

## God's covenant with men

The men must be understood covenant ally, for that is how God has chosen to relate to man, whether in the Eden garden or after the entrance of sin into the world. The goal of all divine-human covenants is summed up in the Bible: *"I will be your God and you will be my people, and I will dwell among you"* (Exo29:45; Eze11:20; 2Co6:16; Rev21:3)

The term "covenant" meaning coming together. It is an oath-bound relationship between two or more parties for the purposes to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges and responsibilities. In political situations, it can be translated treaty; in a social setting, it means a lifelong friendship agreement; or it can refer to a marriage. Malachi 2:14, Proverbs 2:17 refers marriage as a covenant of companionship based on the concept of steadfast love. It is a union whereby one man & one woman enter into a close relationship-united in body, thoughts, efforts and goals.

In divine covenants, as a symbol, God sovereignly establishes relationship with His creatures, to keep His promises. In Bible there are two basic types of covenants that God makes with men. Some are unconditional covenants, which God will keep regardless of man's actions. Others are conditional or mutual agreement, binding on both parties, in that man must obey the terms of the covenant in order to receive the promises related to it. If either party fails to meet their responsibilities, the covenant is broken. The Adamic Covenant is an example of a conditional covenant because Adam was required to obey the terms of the covenant. *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine;* (Exodus 19:5)

If human involved in a covenant with God and does not keep the covenant's conditions, there will be consequences. When Adam and Eve broke the commandment that they should not eat from Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they faced consequences. (Gen.3:16-19) After the fall, the conditions of the Lord's covenants with man are ultimately met by God Himself. In Genesis 15, God swears that He will keep the conditions of His covenant with Abraham. This does not mean the human conditions are irrelevant. We must trust in the Lord to benefit from His covenant promises. Abraham responded in faith: he "believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness" and the Lord blessed him. God promises that His people will fulfill the condition of faith, so our fulfillment of our covenant obligations.

In Bible, there are explicit mentions of divine covenants. God rewarded Abraham, Noah, and David in his covenants with them. As part of his covenant with Abraham, God has the obligation to keep Abraham's descendants as God's chosen people and be their God. All of these biblical covenants are part of the one covenant of grace—the covenant God made with man after the fall. *For by grace you have been saved through faith,* (Eph 2:8-9) This covenant of grace was promise to Adam of coming seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. (Gen.3:15) Bible speaks of seven different covenants, four of which (Abrahamic, Promised land, Mosaic, Davidic) God made with the nation of Israel. Three of the covenants (Adamic, Noahic, New) made between God and mankind in general. Through gospel gentiles are fellow heirs with Israel, members of the same bod and joint partakers of His promise in Christ. (Col 1:24)

God revealed himself to Abraham and made a covenant with him, in which God pronounced to Abraham that his descendants would eventually inherit the Land of Israel. God established the Mosaic covenant with the Israelites after he saved them from slavery in Egypt. The Mosaic covenant included the means by which the divine-human relationship between God and Israel could be maintained: Sacrificial worship. The Davidic covenant establishes David and his descendants as the kings of Israel. The tablets [of] the covenant, were the two pieces of stone inscribed with the Ten Commandments. The priestly covenant is that God gave to Aaron and his descendants, the Aaronic priesthood. The Ark of the Covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded and the tablets of the covenant. As part of covenant with Abraham, God has obligation to keep Abraham's descendants as God's chosen people and be their God. God's ultimate objective is blessing all nations through Abraham's offspring. Therefore, just as the Noahic covenant assured the preservation of human life on earth, so the Mosaic covenant assured preservation of Israel, Abraham's great nation, in the land, for the next stage in fulfilling God's promises: establishing a royal line through which Abraham's ultimate seed who is Christ.

Jeremiah prophesied the New Covenant. *'The day will come,' says the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people'* (Jer 31:31, 33) Ezekiel 36:26-27, mentioned of the New Covenant: a new heart, a new spirit, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and true holiness, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;* The New Covenant is a gracious covenant. Those included in the covenant are reconciled to God by grace alone.

Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant, that the blood of Christ shed at his crucifixion is required of the covenant. The New Covenant was originally given to Israel and includes promise of fruitfulness, blessing, peaceful existence in the Promised Land. (Eze36:28-30) *Incline your ear, and come to Me. Listen, so that your soul may live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.* (Isa55:3) After the resurrection of Christ, Gentiles were brought into blessing of the New Covenant. (Eph 2:13-14) And the fulfillment will be seen on earth, during the Millennial Kingdom; and in heaven, for all eternity. *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* (Heb13:20)

## The Adamic Covenant

- 2 -

The Adamic covenant is a two-part of God's promise to Adam. First, in the garden during the time of man's innocence, secondly, after the fall of man. The first part of the promise, the Edenic covenant, it outlines of Adam's existence in the garden of Eden. The second part of the promise, which was given after Adam sinned, existence outside the garden. The Edenic Covenant outlined man's responsibility toward creation. God's covenant with Adam represents the first of the divine-human covenants. Details of covenant include: Mankind (male and female) created in God's image. Mankind's dominion (rule) over the earthly kingdom. Divine directive for mankind to reproduce godly children and inhabit the entire Earth. God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The covenant refers the covenant of creation, and the covenant of works because blessings depended upon the works in the Eden Garden.

