away....As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him...After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, ‘I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River...’” Genesis 15:9-18

5. The two halves of the sacrifice symbolized the two parties in the agreement. If either broke the agreement, they deserved to die like the sacrifices. The smoking oven or flaming torch represented God’s holiness and His guidance. All the aspects of the covenant agreement were predictors of things to come!

C. Why is all of this important to our present day?

1. We are in a covenantal relationship with God.
“And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are His heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.” Galatians 3:29
2. Jesus filled all the previous covenants.
“But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for He is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.” Hebrews 8:6
3. The condition of every covenant is faith! Faith is a “walk in the light” and is more clearly understood by using the word faithful rather than faith. Faith is a belief; faithful is a commitment.

“So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, ‘I have made you the father of many nations.’ This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.” Romans 4:16-17

D. Faithful to our God in our agreement...

“The goal of faithfulness is not that we will do work for God, but that He will be free to do His work through us. God calls us to His service and places tremendous responsibilities on us. He expects no complaining on our part and offers no explanation on His part. God wants to use us as He used His own Son.” –Oswald Chambers

1. God is faithful in temptation.
“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.” 1 Corinthians 10:13
2. God is faithful when we are faithless.
“If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny who He is.” 2 Timothy 2:13
3. God is faithful to forgive.
“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9
4. God is faithful to protect us.
“But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3
5. God is always faithful.
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

6. And God calls us to be faithful.

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

7. God calls us to be faithful in trials.

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” James 1:22

8. God calls us to be faithful in His will.

“may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen.” Hebrews 13:21

9. God calls us to be faithful in all circumstances.

“I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

10. God calls us to be faithful to our hope in Him.

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.” Hebrews 10:23

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

(Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but Yours.

Put me to what You will, place me with whom You will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for You or set aside for You,

Praised for You or criticized for You.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things

to Your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

You are mine, and I am Yours.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.