

# The Kingdom and the Covenant

The kingdom is God's comprehensive rule over all of His creation. He is Ruler of His kingdom, the universe is His kingdom's realm, and it operates by His rules in accordance with the Lordship of Jesus Christ. **Heb 1:3** says "He upholds the universe with the word of His power"

Whether we realize it or not, all of us are under God's sovereign rule. Even non-Christians are under God's rule and accountable to His sovereignty. They may not be in the kingdom in terms of their relationship to God, but they are under Him in terms of His position and their accountability. **Romans 14:11,12** for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." **12** So then each of us will give an account of himself to God

**The way God has chosen to establish and expand His kingdom on the earth throughout the generations is through His covenants.**

**A covenant is a binding relationship with certain conditions in which God releases kingdom power, provisions, and authority to His people.**

Whenever God wanted to establish his name and his kingdom he would establish a covenant with a person or a people... God established covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David.

These are formal arrangements that are spiritually binding in a legal capacity between God and His people.

**God established a major covenant with the nation of Israel.**

**Exodus 19:5,6** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6** and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation..."

**Fast Forward Jeremiah Jer. 31:31 -33** Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32** not like the (old) covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

It will be a covenant of relationship; It will be a covenant of the heart.

Note: the first covenant God told them, "you write the law on the door post of your house, bind it on your foreheads... Now God is saying, I am going to write my word on your hearts.

**Now come with me into the Upper room with Jesus and His disciples at the Passover Meal.**

Luke 19:20,21 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in my blood.

**God established the New Covenant through holy sacrificial of Jesus' body and blood.**

- When you take of the Lord's table we are reminding ourselves of **COVENANT!**

**Remember: A covenant is a binding relationship with certain conditions in which God releases kingdom power, provisions, and authority to His people.**

BTW: "testament" is a synonym for "covenant". The New Testament in general is our New Covenant

**A covenant is God's mechanism in which God releases the kingdom.**

**God's people always prosper under the covering of kingdom covenants.**

Deuteronomy 29: 9 "Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do."

- 1) We need to understand covenant to understand kingdom authority! Why? Because God's provisions, promises, and His preferred will flow through His covenant.
- 2) One reason the devil is winning so much in spiritual warfare is that God's people are not functioning in agreement with the covenant, and therefore are not benefitting from the authority of the kingdom.

**God's covenants always involve a relationship.**

- 1) A biblical covenant involves far more than a contract. In a biblical covenant, you not only sign on the dotted line, but you enter into an intimate relationship with the other person or persons in the covenant. In other words, covenants are predicated on a relationship.
- 2) Even in the Mosaic Covenant God wanted relationship.

While most people today focus on the elaborated system of laws (600 + laws and commands) they often miss how God desired the people to love him.

He said to Israel you are to love me with all their heart, soul, and might.

- 3) In the New Covenant the emphasis is on relationship too!
  - a) John record the words of Jesus in **John 14:15** Jesus said, “if you love me you will keep my commandments”
  - b) John got it! Look --- **1 John 5:2,3** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Living in the reality of the New Covenant produces progress and prosperity in your life, because when you operate in and under the covenant you receive the flow of God’s power, provision, and authority.

Covenantal positioning is key to partaking of kingdom privileges. **Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness** (right positioning).

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## Five Principles of a Kingdom Covenant

- 1) God transcends everything. He is in charge.
  - a) God is not a part of His creation, but rather separate from it, above it, he transcends it.
  - b) For a Kingdom Covenant to bring both benefits and security, the covenant must be set up according to God’s expectations and regulations.

**Romans 1:25-32 NLT** They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. **26** That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. **27** And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. **28** Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. **29** Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. **30** They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. **31** They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. **32** They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

2) God mediates His covenant through His representatives.

a) The Old Covenant was mediated through Moses.

Just before His death Moses prophesied about mediator that was to come.

De. 18:15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.

b) Jesus is the mediator of our New Covenant

i) Scriptures:

(1) Hebrews 8:6 Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

(2) Hebrews 9:15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...

**The new covenant is a binding relationship with JESUS in which God releases kingdom power, provisions, and authority to His people.**

WHAT POWER? What AUTHORITY? Jesus said, Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Luke 10:19

WHAT PROVISION? We are joint heirs with Jesus, we have an inheritance!

3) To have kingdom authority you must live under authority.

a) A synonym for covenant is “covering”.

i) Umbrella: Look at it like this. When it is raining, you will most likely reach for your umbrella, open it up, and put it over your head before going outside. The umbrella does not stop it from raining, but it does stop the rain from reaching you.

(1) Although it does not change what is happening around you, it does change what happens to you.

(2) Similarly, when you are under God’s covenant covering, the circumstances, trials, and challenges of life may not change, but God will cover you in such a way that they do not pour down on you as they would without His covering.

b) God's covenants have specific guidelines, or rules, that govern them.

i) What are guidelines of the New Covenant... The New Testament! Read it! Live it!

(1) Seek first the Kingdom and His Righteousness and all things will be added to you.

(2) Give and it will be given to back to you... pressed down shaken together.

(3) If you comfort others in trouble you will be comforted in times of difficulty

(4) There are promises for healing, prosperity, healthy marriages, discernment, wisdom... its all in here, but it is connected to live under His covering.

What good does it do to open an umbrella during a rain storm and set it off to the side?  
You have to get under it.

4) A Kingdom covenant is sanctioned by an oath.

a) What you say matters when what you say lines up with what is in your heart!

b) The oaths that accompany God's covenants are often called sanctions. Sanctions are the provisions that make a law binding.

i) In Deuteronomy 27– 30, God had the people of Israel stand between two mountains. One was the mountain of blessing, and the other was the mountain of cursing.

Moses was required by God to SPEAK the blessings for keeping God's law and SPEAK the curses for breaking it to the people, and the people were required to signify that they accepted and understood these terms with their words.

Then Moses said: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life" (Deuteronomy 30: 19).

c) We make a series of oaths or confessions to God in order to activate our new covenant

i) At salvation: **Romans 10:9-10 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

d) When we are baptized we use the experience as a symbol of our covenant with God to die to the disobedience of our old life and live in the new resurrected obedient life we have received from Jesus

5) There are generational consequences linked to your covenant commitment.

- a) God's covenants have continuity, long-term generational impact. What you do affects not only you, but also those in contact with you and those who follow you. .
- b) One reason you and I must fight to stay in God's will— and when we leave it, fight to get back in as quickly as possible— is that life is not just about you and me. It includes many other people who will come after us. God want you to prosper, yours sons, and your sons sons! (De. 6)

Closing:

God takes His covenants very seriously and this is why covenants were inaugurated in Scripture were often signed, or ratified, in Blood.

God's covenants are so serious, significant, and meaningful that they are inaugurated by nothing less than that which sustains life itself.

Jesus said, this cup is the blood of the New Covenant!