The Edenic Covenant is an example of a conditional covenant because Adam was required to obey the terms of the covenant in order to not suffer the consequences of breaking it. That command God's sets forth promises life and blessing conditional upon Adam's obedience, as well as the penalty if Adam disobeys. *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*"(Gen 2:15-17) The covenant sign of forbidden eating of this particular Tree was the condition, breaking it would bring death. When God gave command, also granted them ability to decide whether to keep that covenant, or choose to disobey God. Shortly afterward, the serpent, cunning of all the animals approached Eve persuaded to eat the fruit. And the serpent replied, You certainly won't die!(GEN3:4) Eve transgressed because her mind was deceived by the satan, the old serpent. Eve said "The serpent deceived me and I ate" Later points the finger of blame, Adam saying, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate. (V.3:12) After Adam and Eve sinned, God found them hiding from Him as He was walking in the Garden.(Gen 3:8)

*"But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with Me"*(Hosea 6:7) Adam's penalty for disobedience would be physical and spiritual death as well as a curse on the ground. One of the results of Adam's sin was that he would have to labor all of his days until his death.(Gen 4:17-19) Adam's disobedience resulted in paradise lost with the introduction of pain, suffering, death, curses were pronounced: Enmity between Satan-Eve and her descendants. Painful childbirth for women. Marital strife. The soil cursed, thorns and thistles appear in the plants.

Despite these curses are severe and inescapable, a wonderful promise of grace was in the Adamic Covenant. Gen3:15 is often referred as the First Gospel. Speaking to Satan, God says, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."* It was spoken to Satan, in anticipation of Jesus Christ's victory. The promise indicates the "seed" of a woman, which mean a virgin birth. The seed of a woman is Jesus Christ, who though He was bruised by the cross (Isa53:4-5), will crush the head of the Serpent.(Gal 4:4;1Jo3:8) Even in the midst of the curse, God's gracious provision of salvation shines thru.

The covenant plays an important part in the describing of God's plan of redemption, as it shows man's inability to maintain a right relationship with God when he is in the earthly paradise that God created for him. Adam's sin broke this conditional covenant with God and left man in a fallen state, but God would soon make a second, unconditional covenant of redemption with Adam and Eve.(Gen 3:14-24)It is a significant promise that God makes to mankind. It is the beginning of a long line of prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. Here, God is giving hope of a Savior, Redeemer. Christ died on our behalf being made sin for us.(2Co 5:21) He bore our judgment upon Calvary's cross, and in doing so, bruised His heel causing His death. But Christ triumph over Satan on the cross. It was there where Satan was defeated. Bruising suggests that was not final, for He came back, resurrected from the dead three days later. God bestows grace, mercy by providing a way to redeem man and restore man's relationship with God. But this plan was established in light of what God has ordained to fallen men. Covenants show us that sin always has consequences.

In the Adamic covenant, Adam represented all people. The phrase "in Adam" is a term of headship which designates that he was our representative. Bible says that sin entered the world through one man.(Rom5:12-21) *"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive"*(1Co15:22,45) Therefore, Adamic covenant was not just with Adam, also representative of those who were in him, his descendants. God promises to grant eternal life to Adam if he obeys the Creator and refrains from eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. Jesus, the last Adam secured eternal life for us by His obedience. Those who accepts Him as Lord and Savior are all made alive, meaning all who came from failure first Adam The first man from out of earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man the Lord from out of heaven.

The promise of eternal life represents covenantal blessing if Adam and Eve had perfectly obeyed. The obedience of Christ on our behalf is why we will live forever when we believe in Him. Christ's death resulted in everlasting life for those that repent and submit to him. We are still called to obey, "commandment which promised life"(Rom 7:10) Jesus Christ, the last Adam freely offered himself as atonement for man's sin and bought eternal life for all who trust Him. After Adam failed to keep the covenant, God instituted the covenant of grace which was the covenant of redemption found in Christ Jesus. *The first man Adam became a living being, the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.*(v.45)

## The Abrahamic Covenant

- 3 -

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant. In this covenant, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great (Gen12:2), that Abraham would have numerous physical descendants (Gen13:16), and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations.(Gen 17:4-5) God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the world will be blessed through Abraham.(Gen12:3;22:18) This is reference to the Messiah, "*If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*"(Gal3:29) Singular Seed of Abraham is Christ, as Gal 3:16, quoting Gen 12:7, says, "*The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed,"*" This explains that an inheritance was promised to Abraham's Seed(Christ) apart from the Law. Just as Abraham believed God and his faith was counted as righteousness, so are all today who believe in God's Son justified. Abraham is the father of all who believe.(Rom4:11-17) There is the Seed of Abraham (being singular); there is the seed of Abraham physically (descendants according to flesh) and there is the seed of Abraham spiritually those who have faith in God.

The Abrahamic Covenant is found in Gen 12:1-3, *Now the Lord had said to Abram:..I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.* In Genesis 15 indicates unconditional nature of the covenant. In making covenantal promise to Abraham, God enacted a ceremony in which a smoking firepot and flaming torch passing between animals that had been divided. The fire pot and torch representing God. (Jer 34:18) God placed Abram in a deep sleep. God passed through the pieces himself. This indicates unilateral promise by God to fulfill the promise for Abraham. Furthermore, the promise includes Abraham's physical seed as the sand which is on the seashore.(Gen 22:17) and spiritual seed would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.(Gen.15:18) God had alone passed between the cut animals, indicating that He alone was responsible for upholding the covenant. Two facts are significant. First, Abraham does enter this covenant by faith. Second, Genesis 22 outlines a test for Abraham. His faith is tested to see if he truly trusts God's promises. Abraham proves his faith in God's promises by trusting that God would raise Isaac from the dead. God bring to pass covenantal blessings because of Abraham's obedience.

