

## The Blessing

### Introduction

This word- more informational than inspirational.  
I want to give us a biblical/historical picture of  
God's heart towards mankind.

I am going to do that by examining the covenants  
God has made w/man from- beginning of time.

**A covenant is an agreement between  
God and man that defines the conditions  
of their relationship. In Bible days  
covenants between men were binding  
(forfeit their life if broke the covenant).**

My purpose- that we would never doubt that God-  
>is for us

>is on our side

>always has our best interest at heart

We see this idea that God is for us in both OT/NT-

**Psalm 118:6 The Lord is for me; I will not  
fear; What can man do to me? (OT)**

**Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to  
these things? If God is for us, who is  
against us? (NT)**

#### 1. God's Covenant with Adam (with Creation)

**Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us  
make man in Our image, according to  
Our likeness" ...**

From-beginning of human history-the Creator has  
always wanted a relationship w/His creation.

So much so that God created man in His image-  
therefore He places great value on human life.

**Aside: this is why evolutionary teaching  
has been so detrimental to the  
sacredness of human life. If we are**

**taught that life is just a group of cells that come together randomly over a long period of time- then life has no intrinsic value. It is evolutionary thought that is the framework for justifying abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide.**

But- understanding that man was created by God in His image gives great value to human life.

**Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

All earth was to be blessed through Adam/Eve.

Subdue/rule over-earth was to manage- abundant resources of creation for- benefit of mankind.

The Lord also told Adam/Eve they could eat from any tree in the garden ...

**Genesis 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”**

God being a holy God, not only promised blessing- He also promised judgment for sin.

Unfortunately Adam/Eve chose to ...

>believe a lie about God

>rebel against God’s rule in their lives, and

>ate from- tree of- knowledge of good/evil

They questioned- character of God and accused

God of withholding something good from them.

We are not much different today ...

- >when we face a difficulty it can be easy to begin to question God's love for us
- >in- middle of a difficult situation we have a tendency to ask- why question?... God-
  - why did you allow this to happen?
  - why did you do this to me?
- >the problem with the "why" question- it can quickly become- accusation against God

God also promised a future redemption-

**Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head (victory over Satan/death), And you shall bruise him on the heel (reference to the cross)."**

## **2. God's Covenant with Noah** 1. God's covenant w/Adam, Creation

After Adam/Eve-cast out of the Garden- testimony of scripture is- man became increasing evil ...

**Genesis 6:5-6 (NASB95)**

**<sup>5</sup>Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

**<sup>6</sup>The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.**

What strikes me in these verses is that God was grieved over the behavior of His creation.

We might ask ourselves ...

- >as we go through life do we consider how our actions might affect God's heart?
- >is there anything in our lives that would bring grief to God's heart?

>how we live our lives is important to God because He committed- our success Again, because God is a Holy God, He judged mankind w/flood- destroyed all but Noah/family However, immediately after- flood God renewed His promise to mankind through Noah ...

**Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.**

**Gen 9:11 “I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”**

God gives Noah and his sons the same charge He gave Adam/Eve- be fruitful/multiply/fill. In v11 God also vows never again destroy the earth by flood.

As bad as man’s sins were, God had not given up on mankind and still wanted to bless him. In the same way, our sins, may grieve God’s heart, but it does not change God’s love for us. Take a look at what God says about Noah ...

**Genesis 6:9 These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.**

Noah had to learn what it meant to live blameless life before God in the time in which he lived. The same is true for us- we must learn what it means to live blameless before God in our day

**3. God’s Covenant with Abraham** 1. God’s covenant w/Creation  
2. God’s covenant w/Noah  
Abraham was a pagan- not a believer in God.

He lived in a culture that believed in many gods. But even in the middle of this type of culture- God chose a man named Abraham/spoke to him. This is an incredible picture of God's grace falling upon an undeserving man.

If God's grace was available to Abraham under the old covenant, how much more is God's grace available to us under- new covenant?

Looking at the covenant God made w/Abraham-  
**Genesis 12:2-3 (NASB95)**

**2And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;**

**3And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."**

Four declarations embedded in this covenant ...

>I will bless you

>I will make make you a great nation

>you will be a blessing to the nations

>I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you

In this covenant God is restoring His relationship with man that was broken in- Garden of Eden.

For Abraham- bless- nations- needed children.

However, at one point, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.

Abraham so believed in God's promises/God's faithfulness- that he set out to do just that.

**Heb 11:19He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead ...**

Fortunately at the last moment God provided a lamb in- thicket to sacrifice in his son's place. (Incredible picture of the coming Messiah who would die in our place so we can live eternally)

Look at what it says about us in Galatians ...

**Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

Through faith we are heirs to the same promises and the same charge given to Abraham.

The Abrahamic covenant went two ways ...

>Abraham was blessed and a blesser

As spiritual sons/daughters of Abraham by faith-

>we are blessed and we are to bless others

It is so easy to want God to bless us personally.

Do we have a vision for being a source of God's love and blessing towards others?

It is easy get focused on our problems and never consider how we might be a blessing to others.

The grace God has given us was meant be given away- it was not meant to hoarded.

**Romans 1:11-12 (NASB95)**

**11For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;**

**12that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.**

1. God's covenant w/Creation
2. God's covenant w/Noah
3. Abrahamic covenant

This ought to happen every Sunday morning.

**4. God's Covenant with Moses (Giving of-Law)**

Many believers look unfavorably on the Law.

However- at the core of the Law was God's desire to lead man into an even greater blessing.

**Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet."**

The Mosaic Law ...

- >taught man what sin was so he could avoid the judgments of God
- >provided mankind an opportunity to learn the of culture of God's Kingdom
- >showed mankind that he had a sin problem and needed a solution- Jesus.

The OT is a story of a people that God was bringing into a relationship w/Him to fulfill His original plan to bless all of mankind.

## **5. God's Covenant with David**

God makes a promise to David

1. God's covenant w/Creation
2. God's covenant w/Noah
3. Abrahamic covenant
4. Mosaic covenant

### **2 Samuel 7:12-13 (NASB95)**

**12"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.**

**13"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

God promised David that through his lineage God would establish an everlasting Kingdom.

Jesus Christ was called the son of David and He would sit at- right hand of the Father forever.

Jesus would rescue mankind from sin and death and give them eternal life.

This is at the heart of God's covenants- that God would provide a way- eternally bless mankind.

## 6. The New Covenant

1. God's covenant w/Creation
2. God's covenant w/Noah
3. Abrahamic covenant
4. Mosaic covenant
5. Davidic covenant

Israel so failed the Mosaic Covenant that God made a new covenant through Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**

God promised our sins would be forgiven and that we would have- everlasting relationship w/Him.

This New Covenant was meant for all people ...

**Romans 3:29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also**

The New Covenant is God, through Jesus Christ, fulfilling- promise He first made to- Adam/Eve.

However, Jesus did give Israel a warning ...

**Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.**

Israel was not producing the fruit of a people worthy of the Kingdom of God.

We might ask ourselves- as the church ...

are we producing the fruit of a people, called to be a blessing to the world?

The church has a great responsibility to demonstrate the reality of the KofG to- world.

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you**

**may proclaim the excellencies of Him  
who has called you out of darkness into  
His marvelous light;**

The world needs what we have- we are carriers  
of the HS- earthen vessels with a rich treasure.

### **The End of the Age**

God's plan for man culminates at- end of the age.  
There is a generation that will see the fulfillment  
of God's plan that began w/Adam/Eve ...

#### **Revelation 7:9–10 (NLT)**

**9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great  
to count, from every nation and tribe and  
people and language, standing in front  
of the throne and before the Lamb. They  
were clothed in white robes and held  
palm branches in their hands.**

**10 And they were shouting with a great  
roar, "Salvation comes from our God  
who sits on the throne and from the  
Lamb!"**

This is what the culmination of God's redemptive  
plan looks like.

People from every tongue, and tribe, and nation,  
celebrating the goodness/faithfulness of God.  
This is the heart/purpose of God towards man,  
from covenant to covenant, down to end- age.

### **In Conclusion**

The covenants are the backbone of the storyline  
of God's divine plan for mankind.

The Bible is not a random collection of laws,  
moral principles, and unrelated stories.

It is the story of God's love for mankind and the  
establishing of His Kingdom in- human heart.

**The most practical truths any Christian can know are that God is all-powerful, all-wise, and all for you. Unknown**

We have assurance, even as sinners, that God's all powerful mercy is directed towards us.

It is important to ask ourselves ...

- >as the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, with such a great/high calling
- >recognizing the kindness/goodness of God
- >what will we do with this great covenant God has handed down to us?

Will the world know, through us, that God loves them and that He is a good and faithful God?

- >do our lives demonstrate it,
- >does our conversation make it real,
- >is there a supernatural element in our lives that testifies to- reality of a living God?

God's covenants are proof that God is determined to withhold no good thing from those who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Jesus Christ is the final fulfillment of God's heart for mankind that started in the Garden of Eden

May we be a people worthy of- KofG who ...

- >live blameless lives before God
- >never doubt His love for us
- >never question His goodness/faithfulness
- >recognize- rich treasure God deposited in them so they can be a blessing to others