

The Covenant of Salvation

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The first six Covenants of Grace define God's grace towards human beings. The Covenant of Salvation realizes that grace. Grace is the overarching principle of all God's dealings with human beings. Salvation is only available through God's grace. Salvation starts with the calling of God – once called, a person must respond. The promise of salvation is eternal life, the gift of God, to be realized at the resurrection. (Mt22:14, 2Pt1:10, Rm6:23b, 1Cr15:35,42,44a,50-53)

Love and Grace: God is love (1Jh4:8b-10,16). **God's grace is a natural corollary of his love:** God created human beings to become members of the God Family; God loves all human beings, but human beings are inherently sinful; **only by God's grace can we come to repentance and contrition** so that God can mould us into his image (Rm3:23-24 Eph1:7-10). The Covenant of Salvation is commonly called the "**New Covenant**" in contrast with the Sinai Covenant, the "**Old Covenant**", which was made obsolete by the death of Christ (Hb8:6-7,13). The right of **Baptism** brings a person under the New Covenant, into a relationship with God (Rm6:3-4).

Seminal Scriptures: The New Covenant is specifically with "the house of Israel and the house of Judah" – this is the New Israel to be created through the Second Exodus after the Second Advent (Jr31:31-34, 32:37-41). **The focus of the seminal scriptures is "conversion"** – all persons called to the New Israel will be called to conversion (Ez11:17-20, 36:22-32). Some key points on conversion as defined in the seminal scriptures are:

- **Calling:** "I will gather them" (Jeremiah 32:37), "I will take you" (Ezekiel 36:24)
- **Repentance:** "you will remember your evil ways", "you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations" (Ezekiel 36:31)
- **Forgiveness:** "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean", "I will cleanse you" (Ezekiel 36:25), "I will forgive their iniquity" (Jeremiah 31:34)
- **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit:** "a new spirit I will put within them", "I will put my Spirit within you" (Ezekiel 11:19, 36:27)
- **Inculcation of torah:** "I will put my torah within them", "I will write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33)
- **Live by the Way of God:** "I will be their God, and they shall be my people", "they shall all know me" (Jeremiah 31:33, 34), "walk in my statutes and keep my *mish'patim* and obey them" (Ezekiel 11:20)
- **Inner Transformation:** "I will give them one heart and one way", "I will put the fear of me in their hearts" (Jeremiah 32:39, 40), "remove the heart of stone", "give them a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 11:19)

Christ Inaugurated the New Covenant: The New Covenant for the New Testament Church is a "type" of the prophesized New Covenant (Lk22:14-20). Just before the ascension, Jesus gave the Apostles the promise of the Holy Spirit (At1:4b-5,8a). The New Covenant is based on the "better promise" of eternal life (Eph2:12, Hb8:6, 9:15a, 10:36, Jm1:12, 2:5b, 2Pt1:4a, 1Jh2:25). The Resurrection is the mechanism by which God transforms perishable human beings into eternal members of the God Family. The transformation is the gift of God – nothing any human being can do can put God into a position that he must grant eternal life to that person (Eph2:4,5b,7-9). This is the purpose of faith – to trust God to grant the gift of eternal life (Pp1:6).

The Plan of God: The major events of the out-working of the Plan of God are outlined on the attached diagram. Ancient Israel failed in their role as an example nation, but the Plan of God will succeed. The Covenant of Promise provided the framework for the out-working of the Plan of God based on the two promises made to Abraham:

- **Abraham's descendants** would comprise a great nation which would forever inherit the land of Canaan: Ancient Israel never fulfilled this, but the New Israel in the World Tomorrow will
- **All nations will be blessed through a descendant** of Abraham: this was particularized to a descendant of David in the Covenant of Descent – the Messiah; the First Advent is history; the Second Advent will complete this blessing

The Way of God: The Way of God was defined to Ancient Israel by the Covenant of Knowledge – **torah was given to teach Israel what it meant to "obey my voice"**. The *torah* comprises the "Words of Eternal life", but because they did NOT have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the people of Ancient Israel could not live by the *torah*, so eternal life was NOT available to them. Eternal life became generally available only with the New Covenant, the Covenant of Salvation, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **Eternal life is the gift of God**, it cannot be earned or attained any other way. A person must learn to **live by the Way of God** in order be considered as a candidate for the gift of eternal life.

God's covenants are a perfect and complete expression of God's love for human beings. God's love is most clearly expressed by the grace he holds out to each and every human being (Jh3:16). Rejoice in our calling. Understand the depths of God's love revealed by his grace. Work to accomplish God's purpose – **follow the lead of the Holy Spirit to live by the Way of God.**

Role of the Nation of Israel

The Sinai Covenant: created the Nation of Ancient Israel
“obey my voice, keep my covenant, be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”
“you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples” (Exodus 19:5-6)
Israel's Role: to be an example nation to **teach the Way of God** to all nations

First Advent

Failure:
covenant
violation

“Spiritual Israel”

The New Testament Church:

- Old Covenant ends; New Covenant begins
- those called enter into the New Covenant through the right of Baptism
- this makes available the “better promise”— eternal life
- indwelling of the Holy Spirit is made available at Baptism so that it is possible to live by the Way of God
- the **Role of Israel** **passes to the Church:**
“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**”
(1 Peter 2:9)

Resurrection

Second Advent

The Family of God:

True Worshippers,
since Abel, granted
the gift of eternal
life

Teach the
Way of God

People Called:

“He will raise a signal
for the nations and
will assemble the
banished of Israel,
and gather the
dispersed of Judah
**from the four
corners of the
earth.**” (Isaiah 11:12)

Teach the
Way of God

Second Exodus

New Israel:

- coterminous with the Church at the start of the millennium
- a physical nation in which all individuals are called to conversion

Fulfill the Role of Israel

Salvation to All Humanity:

- the gospel goes out to all the world
- conversion and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit made available to all