God asks Abraham to do certain things, in return for which he will take special care of them. The covenant between God and Israel is the basis for the idea of the Jews as the chosen people. Jewish men are circumcised as a symbol of this covenant, thus carry lifelong mark in their flesh that they were part of God's physical blessing.(Gen17:9-14) Any descendant of Abraham refused circumcision declaring himself to be outside of God's covenant. This explains, God was angry with Moses when Moses failed to circumcise his son.(Exo 4:24-26) God determined to call out a special people for Himself and thru that special people He would bring blessing to all the nations. Abrahamic Covenant is an everlasting covenant, supreme to proper understanding of the kingdom. The promises that God made are eternal.

There are three main features to the Abrahamic Covenant:

1. The promise of land.(Gen 12:1) God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees to a land that He would give him. The Promised Land was described in terms of the territory from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates river.(Exo23:31) *On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.(GEN15:18-21) So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there*"(JOS21:43) This Promise is restated in Deu 30:3
2. The promise of descendants.(Gen 12:2) God promised Abraham that He would make a great nation out of him. Abraham, who was 75 years old and childless (Gen12:4), was promised many descendants. This promise is nations and kings would descend which would eventuate in the Davidic throne with Messiah's kingdom.(2 Samuel 7:12-16)
3. The promise of blessing and redemption.(Genesis 12:3) God promised to bless Abraham and the families of the earth through him. The promise was first made to Abraham then confirmed to his son Isaac (Gen 26:3), and then to Isaac's son Jacob.(Gen 28:13) This promise is amplified in the New Covenant and has to do with "Israel's spiritual blessing and redemption. The unconditional and eternal nature of the covenant is seen in that covenant is reaffirmed to Isaac.(Gen21:12; 26:3-4) and to Jacob.(Gen 28:14-15) God reaffirmed these promises amid the sins of patriarchs.

The Abrahamic Covenant, however, demands still-future fulfillment with Messiah's kingdom rule: Israel as a nation will possess the totality of the land in the future. Numerous Old Testament passages anticipate the future blessing of Israel and her possession of the land as promised to Abraham. Ezekiel envisions a future day when Israel is restored to the land.(Eze 20:33-42;36:1-37:28) Israel will repent, and receive forgiveness of God in the future.(Zec12:10-14) Israel as a nation will be converted, forgiven, restored.(Rom1:25-27) God partially fulfilled the covenant in history The Abrahamic Covenant finds its ultimate fulfillment in connection with the return of Messiah. *And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord;(Isaiah 62:12) That ultimate blessing will be Messiah's glorious kingdom reign on earth, in that day God's people will no longer be oppressed and exiles. For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.(ROM2:28-29)*

## The Mosaic Covenant

- 4 -

The Mosaic Covenant is a conditional covenant made between God and nation of Israel at Mount Sinai.(Exo 19-24) The pattern of the covenant is similar to other ancient covenants of that time because it is between a sovereign King (God) and his people or subjects (Israel). At the time of the covenant, God reminded the people of their obligation to be obedient to His law.(v.5), and the people agreed to the covenant when they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!"(v.8) This covenant would serve to set nation of Israel apart from all other nations as God's chosen people and was as equally binding as the covenant that God made with Abraham because it is also a blood covenant. The Mosaic Covenant is a significant covenant in both God's redemptive history and in the history of the nation of Israel.

Part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments.(Exodus 20) The Mosaic Covenant was centered around God's giving His divine law, commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. It is conditional in that the blessings that God promises are directly related to Israel's obedience to the Law. If Israel is obedient, then God will bless them, if they disobey, God will punish them. The blessing (life) and curse (death) were included with conditional covenant.

There Lord gave them a temporary house of worship—the tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant is a chest that held tablets. The Ark was created according to the pattern given to Moses by God. The ark of the covenant housed a small pot of manna (Exo 16:32-33), Aaron's staff (Num. 17:10), and the two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments. This was designed to be a reminder of the need to trust God as a provider and to establish Lord's credibility as the only true God.(v.12) Keeping the Sabbath was requirement for faithful covenantal life and worship.

Israel must keep God's covenant by submitting to its requirements in order to inherit the land and more on how they must conduct themselves within the land as the unique nation that God intended them to be. By adhering to these and the subsequent covenant obligations, Israel would be manifestly different from other nations and thus reflect God's wisdom and greatness to surrounding peoples.(Deut 4:6–8) This Covenant is significant in order to be God's treasured possession, kingdom of priests, and holy nation.(Exodus 19:6) They were to be a separate and called-out nation so that everyone around them would know that they worshiped YHWH, the covenant-keeping God.: "*God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.*"(Exodus 2:24)

Israel received the Mosaic Law that was to be a schoolmaster pointing way towards the coming of Christ.(Gal3:24) The Mosaic Law would reveal to people their sinfulness and their need for a Savior. Christ Himself said that He did not come to abolish but to fulfill. Bible is clear that salvation has always been by faith and promise of salvation by faith that God had made to Abraham. Also, sacrificial system of the Mosaic Covenant did not really take away sins (Heb10:1-4); it simply foreshadowed bearing of sin by Christ, perfect High priest Who was also the perfect sacrifice. (Heb9:11-) Moses sees a time of restoration for Israel.(Deu30:1–6), "*The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live*"

**The Noahic Covenant**, found in Genesis 9:8-17, is the promise that God made to Noah and his descendants after the flood which destroyed the world. This Covenant is an unconditional covenant made to Noah and his descendants as well as "every living creature" and the humanity in general. God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant, a promise that the entire earth would never again destroy with flood. But God will judge sin.(2 Peter 2:5;Mat24:37)

