

MY COVENANT  
Nothing Else Matters

An assessment by Othniel Downs

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## Abstract

Pablo Picasso was a notable artist that specialized in the abstract. Though his early work was very realistic and good, he found that the way to stand out was to purposely paint poorly, laying aside perspective, style, and sanity for overall weirdness.

The populace sees too much realism and clarity in their waking lives to be bothered with images that magnificently reflect that, so instead they escape into ugly nonsense. But today we're not talking about the abstract, today we're talking about what is real, what is solid. What is more concrete than even the natural world, is it not the spiritual world? The physical is built on the spiritual. "For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace." (ROMANS 8:6) Picasso's art is merely a cheap substitute for the supernatural beauty of God the Father.

Sense<sup>1</sup> knowledge deceives and misleads, but revelation knowledge comes from God and it is the very fabric by which the universe is founded on.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As in the five senses, taste, touch, smelling, hearing, and sight. Extra sensory perception (ESP) just means that demons are whispering in your ears. It could be argued that listening to God is ESP, but we should distance the truth from such damned nonsense.

<sup>2</sup> HEBREWS 11:3

# 1 My Covenant

## 1.1 Definitions

### 1.1.1 Covenant

Historically, a covenant was often sealed by blood; it was a partnership summed up by a series of promises given by both sides. This bond then declared was indissoluble and endured throughout the generations.

God made a covenant with Abraham to bless him. God promised that Abraham's descendants would be kings and that many great nations would come out of him. Yahweh promised to bless him and make his name great; even going as far to bless those that blessed Abraham, and cursing those who cursed him. Their covenant was plain: all God had was Abraham's, and all that Abraham had was God's; they were in partnership. The covenant was then sealed with the sign of circumcision whereby Abraham and all the males in his house removed the excess flesh from their reproductive organs.<sup>3</sup> (GENESIS 12)

Another example of a covenant is that of marriage; the husband and wife join together in a partnership, consummated by becoming one in body. To say that they are one in spirit is incorrect, as evidenced by the common disparity of one being filled with the Holy spirit, and that one's spouse rejecting or ignoring God. Nevertheless though, they are meant to be fully devoted to one another, sharing every asset whether financially, physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually, in all things they are devoted to another. If it comes out to be anything less, there is a struggle within the marriage and it can often fail. A moment of infidelity has ruined many marriages which were meant to be covenants of much permanence and commitment but turned out to be little more than lust and infatuation. A covenant is not to be founded on emotions though, but a union of wills (or souls rather) and complete disregard for oneself in favor of their partner.<sup>4</sup>

### 1.1.2 Redemption

Oftentimes in the States<sup>5</sup> a vendor selling carbonated beverages will charge the customer an extra five cents per can. However, when the empty can is returned, the customer then gets that five cents back and the can is *redeemed*. The can is

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<sup>3</sup> Vulgar, I know, but that's what God chose, so who am I to be ashamed of it? If you'd like to see some righteous indignation that Paul the apostle has towards Gentiles being pressured into circumcision, read GALATIANS 5:20 in context.

<sup>4</sup> What does any of this have to do with redemption? Chances are you probably know, but peradventure you do not, read on.

<sup>5</sup> United States of America.

then crushed and melted down and remade into a new can just as if the old one never existed.

Of course, this concept extends far beyond that of mere cans and applies to peoples as well. A soda can cannot<sup>6</sup> redeem itself anymore than a floor can sweep itself, just as a human cannot redeem himself. Why does man need to be redeemed? He needs to be redeemed because he lies in a fallen state whereby he cannot fulfill what he had been created for and correspondingly what he therefore longs for.

### 1.1.3 Dominion

The first man, Adam, lived in perfect communion with God: they walked together, talked together, and man was formed in God's own image. It was perfect.<sup>7</sup> And God gave man dominion over the whole earth. (GENESIS 1:26)

This meant that Adam was responsible and that he was in charge. "God is sovereign," indeed; but every time I hear someone use that phrase they neglect the responsibility that man's been given. They take sovereignty to mean a system of micromanagement whereby everything is deterministic and nothing happens outside of God's will. Well, this is a misapplication of logic. We'll get back to this later.

And God made Adam a wife, and Adam named her Eve<sup>8</sup>. Eve was deceived by the serpent (Satan, the Devil, either incarnate as a serpent, or possessing the serpent, my research has been inconclusive in that area) into eating from the tree that God told her not to eat from (GENESIS 3).

Adam was not deceived, but Eve thought she would be like God, "knowing good and evil." Adam knew he was made in God's image, but he betrayed God for Satan. The result of this was spiritual death, which leads to physical death. Man's spirit was separated from God and the friendship and partnership that man and God originally had was lost. And the dominion that Adam had was now in the hands of Satan, "the prince of the powers of the air." (EPHESIANS 2:2)

No longer could man come before God without the shedding of blood and on God's terms because of man's inherit sinful nature passed on to all generations.

