

## **PASSING THROUGH**

### *The Idea of How a Covenant Is Struck*

God told Abram to "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon," [Genesis 15:9](#).

Abram brought all these to God, "cutting them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds," [Genesis 15:10](#).

At sun set, "a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him;...it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces," [Genesis 15:12, 17](#).

"On that day the **LORD** made a **covenant** with Abram," [Genesis 15:18](#).

The account reveals that the offerings were accepted; once the "smoking oven" consumed the sacrifices by "Passing through" them. At same time, the "flaming torch" symbolizes the LORD'S presence, "Passing Through" the offerings and striking a covenant with Abram.

It appears that Abram experienced a **23rd Psalm** kind of "shadow of death," while in the terror of darkness. The "flaming torch" - God's "rod and staff" of comfort, presented Abram with glowing assurance that God will always "prepare a table, even in the presence of his enemies."

The covenant that God made with Abraham was not just while he lived. It has a far reaching fulfillment; connecting Abraham to his Seed, Jesus, who fulfilled the Covenant. And, it was not only for Abraham's descendants. "Many will come and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven," Jesus taught in [Matthew 8:11](#).

At this glorious event, Jesus will "gird himself to serve, and have them (faithful servants) recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them," [Luke 12:37](#). We view the Covenant as Eternal. It is a guaranteed pact.

#### **NOTICE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COVENANT**

1. It runs forever. Beginning with Abram, it travels through Israel to the Seed of Abraham, Jesus. When He comes again, the Covenant will continue forever.
2. In confirming the covenant, Jesus brought the blessings of Abraham to the Gentiles, "so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith," [Galatians 3:14](#).
3. But, because the covenant was marked out for Abraham's descendants, Gentiles had to be engrafted into Israel. Paul calls it a mystery. "...a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in," [Romans 11:25](#).
4. New Covenant inheritors receive the same promise as Abraham - they inherit the earth (Mt 6:9). Further, God's promise has a special place for His people. It is the city that Abraham looked to - the New Jerusalem; "which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God," [Heb 11:10](#).
5. At Antioch, Paul says, "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus," [Acts](#)

13:32, 33a. The promises are sure and guaranteed. That's because the Seed of Abraham is raised, making the PROMISES alive. At the cross, all New Covenant Laws were enacted. Jesus now Heads up the New Creation; which He will rule at His return to the earth.

6. With over 150 passages on the coming "**kingdom of God**" within the New Covenant, we see why the primary message of Jesus was the promise that God made to Abraham - A Kingdom on earth. It is what all blessed servants pray to occur; that is, the **disciples prayer** of "**Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,**" Matthew 6:10.

7. The Covenant reveals a Kingdom, with King Jesus ruling over all people. Those, following in the Covenant truth, are His people, today. In the resurrection, His people shall be joined to Jesus Christ in marriage and share in the dual reign. When He comes to earth, Jesus will govern every inch of the globe with His Bride at His side. "**...the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready,**" Revelation 19:7.

### **NOTICE HOW CHRIST PASSED THROUGH MAN'S FLESH**

Christ, living in the body of Jesus, "PASSED THROUGH" the flesh of man, governing it for 33 years. After He overcame the world, He became the final offering for sin. In this act of salvation, Christ's Spirit passed through the flesh of man. Christ lived on, in Spirit, while the flesh lay in the tomb.

Christ then, in Spirit, went and preached to those spirits in prison (I Peter 3:19). On the third day, God raised Jesus.

In the **raising event** of the resurrection of Jesus, the eternal Spirit of the Son of God, took over the body of Jesus, completely. In the raising, Christ, the Spirit, energized the dead body of Jesus, "**it was sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body,**" I Corinthians 15:44a.

In the resurrection of Jesus, "**Death is swallowed up in victory**" (I Cor 15:54). A glorified Person, known as Jesus Christ, passed through death, hell and the grave, bringing eternal hope to every man.

He now sits at the right hand of God, in heaven, making intercession on behalf of New Covenant believers. Hebrews 5:8-9 states, "**He learned obedience by the things that He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek,**" Hebrews 5:8-9.

In the "PASSING THROUGH," we understand how a Covenant was stricken. Christ, the Messiah, was God, the Word. He humbled Himself, submitting to the lowly estate of man's fleshly body. He was called Immanuel, "**God with us**" (Mt 1:23).

During the 33 years that Jesus, the Christ, lived on earth, we see one Person, but two influences upon the Person. It was that Christ Jesus had two personalities of influence. One Personality came from the Christ-God, primarily. But, there is Jesus, the Son-Man, as well.

For example, Christ Jesus knew the future (as God) but, during His stay on earth, we see the man-Jesus weep for Lazarus. The most dramatic expression of His dual influence was seen in the **garden of Gethsemane**. The man, Jesus cried, "**Father, let this cup pass from me.**" The Christ, knowing why He came into the world, exclaimed, "**Not my will, but Thy will be done.**"

Our Lord is called the Son of Man. He was born of a virgin. The carnality of sin never passed to him from the first Adam. And, Jesus never lost contact with His Heavenly Father; except for the brief moment that He bore our sins.

Christ, the Messiah, came as a Suffering Servant. By His faithful service while on earth, He accomplished what man could not do - God's will. At His Second Coming, in the

resurrection, the glorified Son of God shall descend upon earth as a King; ruling it in total allegiance to His Father. That's what Adam was to do.

### **NOTICE HOW HIS DEATH BECOMES OURS**

**Romans 5** explains that Jesus died for us while we were **ungodly** (5:6); **sinners** (5:8); and, **enemies** (5:10). This act of justification brought freedom to man. First, freedom from the Law, and freedom to live together with His Maker, once again. The New Covenant gives **Reconciliation** to man through the God-Man, Jesus. We must, therefore, honor the finished work of Christ by living for Him.

Man has an obligation and a duty to serve the LORD. We have to learn and, we have to remember, it is all by grace. We serve because we are convinced it is God's will.

To better understand God's will, Paul lays out the responsibility of New Covenant believers in his Roman letter. He states that saved sinners need to be baptized (Ro 6:3,4). Further, baptized believers need to serve the Lord through the New Covenant church (See Eph 3:21).

Here's Paul's demanding words, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live," 8:12-13.

Paul speaks of service; not, salvation from condemnation. In the New Covenant, dead things of the Old Covenant are purged from a believer's conscience. Hebrews 9:13, 14 explains that blood was needed; but, not from animals. "How much more shall the blood of Christ...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

"**Passing Through**" this life can be glorious when we understand that Christ has already treaded through the flesh of man; conquering it and, presenting us with a victorious hope of the coming change. In light of Paul's Roman Letter, the spiritual change that has taken place, ought to keep us looking up to that day of the resurrection; while, serving within that change "**from death unto life**" (John 5:24).

In all covenants made by God, a death must occur. Sin has to be paid. It is so beautiful to hear Paul's words about our salvation. He wants us to realize that the finished work is also an ongoing work within His people, the church. "**We were reconciled by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life,**" Romans 5:10.