The Noahic Covenant is an unconditional covenant as it does not depend upon anything Noah or his descendants had to do to fulfill the covenant. The promise is based upon God's faithfulness alone. Because of God's faithfulness to always do what He says. There will never be another worldwide flood as there was in the days of Noah as an act of His divine judgment for sin. Neither the wickedness nor the righteousness of mankind affects unconditional covenant. This does not mean that God will never again destroy the earth. Noah's flood is a type of future judgment; one day destroys the earth by fire. *both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*(2 Peter 3:10-11;Rev 20:9)

The first mention of this covenant simply highlights God's plan to preserve Noah and the others in the ark.(Gen 6:18) Noah pleased God and found favor because he loved, obeyed God with his whole heart. Although everyone around him followed the evil, Noah followed God. Noah and his family labored constantly to build the ark. Noah preached a message of repentance. With the coming judgment, God provided a way of escape for those who would look to Him in faith. But the violent generation ignored Noah's message. The consequence of humankind's widespread corruption was a great flood that effectively ended all but a remnant of life on earth. God's grace preserved the lives of eight people -- Noah and his family. God shut them in the ark, or closed the door. Noah was a type or forerunner of Jesus Christ. Just as Christ was sealed in the tomb after his crucifixion and death, so was Noah shut in the ark. Just as God provided a way for Noah and his family to be saved in the ark, He has provided a way for us to be saved thru Jesus Christ "Ark" of salvation. Jesus said "*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved*"(Joh10:9) Christ became the hope for humanity after his resurrection. Noah and his family were saved that came in the flood, just as those who are in Christ are saved from the wrath to come in the terrible events known as the day of the Lord. *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*(1The 1:10)

## The Davidic covenant

- 5 -

The Davidic Covenant refers to God's promises to David through Nathan the prophet and is found in 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and summarized in 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 and 2 Chronicles 6:16. *And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.*" This is an unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever. The Davidic Covenant is unconditional because God does not place any conditions of obedience upon its fulfillment. The surety of the promises made rests solely on God's faithfulness and does not depend at all on David or Israel's obedience.

The Davidic Covenant centers on several key promises that are made to David. First, God reaffirms the promise of the land that He made in the first two covenants with Israel. This promise is seen in 2 Samuel 7:10, *"I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore."* God then promises that David's son will succeed him as king of Israel and that this son (Solomon) would build the temple. This promise is seen in 2 Samuel 7:12-13, *"I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name."* But the promise continues and expands: *"I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"*(v.13), and *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever"* The Davidic Covenant amplifies the "seed" aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises to David in this passage are significant. God promised that David's lineage would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away. There will be a time, when someone from the line of David will again sit on the throne and rule as king. This future king is Jesus.(Luk1:32) "Hosanna to the Son of David! Jesus Christ, called the Son of David in Mat 21:9.

The promise that David's "house," "kingdom," "throne" will be established forever is significant because it shows that the Messiah will come from the lineage of David and that He will establish a kingdom from which He will reign.

**Promised Land Covenant**, is recorded in Deuteronomy 29:1-29; 30:1-10 and was made between God and Israel right before Moses died and Israel entered the Promised Land. This covenant is that many of the promises relate to Israel's possession of the land. God made this covenant with Israel after Israel had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. God made this covenant with Israel while they were in Moab waiting to go into the Promised Land, and the covenant would serve new generation of Israelites as a reminder of their special covenant relationship with God.

In Deuteronomy 29:1. *"These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb"* Before making this covenant with Israel, God reminded them that if they obeyed the Mosaic Law, He would bless the nation abundantly and warned them that disobedience to the Law would cause them to be scattered around the world.(Deu 28:1-68)

The Promised Land Covenant contains special promises to Israel. First, God promised to gather scattered Israelites from all over the world and bring them back into the land He had promised to their ancestors.(Deu30:3-5) Second, God promised to regenerate the Israelites and their descendants by circumcising their hearts so that they would love Him.(v.6) Third, God promised to judge Israel's enemies.(v.7) Fourth, God promised that the Israelites would obey God that God would prosper.(v.8-9) These promises being fulfilled when Israel returned from captivity in Babylon.

As we know that Israel as a nation rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah and was once again cursed and cut off from the land when the Romans conquered Jerusalem in A.D. 70. We see that one of the promises in this covenant was that God would circumcise their hearts so that they would obey Him. These promises are repeated in Jer 32:36-44 and Ezekiel 36:22-38 and are part of the blessings and promises of the New Covenant. It is then the tribes of Israel will mourn and seek the Lord. The nation of Israel is blind in part, who their Messiah is ie. the Christ.(ROM11:25-26) *"a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and thus all Israel will be saved."* Many will turn to the Lord through ministry of two Witnesses [Enoch and Elijah] (Rev11:3;Heb 9:27) They recognize Jesus whom they have crucified.(Zec12:10-14;Act2:36) *And confessed: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*(MAT23:39) The final restoration of Israel to the land and to an everlasting relationship with God.

This Covenant also serves to emphasize the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that God would establish Israel as His chosen people.(Deu 29:13) The ultimate outcome of this covenant does not depend on Israel and their obedience, but instead it depends on God and His faithfulness. This Covenant focuses on what God is going to do more than what Israel is supposed to do. While Israel's prosperity is closely tied to obedience to God's commands, and they will still be punished for their disobedience to God. There is coming a day when God will return them to the land, and they will possess it, and God will bless them forever. The name Promised Land is defined as the land of Canaan, which was promised to Abraham and his descendants. This covenant is reaffirming Abrahamic Covenant that the descendants of Abraham will possess forever. It is an eternal covenant.(Ezekiel 16:60) God will restore the Promised Land when He returns to set up His kingdom until such time as He creates a new Heaven and new earth.

