

# The Everlasting Covenant

Peter Scott . July 10, 2016  
Transcribed



He is good in all His works. Amen.

The prophetic word this morning seemed to be very poignant and also the accompanying exhortation that our brother brought<sup>1</sup>. God is about doing something in our lives. We are not just here waiting for Jesus to return. He is in the process of doing something cool and very important, something that is more important than the next political election (2016).

The last time I was here, we were teaching on Jesus and what He means to us. The subject of covenant was brought up. A covenant means a lot of different things to different people. So let's review the definition. In today's world covenants don't seem to have much strength nor last very long. A promise is frequently broken and truth and lies get confused together. But a covenant is really, basically a contract. So we would say the Old Testament and the New Testament are *contracts* that the Lord had with His people. These are the major ones, the Old and the New Covenants and there are others.

The Old Covenant was dominated by the Law. The New Covenant is dominated by His Grace and Mercy. We should mention something about God that you probably already know but need to be reminded of, that He *never* fails nor shrinks back from His covenant (contract). So, when He says in the covenant that we should do something, He means it. When He says there are consequences when we don't He means there *are consequences when we don't*.

There are a lot of promises that God makes to us, some conditional, some not. But we are going to cover just the major ones. Let's start with the first covenant, the **Adamic Covenant**, a covenant that God made with Adam. Before this covenant, Adam lived in the garden, his job being simple and clear, just name the animals, etc. However, then Satan entered the scene and the first temptation came. The temptation wasn't really what bothered Father God so much as the decision of Adam's will not to do what God wanted him to do. Adam was speaking for both himself and Eve

since he was the one who was responsible for washing Eve with the water of the word. So when she came to Adam he should have done exactly that saying, “Well wait a minute. What did God tell us? God didn’t say that we can eat of the Tree of Knowledge. It is more important that we obey God than our own appetite and lust and desires.”

When you think about this, the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil (the forbidden fruit) would be a good thing. Most of us have computers now; all kinds of knowledge is ours. We are eating of that apple, are we not? So this story is not just about, “Why did she do that? Why did they do that? Why did Adam sin?” Rather it was something Adam was almost “set up” to do because God made him in the image of God. God was the Creator. God was the one who had an imagination. God was one who loved life and everything about it. So why wouldn’t Adam and Eve want the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

After they sinned, one of the first things that God did was to make clothes for them. They were not clothes made of hemp or flax. They were made of animals. So we see that God killed the very first of animals so that man would be covered, so that their sin and nakedness would not be revealed. That is very interesting since in our society there is a blurb on Facebook going around saying that people should not kill animals any more. We should just go to grocery stores and buy the beef. That is so disconnected from reality!

When I was around twelve or thirteen, my dad took me hunting. I had a twenty gauge shot-gun and a beagle. Some of my dad’s friends went with us and they were going to teach me how to go rabbit hunting. When a beagle starts chasing a rabbit you can follow the howl of the beagle as he circles with the rabbit. Rabbits run in loops and end up back from where they started. The hunter’s job is to get some place along that loop where they will be able to see that rabbit clearly and distinctly from the dog and take the best shot. This was so exciting to me! Imagine all the things going on. It’s very vivid in my memory even yet. I remember one of my dad’s friends, a superintendent of schools, was hunting right next to me. Pretty soon the dog brings the rabbit around and I see it and took the shot. The rabbit died. However he didn’t die quickly. Although he was mortally wounded, he started to scream a little bit. I was immediately aware that an animal just died for me, for my enjoyment. My dad’s friend came over and said, “Now we have to show you how to skin it.” He skinned the rabbit. It was still warm. The blood was still fresh and my hands were getting dirty. We had a little plastic bag where we put the meat and gave a little bit to the dog. After all that was done, I realized that every time I went to the grocery store to buy something like hamburger, some animal had to die. It isn’t al-

ways a pleasant death. It didn't make me a vegetarian but it did make me appreciate the provision that God had given to me as a carnivore. So when I eat meat now I realize what that means.

