

BOOKS BY JOHN A. DANIEL

1. SUBMISSION (THE AUTHORITY CHANNEL OF GOD AND THE ONLY WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
2. CHRISTIAN RACE TO THE END (QUALIFICATION FOR THE THRONE).
3. TABERNACLES AS A SHADOW OF CHRIST.
4. END-TIME SPIRITUAL WAYS OF PRAYING (COVENANT PRAYERS THAT PRODUCE INSTANT RESULTS).
5. JESUS CHRIST, THE SPECIAL GRACE OF GOD TO HUMANITY.

Copyright May 2003 by John A. Daniel.

Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible.

This Book Is A Gift Given Out Free By The Special Grace Of God And Should Not Be Sold.

INTRODUCTION

More than ninety percent (90%) of people in the Christendom do not know that the creation of this earth and all that is in it, and the subsequent creation of man in the image of God, with a great commission to be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over every other creature, was done through the covenant God instituted by that command. Again, large majority of people even among the Christian fold see and admire the rainbow colours any time it appears in the clouds, but they cannot explain what it stands for. Why did God tell Israel and the church in Isaiah 51:2, to look unto Abraham your father and Sarah that bare you, leaving out people like Seth, Methuselah and Noah who were not only the forefathers of Abraham, but also walked with God? Moses had in his admonition to Israel in the land of Moab just before his demise, urged them to keep the covenant of God so as to prosper in all that they do. Continuing he said, that all of them from the captains of their tribes, the elders, the officers with all the men of Israel, the little ones, the wives and the stranger that is in their camp, from the hewers of their wood and drawers of their water stand this day before the Lord your God. What is amazing is, how did Moses get the inspiration to make mention of the stranger that is in their Camp who had already been made the hewer of their wood and drawer of their water, when there was nothing like that yet? Many people including many Christians do not know that marriage is a covenant which involves God, man and woman. For this cause, they limit marriage as a relationship between two people in which it can easily be called off, once any of the parties is no more interested. Do you know that divorce was instituted by the devil using man and therefore a great sin before God? This ignorance or this act of treating this revered covenant institution with contempt, has devastated so many homes, thereby making so many children not only to have single parents, but also to become drug addicts, touts, criminals, prostitutes, etc. Who on earth will believe that Jesus does not pray for the world, but rather for His covenant brethren and those who will receive His gospel through them? It sounds strange, but it is true. Well, God has by the leadership of His Holy Spirit, directed me to unravel these mysteries and pen them down as I present to the entire Christian family, and the world in general, the secret life of God in this eight (8) letter word called "Covenant". Read the book and see for yourself mysteries that will throw you aback and make you wonder where the entire ignorant humanity is heading to.

John A. Daniel

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to the following people for all their support not only in the writing and publishing of this book, but also in their support towards the success of this Ministry and Bible Training College. I want to first of all thank God for my beloved wife Mary Blessings Daniel, who as my precious gem has truly been fulfilling God's purpose of joining us together which is for her to be my helpmeet and covenant partner. Worthy of mention also, are my lovely and submissive children, Timothy John Daniel, Benjamin Samuel Daniel and David Joseph Daniel whose warfare prayers against the kingdom of darkness and moral support, have always been a great source of inspiration to me.

I thank God also for my begotten son Joshua N. Samuel who like Joshua in the Bible that faithfully served the Lord under Moses, has also faithfully followed the Lord under me. I will also not forget the unflinching support I received from all the Pastors and brethren in this Ministry especially Moses P. Amos and family, Israel Aaron and family, James Daniel, Sister Joseph Agu and Sister Ruth Ndidiamaka Phillips who is in New Jersey, U.S.A.

Finally, I thank God for the moral support, interest and love these families have shown to us, Prince & Mrs. John O. Okoli and family, Mrs. Ngozi Jane Okoli family, Lotanna Okoli Esq. and family, Mr Okezie Daniel Asomugha and family, Barrister (Rtd. Compol) John Okonkwo and family. I implore the good Lord who says, "I will bless he that blesseth thee", to bless these vessels in all their endeavours and cause all of them to be truly converted so as to inherit eternal life in the mighty name of Jesus "Amen".