## The New Covenant

- 6 -

The New Covenant (or New Testament) is the promise that God makes with humanity. The New Covenant is made first with the nation of Israel, ultimately with all mankind. The New Covenant is a new relationship between God and humans mediated by Jesus which necessarily includes all people, both Jews & Gentiles, upon sincere declaration that one believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and God. In the New Covenant, God promises to forgive sin, and there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses and create a new covenant between God and His people. Now that we are under the New Covenant under grace can be free from the penalty of the Law. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift that He will forgive sins and restore fellowship with God, whose hearts are turned towards Him.(Eph 2:8-9) Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant made effective by the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross. The New Covenant becomes unconditional source of salvation and blessing. *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*”(Rom 5:8)

The Old Covenant was a conditional that God made with the Israelites. This was the covenant made under Moses between God and His people at Mount Sinai. The Old Covenant was in effect during the dispensation of the Law. One purpose of the Old Covenant was to make it absolutely clear that no man is righteous before God and that no one can save himself.(Rom 3:10–11, 20) Before the New Covenant came, we were “held in custody under the law” (Gal 3:23) God’s people were stuck, relying on a sacrificial system that looked forward to the coming of Christ and justification by faith.(v.24) “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son . . . born under the law to redeem those under the law”.(Gal 4:4–5) When the Son of God died on the cross, God “canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross”(Colossian2:14)

In the Old Covenant, the Israelites were required to obey God and keep the Law, and in return He protected, blessed them.(Deu.30:15–18) The Old Covenant required repeated, daily sacrifices of animals as a reminder of the people’s sin. Under the Old Covenant, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place where God’s presence dwelt and that only once a year. But “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”(Heb10:4) But under the New Covenant, Jesus is our High Priest we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus. (Heb10:19,21) and we can “draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings”(v.22) In the New Covenant, “*we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*”(v.10), ending animal sacrifices. Where [sins and lawless acts] have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

The Old Covenant was a set of “external regulations applying until the time of the new order”(Heb.9:10) Upon Jesus’ death and resurrection, the external regulations gave way to an internal change of heart.(Gal 6:15) “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves”(Heb 10:1) The New Covenant involves a superior ministry, established on better promises, and is, in fact, “superior to the old [covenant]”(Heb8:6) Jesus is superior to Moses as a mediator; Jesus is a high priest forever, seated next to God in heaven; Jesus’ sacrifice was once for all, perfecting believers for eternal life. The Old Covenant was for a specific people in a specific place. The New Covenant extends to entire world. It is contrast between two covenants law vs. gospel or works vs. grace. Jesus, at the Last Supper, takes the cup and says, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

The ultimate purpose of the Old Covenant was to point people to Christ: The law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian”(Gal 3:24–25) We are no longer under the Law but under grace.(Rom 6:14–15) The Old Covenant has served its purpose, and it has been replaced by “a better covenant” (Heb7:22) The ministry Jesus has received is as superior as the covenant of which he is mediator, since the new covenant is established on better promises”(Heb8:6) The promise of universal blessing is fulfilled in Jesus Christ through whom people from every tongue, tribe, people and nation are included. The expression law of the Spirit is the new covenant system. Paul knew that he was “under law to Christ”(1Co 9:21)

In the New Covenant, we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift.(Eph 2:8–9) Our responsibility is to exercise faith in Christ. We must know Him personally and accept the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, to receive salvation. Through the life-giving Holy Spirit who lives in us(Rom 8:9) we share inheritance of Christ and unbroken relationship with God.(Heb 9:15) Christians must stand firm in the grace that God has given us. In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. In the New Testament, Grace, that free gift of salvation thru Christ, is available to any person, who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior and undergo water baptism as a demonstration of repentance and acceptance of atoning sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf. The New Covenant consists of a sole agreement between God and the individual Christian containing all the rights, duties and obligations of each party. The new covenant is wherein the people of God enter into it and perform their part until death, awaiting promise as did Abraham. When Gentiles become spiritual Israelites, grafted into the Israel of God, they become subject to the Law of Christ. The promises to them are those of the new covenant people. “*That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed* (Romans 9:8)

## Old and New Covenant - Difference

- 7 -

In Romans 6:14, which states the essential difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under Law but under Grace.* The word Law here symbolizes the Old Covenant. And Grace, sums up God's new agreement through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Rom 8:6-9,12, scripture contrasts the mind transformed by Christ with the mind still in darkness. The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. This verse tells us that we can be either under Law or under Grace. If you are not under Grace, but under Law sin will have the mastery over you. So, the way we discover whether we are under the Law or under Grace, is by testing does 'sin' have the mastery over you? Or do you have the mastery over sin?

What is the difference between Old and New Covenant? The old covenant came by Moses while new covenant came by Jesus Christ. (Joh 1:17) The old covenant leaves man imperfect while the new covenant leaves man perfect. (Heb 7:19) The old covenant had earthly tabernacle (Heb. 9:2) while the new covenant has heavenly tabernacle. (Heb. 8:2) In The old covenant priesthood was in the lineage of Aaron while the new covenant priesthood is in the Melchisedec priesthood. (Heb 7:11,21) In the old, the law was written in stone tablets while in new covenant, the law is written in people hearts. (Jer 31:33) In the old, the Ark of covenant was present as a sign of salvation while in the new covenant salvation is by grace thru faith. The old covenant is a covenant of letter while new covenant is a covenant of spirit. In the old covenant, remembrance of sin was done yearly while in new covenant, forgiveness and washing away of sin was done once and for all. The old covenant was written with ink while the new covenant is written with the spirit of God. (2 Cor 3:3) The old covenant is for Israelites only while the new covenant is for all men. (Luke 22:20)

In the Old Testament tabernacle illustrated by putting thick curtain between the Holy Place and the most Holy Place, "Nobody can come into this Most Holy Place, veil blocks you. Even high priest could go only once a year. But when Jesus died on Calvary, that veil was torn, from top to bottom, showing that the way into the Most Holy Place, God's presence was open. Now we can come to if we would have faith and it is our privileges under the New Covenant!

