

Bible covenants with men and mankind, what are they, do they apply to us and are we under one today?

Strong Old Testament Hebrew definition of "covenant" is: #1285: diathēkē; (*ber-eeth*):
in the sense of cutting a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh).

Strong New Testament Greek definition of "covenant" is: #1242: diathēkē; (*dee-ath-ay-kay*):
properly a disposition that is a contract especially a devisory will - covenant, testament.

God operates through covenants with His people, a bible covenant is much more than just an agreement or a contract. Whereby an agreement if broken may have a degree of of shame to it, and a contract may have a penalty attached to it. Covenants are eternal, having great blessings and exchanges made however, but if broken they also have curses spoken over the one who breaks it, even down throughout his family line.

We see that the covenant that God made with the Israelites also had both blessings and curses. In Deuteronomy chapter 28, the blessings were recorded over the Israelites as they kept God's statutes in verses 3-13, and the curses that would come upon them if they did not observe the LORD's statutes and commandments were recorded in verses 16-68. These blessings and curses were then pronounced over the Israelites when they crossed over the Jordan, the blessings spoken from Mt. Gerizim and the curses spoken from Mt. Ebal, **Deuteronomy 27:13- 28:68 & Joshua 8:33**.

Covenants in the Old Testament were sometimes made between men and between kingdoms. And in general, covenants were made for one of two reasons, protection and security, or out of a great love for that person, such as was the covenant between David and Jonathan, **1st Samuel 18:3**. Covenants were taken so seriously, that even when the Israelites were deceived, that the strangers living right next to them in the promise land were from a far country. After making a covenant of peace with them, God prohibited the Israelite's from going to war with them, rather their lives were spared and they were made to become wood cutters and water carriers for the Israelites, **Joshua 9:6**.

Whereby, this teaching focuses mainly on covenant as being "blood covenants," a compact or agreement that is bond by blood. Before I get into covenants that God made with individual men, or with mankind. I wish to build on God's connection or His blood bond with mankind. For once we understand this, we will see making blood covenants between God and mankind as much more natural and a needed thing.

- Our first blood bond with God, I believe was when God created man, "and the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and Adam became a living soul," **Genesis 2:7**. Whereby, God is a Spirit, **John 4:24**, and does not have physical blood as man does, but rather "God is light," **John 1:5**. Therefore we can equate God's breath, that gave life to Adam, as God filling Adam with light, comparable in many ways with man's blood that gives life to his physical body, "for man's life is in his blood," **Leviticus 17:11**.
- Also a covenant that God gave to Abraham, for all of the Israelites was the covenant of circumcision, **Genesis 17:10**. This involved cutting away of the foreskin, thus blood was involved. Thus, once the procedure was performed, man's seed(s) for future generation(s), would always pass through the covenant. Circumcision was meant to be an everlasting and a perpetual covenant however, during the 40 years in the wilderness the Israelites ceased this practice and needed to reinstate it before they could go into the promise land, **Joshua 5:3**. This alone shows us that either man does not fully understand the power of God's covenants or is simply apathetic to them.

God has given the above two points to all mankind, (creation and circumcision), and it is my hope that knowing this will give you new insight and a desire to abide by God's covenants.

Covenants that were made with men in the Old Testament.

With Noah:

Never again shall all flesh be cut off by flood waters, [Genesis 9:8-17](#).

With Abraham:

I have given this land, (the promise land of Canaan) to your seed, [Genesis 15:7-18](#).

You shall be exceeding fruitful, a father of many nations, nations and kings shall come from you. Your name shall not be Abram but Abraham, . And I will give to you and your seed the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession. And on the eighth day ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant. And this shall be an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. If any man is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; for he has broken My covenant. As for Sarai thy wife, her name shall be Sarah and I will bless her, [Genesis 17:2-16](#),

With Isaac:

I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah, your wife shall bear, [Genesis 17:19-21](#).

With Jacob / Israel:

I shall give you and your seed the land on which you walk on, And your seed shall be like the dust of the earth, [Genesis 28:13-14](#).

With David:

He has made with Me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, [2nd Samuel 23:5](#)

The better covenant that was made with all of mankind in the New Testament.

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better covenant, [Hebrews 7:22](#).

This, new covenant has been made and fulfilled by the Godhead and not by man, for in the past man would always break whatever covenant that had been established. Now, our new and better covenant has been made and established by God and His Son, Jesus and thus, man cannot break it.

Today we are under the covenant that that Jesus made for us, sealing it with His blood and life, [Luke 1:68-79](#). Whereby, this covenant is above all the other covenants, it does not cancel any of the other covenants, for covenants were never meant to be broken o canceled.

The covenant that Jesus made for us is much more than just being saved and going to heaven, it is a complete exchange. Jesus' righteousness for our unrighteousness, [Philippians 3:9](#), His riches for our poverty, [2nd Corinthians 8:9](#), Jesus bore our sickness and infirmities that we might be made whole, [Isaiah 53:4-5](#), etc. The Greek word for salvation is: [SOZO](#), Strong's #4982 defined as: to save, that is, deliver or to protect (literally or figuratively):- , heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (made) whole.