Now, later on when I was working on a farm, the first job I had in the morning was to go up to the dry-cow pasture where there were about seventy or eighty cows. Every once in a while one would "freshen," which means they had a little baby cow. Now one thing about dairy cows, they all want to be mothers. This morning, they see my jeep coming up the hill and, as there was one that had freshened, all of them were there waiting and mooing to me. I go up and put the calf as carefully as I can, without disturbing these moms, in the back of the jeep leaving the back door of the jeep open so they can see I am not doing anything wrong. . . We go off and take the newly born calf down to the barn. It was my job to feed the newborn calves. If a baby calf was fed fresh milk from the mother, the milk was too rich especially for holsteins. The baby could get scours and usually die from diarrhea. So you have to make powdered milk, etc. Holsteins are not a natural breed but are specially altered to make a lot of butter fat. One of the things I was immediately faced with was that we kept the female calves but the males were taken off to another place, potential bulls. I asked where they were going and was told they were headed for the meat market. I could never eat veal after that! These were *my* babies that I took care of until the guy showed up with the truck to take them away. They were mine. It bothered me a lot.

So we can see there is something about the cost of animal life that we were aware of in past society but not so much today. You can go to any fast food chain and never be in contact with death and dying.

One of the first contracts the Lord made with Adam and with man was one of *death and dying*. Adam sinned and fell and then God shed blood so that their nakedness would be covered. In that, God was pleased. It is interesting that He was. I read these scripture for the first time many years ago and couldn't understand it. "What? How could God be like that?" Then to make it worse, when it came to Cain and Abel, the grain sacrifice of Cain seemed really good to me, the best grain. Awesome. However it wasn't good for God. Over and over again God demonstrated that He appreciated the blood sacrifice. Why?

The Lord has never reniged His contract with Adam even through his falling. It has never been nulified. His comand, "Adam, Eve, We want you to be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over the earth. Take care of it. Be responsible for it." That is still valid and applicable today in evryone of our lives. At no point does He say, "Forget it. You don't have to

be concerned with this anymore.” There are a lot of ways we can be fruitful and multiply even without having children. Amen.

Then came the **Noahic Covenant**. God was so fed up with what was going on in the Earth. Why wouldn't He be? Look at what is going on today. He decided to have a flood and make everything new. The people were into all kinds of evil, crazy things. It didn't make any sense to Father God. So He brought a huge flood. After the flood was over, Noah was spared and was given a rainbow which was a promise that God would never again destroy the earth by flood. An interesting thought here. Maybe He is going to do something else to the earth later. But it won't be by a flood. It won't be to “start over again.” This was a promise. When I see a rainbow I remember the promise of God that He isn't going to destroy just for the sake of destroying. Amen. That's good. That's a hope. Something we know about God.

So we know from these two covenants that one, God wants us to be fruitful and multiply. And two, God isn't going to destroy us and start over.

And now there's Abraham. The **Abrahamic Covenant** was very interesting because again it started with sacrifice. Do you remember what Abraham did to initiate the process? Not that he had to, but remember he was going to make a sacrifice and it was going to be his own son! Wow, for me the first time I read this as a baby Christian, one has got to wonder. What is God thinking? This is way too much blood!

Since we are now living under the New Covenant it should, indeed, be too much blood for us. But Abraham didn't know what God was going to do or not. I've heard all kinds of teachings on this. However, God stopped him and then said, “Because you are willing to do this, to give up your own son, then I will form a covenant with you.” And then He did something, God only, not Abraham. God alone made it happen.

*“I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, the sand which is on the seashore. Your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:17-18)*

So God wants to bless, not just have you hold on like Adam being fruitful and multiply. Not like Noah; God is not going to destroy you. But also He wants to **bless** us. That's what we learn from these three covenants. Amen.

This gets a *lot* better. Next comes the **Passover**. The people of God were slaves of Egypt. Not only were they slaves of Egypt but they were being treated unfairly and unrighteously, sometimes brutally. Their sojourn

there started out in a good way. The people in Egypt took *care* of the people of Israel when they came in during the famine. Remember how that started with Joseph? But it soon deteriorated. When it did the people of the Lord began to *cry out unto Him*. That's how the process starts. That's a good thing, not a bad thing to cry out to the Lord, a good thing.

Well when they did that, God raised up Moses and Moses went and gave the word of the Lord and the plagues came upon Egypt and eventually they were delivered and went through the Red Sea. That was like the *water baptism* of the people of Israel. God then provided for them in the Promised Land. However the Passover is still celebrated today by the Jewish people. Interestingly it is one of the few religious holidays that Jesus participated in. The Passover was very important to Him. What were the instructions on the Passover, do you remember? They had to kill a lamb, again more blood sacrifice. Then they had to eat it *all*. If not every family was big enough to do that, they invited in their friends. Whatever they couldn't eat, they had to burn. Because they did that, when the Death Angel came by and saw the blood of the lamb on the lentils of the door, he passed over that place and there was no one killed in that house.

