

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Building A Sure House – Revisiting The New Covenant

As we read through the pages of God's Word - The Bible – we cannot help but see and understand that God is a “Covenant God”. As a matter of fact the Bible is divided into two parts – The Old Testament [Covenant] and The New Testament [Covenant] - which presents us with a very interesting scenario; that every time there is a forward thrust of God's purpose there is also the cutting of covenant to validate the further evolution of His divine initiative.

DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL COVENANT

A covenant, in the biblical sense, implies much more than a simple agreement or contract. A contract always has a predetermined or established, end date, while on the other hand a covenant is intended to be a permanent arrangement. Another significant difference is that a contract generally involves only one part of a person, such as a skill or talent, while a covenant incorporates a person's total being.

If we were to look back at the beginning when man had become so corrupt in the earth, God activated Noah for the destruction of the then world and for the preservation of His eternal purpose, which He sealed with a covenant [**Genesis 9: 1-17**]. Through Noah the earth was repopulated and God set about to create a nation through whom He would use to ensure His redemptive purpose on the earth would be fulfilled. He then chose Abraham, who expressed resolute faith in Him and with Abraham God began the process towards an empowered nation. Again, the signature of God's commitment was in the making of a covenant [**Genesis 15: 1-18**].

To ensure that His redemptive purpose would be realized in Christ; the baton of responsibility was moved from one faithful custodian to another. And as such, every stage of the divine process there was the making of covenant to underscore and validate the progress. This was evident in Moses [**Exodus 24: 1-8; Deuteronomy 5: 1-3**], David [**1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 89: 34-37**] and finally culminating with the New Testament Church [**Jeremiah 31: 31-34**]. From these powerful examples we must understand that Covenant is the divine catalyst for the forward advance of God's Kingdom in the earth! There is therefore no redemptive initiative from God outside the ambit of covenant.

WHAT IS COVENANT?

A covenant is a contract or a binding agreement between two parties with each obligating themselves to be faithful to determined conditions. The Hebrew word that's used throughout the Old Testament is "*Berith*". This word is derived from a root word that means to cut and hence a covenant is a cutting with reference to the cutting or dividing of animals into two parts and the contracting parties passing between them binding themselves with a curse that the same done to the animals will be done to them if they are to violate the terms and conditions of the covenant [**Genesis 15: 1-21**].

THE NEW TESTAMENT [COVENANT]

God climaxed His redemptive plan for man with the establishment of the New Covenant. Which was sealed with the Precious Blood of Jesus. Because of this we are already in covenant with one another by virtue of what Jesus Christ has done at Calvary. The New Testament describes this as the *New Covenant*.

And while there is no need for us to make another, more, limited covenant we need at times to underscore the importance and validity of this New Covenant that is in effect with all Believers. We enter the New Covenant automatically when we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and as such we should live as a covenant community under Jesus Christ. We must be sincere in our relationship and look out for each other. We must be our brother's [includes both male and female] keeper because of the finished work of Calvary and the ratification of the New Covenant.

Covenant therefore is the commitment that lies behind every successful relationship; it comprises the principles of integrity and fidelity that guarantee a relationship will be preserved and the purpose for that relationship will be realized.

Covenant is not a Christian cliché but it is a pivotal Kingdom characteristic that determines the quality of ones commitment to the Lord and to one another.

As we seek to fulfill the mandate that the Lord has entrusted us we must understand that it flows out of the New Covenant established in Christ and as such we must walk in integrity and commitment to one another. Every relationship into which we enter is a reflection of our commitment to an objective that is bigger than ourselves. What we at Dominion-Life International are called to do is much BIGGER than us and as such we need committed, faithful relationships walking in an understanding of what this New Covenant requires of us.

Relationship says - I cannot by myself achieve a mandate that exceeds me, but the mandate's fulfillment will require the pooling of intelligence and resources, thereby out of many there is the creation of a corporate mind. From that perspective no relationship can be considered mundane and casual, indented for the tickling of one's emotion and for the breaking of personal loneliness. But relationship must be perceived as a primary currency of the Kingdom and as such a relevant understanding of the New Covenant cannot be ignored.

I would like to at this time take the opportunity in thanking all of you who have been supporting [both by encouragement/prayer and resources] and walking with us in what the Lord has called us to. We value your relationship and look forward to our continued exploits for the Kingdom of God! Be Blessed!

PRAYER FOCUS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elder Scantlebury will be speaking on Trinity Television – “It’s A New Day” programme, July 24-26, 2002. He will be speaking on “The Restoration of Apostles and Prophets to the Church”. Please be in prayer for this. You can check www.newday.org for viewing info for you area. In the USA and Internationally please check your listings for times on ExpressVu and Star Choice Satellite.• Our “Reaching Out” Initiative, which takes place Wednesdays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at our facilities where we pray for and counsel people. We want the Lord to show Himself strong at these meetings. We also want to see people come to the Lord through these meetings. If you know anyone in Surrey or environs needing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Pastor Daniel and Sharon Farina of Christian Assembly in New York. Please pray prophetically over them and the saints. We want the Lord to break forth and breakout in their midst. Make strong proclamation and strong declarations over them at this time.• For Pastor Inpam and Ranji Moses of Vancouver, BC. Sis Moses is battling sickness and need to see the healing power of God manifested in her body. We will like to stand with Pastor Moses for her complete healing. Lift up your voices on high and let us all share in her victory.• For Debbie Gateley one of the faithful supporters on our mailing list as she and her |
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prayer or to hear from God they can contact us, either through our website www.dominion-life.org or telephone 604-953-1087 or 604-293-7759

husband battle through a rugged pathway of life. They are believing the Lord for significant breakthrough in the employment arena. Let us stand with them at this time.

Dominion-Life International
July 17, 2002