In Matthew 11:11, Jesus said that the greatest human born until that day, was John the Baptist. Jesus went on to say: But the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven - in God's kingdom - is greater even than John. John the Baptist stood as one of the greatest men of the Old Covenant, he was as the least in the New Covenant. When we really live a New Covenant life where Grace could take the weakest of God's children to a higher standard. It's not going to be a carnal believer who raises to a higher standard of life than John the Baptist. The New Covenant requires a genuine change in the heart/mind that can be accomplished only through the transforming power of God's Spirit. (Rom 8:6-9)

In Mathew 5:21,27. The old covenant had commanded " 'You shall not murder, You shalt not commit adultery...' etc. Under the New Covenant a change occurred in the meaning. Jesus explained that in the kingdom of God anger is equivalent to murder and sexually dirty thoughts are equivalent to adultery. "lust" itself is not a sin but leads to sin if it is not properly controlled and put under the authority of the Spirit. Jesus intended morals set forth here to be lived. It is to live up to God's standard. Jesus was calling people to do something different, or something deeper.

In Hebrews 4:16, *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* There is a difference between 'Mercy' and 'Grace'. ' In Old Testament word ' Mercy, used often. "the Lord whose mercy endures forever". And as a result, people in the Old Testament have their sins covered and forgiven. Yet they could not be cleansed of sins. 'Blessed is the man whose sins are covered'. No one's sins could be cleansed completely until Jesus died on Calvary's cross. We need Mercy, we need our sins to be forgiven. But there's something more than Mercy that we have in the New Covenant, and that is Grace; something to help us to overcome the lusts in our nature. It says, we can come to the Throne of Grace where we receive Mercy, and find Grace to help.

What is our time of need? Our time of need is when we're under temptation from the lusts in our flesh, and from the devil, to sin. In that moment, tempted to sin and to fall, God says Grace can help; Grace is help in time of need. We need to realize our need for God's grace. We need God's grace for every single thing in this life. We need to realize that without Christ, we can't do anything. This desperate need for God's help should motivate us to come to Him. We must acknowledge what Christ did for us: Christ took our place on the cross, became our High Priest who intercedes for us. We must remember if we want to ask God for something, we should have faith. If our need is to overcome a particular sin now, God's Word says, Grace can help you. It's like, if we were climbing a mountain, and were about to slip and fall, if we ask for help, God can lift up and make stand so that we don't fall. But if we don't ask for help, we struggle on, we slip and fall and break bones. And then ask God for help, an ambulance comes, picks up and take you to Hospital: that's help too, that's mercy. Mercy is help after we have fallen: that God picks up, forgives us, takes, patches up, and restores us. That's the experience of many. They fall and then they ask God for help. But isn't there a better way? There is Grace to help us in the time of need. When you find pressure of temptation that you're about to fall or fail. Ask God at that moment: "Lord, I'm unable to overcome this; I need you to help me. Give me your Grace to overcome". And you will see in that moment, Grace coming to carry you through to help you in that situation.

Acts 2:42-46 describes the early church breaking bread as part of their fellowship observed at the Lord's Supper or Holy communion. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-39, *Jesus took a loaf of bread and broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."* The breaking of bread is remembering His sacrifice on the cross and the institution of the New Covenant in His blood.(v.25) Henceforth, each celebration of the Lord's Supper includes the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup of the fruit of the vine. Another significance of the broken bread is the symbolism of Christ, the Bread of Life, being broken on the cross for our sin.

Jesus used the Last Supper to teach the Passover with new meaning, institute the New Covenant, establish ordinance for church. The Last Supper brought the Old Testament observance of the Passover feast to its fulfillment, when God spared Israel from the plague of physical death and brought them out of slavery in Egypt (Exo11:1—13:16) Jesus' death was typified in the offering of the Passover sacrifice.(John 1:29) "*Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed*"(1Cor 5:7) Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, including the feasts of the Lord.(Matthew 5:17) During the Last Supper with His apostles, Jesus took two symbols associated with Passover with new meaning as a way to remember His sacrifice, which saves us from spiritual death and delivers us from spiritual bondage. As signified by Passover, Christ's death atones for the sins of His people; His blood rescues us from death and saves us from slavery.

Under the old covenant, the blood was only sprinkled on the people. Under the new covenant, Jesus invites us to drink of the cup. In Heb. 9:13-22, shows contrast between the blood of bulls and the blood of Christ is brought out; and we are told there that "*where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. it is never in force while the one who made it lives*"(v.16,17) The covenants are entered through death. The only way that Jesus could establish the new covenant with men was through His own death. Thus the New covenant, or law of the Gospel, is endorsed and confirmed by the death of Christ. Jesus' death was able to completely save us from sin. The blood shed by Jesus on Calvary's cross as a result of resisting sin unto death, thereby paying debt of our sins.(HEB12:4)

Jesus made a direct reference to the New Covenant during the Last Supper: "*This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for the remission of sin*"(Mat 26:28-29) While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "*Take, eat; this is My body.*" *And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.* The bread and wine were symbols of His death on the cross. His body was cut and wounded and His blood was spilled to the ground. His death would establish a new relationship between God and man. Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant, that the Blood of Christ shed at his crucifixion is the required blood of the covenant. Under the new covenant, Jesus could remove man's sins when he or she believed in Him. The New Covenant gave life – spiritual life by a new and better way.(Heb.10:19-20) The death of Jesus' physical body made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven. As a result we can enter eternity with God. A new dispensation of grace, the New Covenant applies to everyone who has faith in Christ will be saved.(Eph 2:12–14)