What a wonderful covenant of God to say a *special protection* is over you, because of the blood of the Lamb. How wonderful is it that John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. So, you have these covenants as a foundation of your Christian experience. You should know about them. You should study them. You should dwell upon them because they are not meaningless. It is history. I often ask my wife and children, "What is the difference between today and yesterday?" The answer is *History*, what happened between yesterday and today. What is the difference between now and one hundred years ago? World War I, World War II, Korea, Viet Nam. History. What is the difference between now and two thousand years ago? Jesus wasn't born yet. It is history. *The revelation of God changed! Not only the revelation of God but who you are in God changed as well.*

Think about that a minute. God is eternally the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He made this universe of space and time, and then stepped into it! This is awesome. Now you and I know how to watch a movie. We get some pop-corn, our favorite place on the couch, sit down and watch, lets say, a love-story. Pick the movie you like and you can watch it more than once if you like. We can look at the movie and vicariously live through the characters in the movie and then after it is over we talk about it, "Didn't you like this? How about that? Wasn't so good, but this was, etc." So forth and so on. We can be the movie critic but also live vicariously through other people. We do that really well. It is not bad having this vicari-

ous ability to be able to be another person for a while even though you are not really. This isn't all that bad for us BUT it wasn't good enough for God! He didn't make this as a giant video game for Him to watch. Think about what is going on here.

He didn't make these covenants to make this video game more interesting now. God would never do that. Now if God made you like Himself, what would you want to do differently? *You would want to be a part of it!* You would say, "I don't want to watch this movie any more. Look at this tragedy. Look at this good. Look what's going on. Look at the covenants that I have. I don't want to just be watching! I want to intervene." And so, He *did* intervene. Throughout the Old Testament, He intervened. David danced before the Lord as the Holy Spirit was upon him. As he played his instrument before Saul, the demons would flee because the Holy Spirit was there and intervened in the process. But this wasn't a *living* part of the video game, so to speak. It was a visitation. The people of Israel kept God behind a curtain, in the Holy of Holies of the temple. Only the priests were allowed in there and they had a rope tied to their leg in case they dropped dead. But that is not the kind of God the Lord wanted to be. God didn't want to be that kind of God. Man put him there.

When Jesus died it says the veil of the Holy of Holies, that curtain, was *ripped* from top to bottom. It wasn't unzipped, unbuttoned, or cut open. It was ripped from top to bottom because He wanted to get out of the place that man had put Him and reveal Himself finally in this world, this thing He invented, He created from His own being. He didn't just want to watch. And so Christianity began. . .

But today it seems that all the denominations want to do is put God back into that box. Jesus as just a person, a historical figure. Jesus as the Son of God but not saying it is something for you personally. They treat it as just a weak covenant. *But* covenants aren't just contracts. Listen, covenants aren't just an intellectual study of how God is and how you are. Teachings aren't meant to just give you information. They are blowing into you, with the power of the Holy Spirit, the truth of who God is.

Let's talk about the **Law and Moses** for a minute. We won't talk too much about it since the more I study about the Law the less I understand. Turn to Hebrews 12:18-24.

*18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,*

Another words, violence! You have not come to that mountain, the Old Covenant.

*19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.*

It was like a Wizard of OZ kind of God. “Don ‘t look behind the curtain.” However, you haven’t come to this kind of God. Now God wants to be revealed. He isn’t just for the clergy. He is for every single believer. You are a kingdom of priests.

*20 For they could not bear the command, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.” 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, “I am full of fear and trembling.” (Moses, who could face God face to face!)*

*22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of [a]ngels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

God liked the blood of Abel but this settled the blood sacrifice once and for all. So here we see clearly God didn’t want to just sit on the couch and watch this go on any longer, to show up here, to show up there, make a covenant and see how that goes. “Where is man going today? Oh, not so good, etc.” But rather, God wanted to do something different. Therefore He tears, rips open the Holy of Holies. He’s out! And Jesus Christ is crucified for our sin, for all of the bad things that we do, that is born in this heart of sin. He was crucified and His blood was shed for us once and for all that we would have no sin, in Him.

Then Jesus was resurrected from the dead. It was not just a covenant, not just a historical event, but when the *resurrection happened there was a shaking of everything in the universe*. Even in the far reaches of our solar system. There was a difference in what God was doing. He no longer said it is good enough for Me to watch this. I am going to be a part of this. It wasn’t just about Jesus walking on earth, which He was. But now when Jesus came and sat down at the right hand of the Father, He said, “I am going to do something now that you are really going to like. I am going to make **in you** a fountain, a well of living water that will never run dry. So that at any time, any place you will have a way to communicate with the living God, not one of just covenants.” Now God doesn’t have to break into this space/time world. He lives in you, the church! In your home group, your

families. What He is doing today is not about trying to make things right. He already did that!