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<sup>6</sup> Eh, having the *can* right next to *cannot* elicits a discomfort within me, this might be what Paul meant when he said "don't grieve the Holy Spirit (EPHESIANS 4:20)" but I don't think I can be bothered to fix it now, maybe I'll get back to it.

<sup>7</sup> "Very good" as God declares it in Genesis 1:31.

<sup>8</sup> *Havvah* in the Hebrew, though it's entirely possible that Adam did not speak Hebrew and that the Hebrew is itself a translation from another language since the events of GENESIS 12 lead to many new languages arising. But what's written in Genesis is all we have, so until another Joseph Smith reveals that Adam originally spoke American English, we'll just stay with that.

Man needed to be redeemed, to be made new. So God promised that the *seed of woman* would crush the *serpent's* head and free all of man from the bondage to sin and Satan.

Now if we were to take the *deterministic Christian* point of view, we run into a problem where God is responsible for all of man's actions. If that were the case, it'd be irresponsible of God to hold man accountable. And so if that were the case, God actually deserves to die for man's sin; but that's foolishness. Man would be reduced from being made in the image of God to mere fictional characters in a story where God is the author and man is just an illusion.

## 1.2 Life of Christ

Being the *seed of woman*, Christ was born without man's seed, by which we mean that his<sup>9</sup> mother Mary conceived him as a virgin (LUKE 1:34), and thus he was free from the inheritance of sin. Christ however, was not just a man born in strange circumstances though, he was God himself who made man, now incarnate in flesh. This dichotomy of fully of man and fully God was reconciled by having the spirit of God in man's body.

Jesus healed the sick, forgave sins, and reconciled people back to God.

Jesus was crucified, and bore the penalties of our sins.<sup>10</sup> In dying on the cross, our sin-nature was also legally destroyed. Then, Christ rose from the grave and conquered death itself. Of course, since he conquered spiritual death, physical death being a symptom thereof was automatically done away with incidentally.

## 1.3 What Christ has Promised

Now having already paid for our sins, and defeating death and our sin nature, he's waiting for us to receive what he has done. People go around asking and asking Jesus for this or for that; but asking for demonstrative pronouns is not what Christ has called us to.

On the contrary, he's already "granted to us everything that pertains to life and godliness." (2 PETER 1:3) And "blessed us with every spiritual blessing." (EPHESIANS 1:3) "Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall receive them." (MARK 11:24)

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<sup>9</sup>I know that there's a common habit of capitalizing all pronouns related to God, but I'm not entirely convinced that this is necessary, but is rather just a ritual of man.

<sup>10</sup>The evil works we commit that separate us from God. They're a result of spiritual death.

### 1.3.1 Healing

“Who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases,” (PSALM 103:3)

“But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds<sup>11</sup> we are healed.” (ISAIAH 53:5)

In MATTHEW 9, Jesus heals a paralytic and the pharisees don't have a problem with that. What they have a problem with is Jesus forgiving sins. But Jesus asks, “which is easier, to say your sins are forgiven, or to say get up and walk.” To Jesus there was no distinction, because he paid for both of them in his death.

### 1.3.2 Forgiveness

As already expressed in the previous section, Jesus paid for our sins. It's automatic, it's finished, paid in full. When Jesus was on the cross, he said, “It is finished.”

### 1.3.3 Grace

Grace<sup>12</sup> is not just forgiveness, but it's God's power to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. To walk as Jesus walked. It's not a license to sin by any means. It's a license for victory over the world.

### 1.3.4 Strength

“Yahweh, the Lord, is my strength. He makes my feet like deer's feet, and enables me to go in high places.” (HABAKKUK 3:19)

## 1.4 My Part

Growing up in a Christian home, I have always had a knowledge of Jesus. I received Jesus into my heart at a young age. But I hadn't received all of the blessings that Jesus had for me. When I accepted him, we entered into a covenant relationship, but I didn't understand the implications. I gave myself to Jesus most of the time, but sometimes I ignored him.

After some of my siblings got married, and I got some additional married friends I saw that I was being unfaithful. Christ gave all of himself to me, but I was holding back. I was chasing hobbies and learning and neglecting the fullness of Christ. In marriage, the wife gives all of herself to her husband, and he gives all

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<sup>11</sup> Other translations say *stripes*.

<sup>12</sup> And it's not just my younger sister *Gracie*.

of himself to her. Just one affair, or any infidelity is detrimental. Even neglect is detrimental. One can't expect to have a happy relationship with Christ without giving one's all, any more than one can have a happy marriage by giving only 99%.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.” (MARK 12:30)

I was redeemed, for sure, but I was like a new soda can with nothing in it. We are meant to be filled in Christ, overflowing with love and good works.

So I threw off everything that hinders and am running the race with reckless abandon, with only one thing in mind, Christ.

It's incredible, Christ gave his life, his heart, his mind, his soul, and his strength for me. And so I give everything I have to him. Anything less is not worthy of him. Everything is under his feet, and therefore, everything is under my feet.

To live is Christ. Not by works, but by his grace.

Amen.