The Old Testament showbread placed on the table in the tabernacle provides picture of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Jesus is holy before God, He provides true Bread. "Jesus declared, *'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry*'(John 6:35) In Heb 9:1–2, mentions table of showbread as one of the items in the tabernacle. "Therefore [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance" (v.15) The context explains that the Mosaic laws were no longer necessary since Christ has become high priest. Of all the elements of the wilderness tabernacle, the office of high priest was one of the promises of the coming Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus became the high priest and mediator of the New Covenant, interceding for humanity with God. Jesus' priesthood is superior to that of Aaron, because thru his resurrection, Christ has an eternal priesthood.(Heb7:17)

The bread that we break symbolizes the body of Christ, the church. First of all, that physical body that Jesus took when He came to earth, in which He never did His own but His Father's will.(see Heb. 10:5-7) Thus His body was a broken, yielded body all through His earthly life. His body was like bread - broken. When we break the bread and partake of it, we are testifying thereby, that we too desire to go the same way of brokenness. It is a serious thing therefore at the Lord's table, and then live as though we never made a covenant with God. Lord expects everyone who participate Lord's table to have a willingness to go the way of death to self, no longer to live for oneself, but for Him alone.(2 Cor. 5:15) Otherwise, we partake of the bread unworthily, not discerning the Lord's body rightly.

In1Cor.10:16-18), *for there is but one loaf, and we who are many are one body.* Those who "eat the sacrifices are sharers in the altar" If we eat at the Lord's table, we are to share His death on the cross (the altar) - death to our self. It is our relationship with God, also in our relationship with others in the body of Christ. This is our testimony at the Lord's Table. And we enter into a new covenant thru breaking of bread with the Lord and with fellow believers. Now Jesus invites us at His table to drink of the cup which is the blood of this new covenant.(PHI.3:10,11) *Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*(Heb12:24)



From where does Jesus carry on His new-covenant ministry for us? At the right hand of God in heavenly sanctuary. *We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected.*(Heb.8:1-2) The old-covenant services performed in the earthly sanctuary.(Heb.9:1) Moses had received of the glory of God shining upon him, but had to put a veil on his face. Israel was incapable of looking on it. Do you want Jesus to perform the new-covenant ministry in your life?

The New Covenant is a ministration of the Spirit.(2 Cor 3:2-6) The Holy Spirit ministers all its grace and blessing in Divine power and life. He does this through men, who are called ministers of a New Covenant, ministers of the Spirit. The Divine ministration of the Covenant to men, and the earthly ministry of God's servants, are to be in the power of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the New Covenant has its glory and its fruit in this, that it is all to be a demonstration of the Spirit and of power. This is the exceeding glory of the New Covenant, that it is a ministration of the Spirit; that its ministers have their sufficiency from God, who makes them ministers of the Spirit, and makes them able so to speak the words of God in the Spirit, that they are written in the heart, and living epistles of Christ.

Under the old covenant, God used men even when their lives immoral. Samson could deliver Israelites when he was living in sin. God's anointing left him only when he cut his hair and broke his covenant with God. But ministry in the new covenant is different. The difference is basically this: Under the old covenant, the priests studied the Law and taught the people. But in the new covenant, we follow Jesus, who spoke God's Word from out of His life. The old covenant was covenant of the letter whereas the new covenant is of the Spirit. In the new covenant, God has given us a model-in the Person of Jesus. His Life is the light of men. In the Old Testament, God's written Law was the light.(Psa119:105) But then the Word became flesh, Jesus became the Light of the world.(John 8:12) Now, He has left us in this world to be His light.(Mat5:14) So our responsibility is to show forth that light - by our lives. In Hebrews says that in past times God spoke through the prophets, but now He has spoken through His Son. The old covenant was mostly commandments. But the new covenant is a communication of Life from God through His Son.

In 2 Cor 3:5, Paul says, *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.* A new covenant servant does not depend on anything within himself in order to serve God. He receives his ability entirely from God. God gives it to him and He gives it out-In the way the disciples took five loaves and two fish to Jesus. He multiplied them and they distributed them. We take our limited resources to the Lord. He anoints, blesses and multiplies them; and we pass them on to others. We must depend on God to equip us for His service. We need to trust God for physical health if we are to serve Him. If you are in difficulty, trust this promise: Our sufficiency is from God. Whatever our need, God is well able to supply. "The just[rightheous] shall live by faith,"

In 2 Corinthians 3:9, *For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.* Here two ministries mentioned. The old covenant of law is a "ministry of condemnation" which exposes the failure of man's resources. The new covenant of grace is a "ministry of righteousness" which offers the richness of God's resources. When we try to minister by the law, we put others under condemnation. The only resources available for law-performance are natural human abilities (the flesh). This makes the flesh incapable of producing a righteous life. On the other hand, when we live by grace, we grow in righteousness. Godliness results from ministering the new covenant of grace. The message of grace tells people that righteousness is available by faith.(Romans 3:21-22) As we humbly depend upon the Lord, the Holy Spirit brings forth a more Christ-like life through us, by His grace.

Under the old covenant, people would ask the prophets for guidance as to what to do and the prophet would direct them telling them what God had told him to tell them. This was because the people did not have the Holy Spirit to guide them. Only the prophet had the Holy Spirit. But under the new covenant the Lord says, "*They shall not teach every man his neighbour, saying, 'Know the Lord,' but all shall know Me*"(Heb 8:11;1John 2:27) Now that the Holy Spirit dwell within, there is no need for prophet to give directive prophecy to child of God, telling him what to do.