God could have just sat back and said, "I'm God. I'm full of love." He didn't change; He's the God of love no matter what He decides to do. But He didn't do that. *God knows the **expression of the love of God** is even more important than the love of God alone*, because it is able to be shared and to be known by other beings that He has made, created. That love then can bring forth fruit. And that is what love is. It is like Adam had to fall in order for God to rescue him. It is like the day of Moses when evil had to predominate in such a way in order for God to say, "Listen, this isn't good. I'll spare you, Moses." It is like Abraham had to be ready to sacrifice his son so God could say, "No, no. That's My job."

The people of Israel had to be sold into slavery for God to show them the Passover. Isn't that what the prophetic word was saying this morning, that the circumstances God has put into your life isn't for God to test you whether you are going to be right or wrong. But it is for God to test and *prove* who you are in the kingdom of God. He already knows the answer. It is not a test for God. There is only one answer: *you are a child of God*. The enemy may not know that. Sometimes you might be confused also. However, it is the truth. And who is the truth? Jesus is the truth. And it is Jesus in you and it will never die. He came and He came to bring eternal life, the very life of God to be born in you.

Historically, Rome dominated the earth when Jesus was here. It was a time when it seemed Israel would never be able to rise up against the powers that surrounded them. This was the very time the Messiah was revealed upon the earth. God was watching and said, "Yeah, this is good. This is going to happen." World War I and II and all the wars that came since then show the depravity of mankind when they have the ability to change things. And now with nuclear bombs and all kinds of drones that are able to kill at will, our presidents are able to commit murder at will. Even if it is justifiable it is still murder. *Why did all this happen?*

To show the depravity of man, to show how much, in our own context and minds, without the Holy Spirit we are doomed to wars. Without the Holy Spirit things can go drastically wrong even when you want to do good.

As a parent you know that. Parents try to do good by their children but if it is not led by the Holy Spirit, sometimes it doesn't work out too well. Thankfully God has given you love for your children. That often makes things work together for good as God's love does for us.



There is a new and fresh process going on in the church today. It isn't based on just the *doctrine* of covenant, but it is based on the *process* of what that covenant did. The process is the resurrection life of Jesus Himself in you. Paul says it is the hope, the only hope of glory, the only hope for men. The only hope for society is the kingdom of God in you.

I'm not giving up! When I grew up in the Lord, the prophets would come to Fountain of Life and say, "We want to pray for the young people because they are the future." I was just in my twenties but I used to get upset with that. I wanted to know if that meant all these other older guys were being left behind . . . That would bother me. Wait a minute that doesn't make any sense. Either the kingdom of God is true and doesn't change or it isn't.

Are we walking in everything that God has for us? No. We could have a lot more miracles, etc. So we know that God has yet to do things in and through us but we know that His will and purpose and the power to do that is resident here, now. For instance, if you bought a brand new car and it had 400 horse power you could just leave it in the garage. It still has 400 horse power whether you take it out or not. But when you take it out on the road . . . Aaaah.

Don't you love that saying when a car passes another car in a race, "He blews the doors off." What does that mean. It means that it was so fast the suction of the air sucks the door off the other car. God has in you power that will blow the doors off anything the enemy has in store. Sickness? No. Disease, peril? Pestilence, anything the enemy can throw at us? How about human relationships? Some of them aren't so good. The enemy has NO hope. The enemy has NO hope. He is up against all powerful, living God who ripped the veil of the temple so that *you would have dominion over him*. The church will not fail. The church, *you*, will not fail Amen.

So I'm not waiting for the next generation. This is here and now. And, when I pray, I pray like *I* am in this generation . . . because I am. I'm not giving up. I'm not shrinking back. I'm not doing less, "I guess it's not going to happen in my generation. I'll have to pray for the next." No! I'm sorry, it doesn't matter when it happens, whatever it is, doing the will of God *is the* most important thing no matter what generation you are. If you found yourself in World War I, World War II, Viet Nam, the Korean war, it doesn't really matter. All of the time, if you are doing the will of God, you are doing the will of God. You are doing the will of God and you know the will of God by the Word of God and you know it because of the Holy Spirit within you that you can discern good and evil more than the tree (of knowledge) could ever reveal to you.