There are three passages of Scripture that tell us who are the true servant of God is under the new covenant:

1. Free from Sin; Being made free from sin and become servants to God"(Rom 6:22) A man who gets angry and loses his temper cannot be a servant of God. A man who lusts after women with his eyes cannot be a preacher of the gospel or a servant of God. A man who tells lie in order to gain honor for himself, he cannot be a servant of God.
2. Free from Mammon; You cannot be a servant of God and a servant of Mammon. You must hate one and love the other. You must hold on to one and despise the other"(Luk16:13)A servant of God to be free from mammon (money all material things) You have to make a choice as to which you are going to serve - either God or Mammon. Anyone who has not had to sacrifice earthly comforts, money and material things in serving God is not really serving God.
3. Free from seeking to please men or denomination; If I seek to please men, I cannot be a servant of Christ"(Gal1:10) If we preach God's Word, the way we dress, talk to please men then we are servants of men and not of God. When you pray in such a way in public as to impress men, you are adoring men's opinions and not serving the living God.

## **The dispensation of Grace**

- 10 -

Dispensation is a method of interpreting history that divides God's work and purposes toward mankind into different periods of time. *if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you.*(E3:2)

The first dispensation is called the Dispensation of Innocence.(Gen 1:28-30 to 2:15-17) This dispensation covers the period from the creation of man Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to the fall of man. God worked face to face with His highest creation, and the world was without sin or death. He was given one command to obey: not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve and Adam disobeyed and were expelled from the garden as punishment.

The second dispensation is called the Dispensation of Conscience and it lasted about 1,656 years from time of Adam expulsion from the garden until the flood.(Gen 3:8-8:22) A time when man was left to rule himself by his own will and conscience, which have been stained by inherited sin nature and failed in his responsibility to choose to do right. Man became so wicked that "every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" God chose to end humanity with a flood and a remnant Noah and his family to continue His sovereign plan for mankind.(Gen 6:11-18)

The third dispensation is the Dispensation of Human Government, which began in Genesis 8. God made promises and gave commands to Noah and his family. About 325 years after flood, the earth's inhabitants began to build the tower of Babel, a great monument to their solidarity and pride again mankind rebelled.(Gen 11:7-9) God brought the construction to a halt, creating different languages and enforcing His command. The result was rise of different nations and cultures spread to different areas. During this time the Human Government was began to govern society.

The fourth dispensation, called the Dispensation of Promise, started with the call of Abraham, continued through the lives of the patriarchs, and ended with the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt, a period of about 430 years. During this dispensation God developed a great nation that He had chosen as His people.(Gen 12:1-Exodus 19:25)

The fifth dispensation is called the Dispensation of Law. It lasted almost 1,500 years, beginning with the Exodus and ending with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law, found in Exo. 19-23, outlined the standard that God required from His people and included instructions about temple worship and sacrifices. This was the age of priests, prophets and kings, both good and evil. God's people consistently broke commandments, serve other gods but the Law was finally fulfilled in Christ. The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin—they are a symbol, looking forward to the One whose blood could take away sin.(Heb.9:11-14;10:3-10)

The sixth dispensation, the one in which we now live, is the Dispensation of Grace. It began with the New Covenant in Christ's blood. This Age of Grace occurs a gap of time between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel 9:24. It starts with the Day of Pentecost (Act 2) and will end with the rapture of the Church.(1Th4:13-18) A period of nearly 2,000 years and no one knows when it will end. Atonement was provided on the cross, once for all, for any who would believe. God's unmerited favor would finally allow people, believing Gentiles to have lasting fellowship with Him. Man's responsibility during Grace is to believe in Jesus, the Son of God. Forgiveness of sins is through Christ Jesus.

Grace is God's kindness/mercies to the undeserving people. Grace is the rule of life for the Church, and through God's grace is extended to whole world, as gospel of Christ reach to the ends of the earth. In the church believers are ministers of their spiritual fruit, perfected by sanctification; love one another; exhibit godliness. It has been said grace saved us, teach us, discipline us. During this dispensation, we also have a Comforter with us, the Holy Spirit of God, who indwells believers; we are able to walk with Lord. If men reject God's love and mercy then they must face God's wrath and anger. One day, the door to salvation will shut, and the age of Grace will be over; following will be judgments of God or plagues that will fall upon the earth. 70th week begins for seven years period of Tribulation.

The seventh dispensation is Millennial Kingdom of Christ or A New Age begins with the defeat of Satan at the end of Tribulation.(Rev20:1-4) Christ will return and be King, reign on the earth and will last for 1000 years. Satan is bound during the 1,000 years. And will regain the Eden order.(ROM8:20,17) The first resurrection includes those are: First-fruits, Faithful witnesses, Tribulation martyrs, O.T. saints will enter the Kingdom. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for 1000years.This period will be time described by peace, justice, unity, abundance healing, righteousness, joy.(ISA9:6;11:1-5) Mankind will be living in a perfect environment with every need cared for.

At the end of the Millennium, after Satan is loosed, gathered sinful man rebels one more time. The final rebellion is defeated and Satan and his angels will be cast into the lake of fire.(Rev.20:10) Then comes the Great White Throne Judgment where all unrighteous of all dispensations will be judged according to their works and cast into the lake of fire.(v.11-15)This period ends with the final judgment.The first earth is destroyed by fire and first heaven passes away.

And this will begin the Eternal Kingdom, the new heaven and the new earth. God and His people live forever in the New Jerusalem. God's plan of redemption will completely realized. "*and death shall be no more, for the former things have passed away*"(Rev. 21:4) The redeemed will know God and enjoy Him forever. *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*(REV 21)