Not only do you now have what is different from the Garden of Eden. We are not trying to get back there. The garden was where you couldn't eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil but you also couldn't eat from the Tree of Life. No, now, you can. You have the knowledge of good and evil through the Holy Spirit within you. *And*, you have eternal life in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Wow, what a difference a day would make!

I'm glad that we don't serve a God who just wanted to watch a video game. Who didn't just want to watch your love story. As wonderful as that is, *He wants to be there*. So He put Himself there, here, in you, now. Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week, next month, next November (the elections). God sits in the heavens and laughs. He is able to laugh more now than He was able to do in the Old Covenant. He laughs because the Holy Spirit doesn't just make a visitation. He is in you, the church. Amen.

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Father, we rejoice because we can partake of You, intimately bringing life to our very soul, healing those emotions, healing our mental thought, healing our mortal bodies, what frail things they are. You have brought Your salvation to us in every way. Father, as You wanted to live and be in our world, we want to be in Yours! We do not want to be divorced somehow and make our own world but this kingdom of Yours will come here on this earth just like it is in heaven. And, Your will *WILL* be done. We pray in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.



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#### Epilogue Exhortation (T. Wiltshire)

The Lord wants to say to us, “What have you come to hear? Another sermon?” He has given us what we need. He does speak to us in the sermon. He does speak to us through the word. But He is calling us to participate, not watch. Not just coming here on Sunday, another sermon, have a great week. He wants us to be participating with Him. This is not a video game. It is not a love story we watch. It is a love story He wants us to be part of.

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Footnote 1: *A Good Friend* . 7/10/2016 (C. Engel)

What kind of Father do you think I am? What kind of Friend do you think I am?

Don't be surprised as to what I allow to come upon you. Don't be surprised! *"What is this fiery ordeal that I'm going through? What in the world did I do wrong? Why is the Lord allowing this to happen?"*

A Friend, a good Father would allow you to find out the strengths that you DO have. A good Father would allow you to see, not so much that you would be destroyed, but just enough to get you to begin to reach for your weapons.

I will allow you to have an ordeal in order to perfect you, My people. You would not reach for your faith or your gifts unless I allowed you to see that you need them. You would not reach for the prayers of faith for your friends, those lessons where they need to overcome, the things coming against your friends unless you needed to. You would just sit there if I protected you from everything. If I never let that fire come upon you, you would never find out that you even have a fire-extinguisher.

But you DO have it. And not only that, as you use your gift and as it is perfected you will all be greatly encouraged. And you will find even more gifts. My Father will give you more and more and more. Now is not the time to shrink back. Fiery ordeals, temptations, problems, pits, darkness, gloom . . . shall ALL be overcome by what I have placed in My Son and I have placed Him in you. And if you don't have Him in you, get it, says the Lord. You'll need it.

I'm a good Father and I'm a good Friend who allows you to go through things. Amen.

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Exhortation during Communion (T. Wiltshire):

As I was considering this passage in the last day or two, I was struck, "we desire that each one of you to show the same EARNESTNESS to have the full assurance of hope to the end." In some translations say to show the same DILIGENCE. But I like earnestness because it is more than just being diligent. There's some heart (passion) in being earnest. There's some emotion. There's fervency in there. Earnestness. It says to have the FULL assurance of hope until the end. As I saw that, it struck me. He doesn't want you to have a lukewarm hope. He doesn't want you to have this, "Ah,

maybe I'm okay or maybe I'll be saved. Maybe, maybe, maybe..." NO! He wants you to have a FULL assurance with earnestness! This is not condemnation. As per the prophetic word this morning, if you don't have it, get it. So this encouragement to me and to all of us. We want Him to fill us with that earnestness. He wants us to have a FULL ASSURANCE of hope. Not, "God, I hope I'm saved." What came out this morning, that the Lord will let us go through things that will test that. Your hope will waver. You need to press into Him and pick up those weapons and find Him with all of our heart because He is calling us. He wants us to have that fervency of heart. It is not just barely getting along . . .

So, Lord, we do remember You. Forgive us for where we miss the mark in everything. For You are our Living Hope. We thank You that in the midst of all the goings on at the Last Supper, You said You were establishing this New Covenant that will take care of all that stuff. So we do come to press into You today, Lord. We say thank You for Your body that was broken for us. We thank You for this blood of the New Covenant that was shed for us, Lord and we do remember You. Let us partake.