CONTENTS

1. COVENANT AS THE LIFE GOD LIVES AND THE LANGUAGE HE SPEAKS.
2. SOME DIVINE COVENANTS THAT ARE HUMANLY OR HORIZONTALLY CONNECTED.
3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COVENANT JACOB AND HIS SONS MADE WITH THE SHECHEMITES, AND THAT WHICH THE ISRAELITES MADE WITH THE GIBEONITES.
4. SOME HUMAN OR HORIZONTAL COVENANTS THAT WERE DIVINELY PROTECTED OR PUNISHED.
5. THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENTERING INTO COVENANTS WITH SECRET CULTS OR SOCIETIES, OR OUTSIDE THE WILL OF GOD AND SOLUTIONS.
6. THE COVENANT OF GOD WITH ISRAEL, AND WITH DAVID AS THEIR SECOND AND LAST KING.
7. COVENANT OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE WITH GOD AS THE TESTATOR.
8. THE DUTIES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE TO EACH OTHER IN COVENANT OF MARRIAGE.
9. COVENANT OPENS THE DOOR TO KNOWLEDGE.
10. THE COVENANT OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH HIS CHURCH.
11. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISCIPLES OR SAINTS IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO ONE ANOTHER.
12. KOINONIA, THE BENEFITS OF WORKING IN THE LIGHT AMONG THE COVENANT PARTNERS.
- .

Chapter 1

Covenant As The Life God Lives And The Language He Speaks

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom.10:13-15).

This was Apostle Paul's statement or teaching when he was describing the spiritual state of his people Israel in his letter to the Romans. Why was Israel used as an example? It is because churches from other parts of the world then, or the Gentile churches, regard Israel as the people who not only know their God, but worship Him in spirit and truth. But Paul a Jew, and who as an Apostle of the Gentiles, was used by God to bridge the spiritual gap between the Jews and the Gentiles, wrote to tell the Gentile church that though Israel had great zeal for God (which he could bear them record of in verse 1-3 of the same chapter) but not according to knowledge. What knowledge was Paul talking about? It is the knowledge of God's own righteousness which they have not submitted to, because of their hard belief in the law of Moses. In the same way, I want to use the conversation between the Lord Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4 to describe the poor spiritual state of believers throughout the world.

“Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband. For thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband, in that saidst thou truly.” (John 4:16-18).

This woman of Samaria spiritually represents false worshippers among the Christendom. Why did I say so? The answer is simple. Samaria was the capital of ten out of the twelve tribes of Israel given by God to Jeroboam the son of Nebat the servant of king Solomon, through the prophecy of Ahijah the prophet in I Kings chapters 11 and 12 to govern. Jeroboam their king, not only introduced the worship of idols in Israel, but caused them to break the covenant of God when, in order not to lose his followers to Rehoboam the king of Judah, who had Jerusalem the true place of worship then as his capital, set up two places of false worship in Israel. One was built in Bethel while the other was set up in Dan, and he made priests of the lowest people who were not the sons of Levi to minister in those places. This is what majority of the ministers of God do today, in order not to lose their converts or in order for their members to multiply, set up so many branches and ordain some inexperienced pastors to run them. And these ignorant pastors continue to lead souls to hell because they do not have the anointing. The name Samaria also means a watch mountain while woman spiritually represents the church. This indicates that it is supposed to be a mountain where the children of God keep watch unto the Lord, but it is now turned into a mountain where sacrifices are made unto idols. This is why Jesus said now is the hour to stop worshipping Him there. To have had five husbands with the present sixth man not being the husband, shows that this woman is a great adulteress and also a covenant breaker. A nation that has twelve tribes with ten out of the twelve under the control of Satan or falsehood, shows the extent of deception or satanic influence that is prevalent in the Christian-fold today. If you turn it into a percentage, it is about 83.3%.

Out of the 16.7% of those that remain in Jerusalem, which you might say are into true worship, only 10% have their hearts on God's covenant as can be seen in Isaiah 6:11-13 and Amos 5:3, where God said that only one tenth will not be destroyed out of the multitude of His people. While the rest, 6.7% will still join falsehood or deception because they, like the 83.3%, making it a total of 90% have not entered into a covenant relationship with God, but if they have entered, they have either broken it or they are not keeping it. This is so because, just like the woman of Samaria, who inspite of being with the sixth man, had lost the touch of true love existing in a husband and wife relationship because of adultery, in like manner, large majority of believers worldwide inspite of jumping from this denomination to the other, have totally lost touch with what true worship is. Worshipping God in spirit and truth which the Lord Jesus told the woman of Samaria in verse 23-24 of John 4 as what God is looking for, is only done by those who are not only in covenant with God, but are keeping it. The problem that the Christian community has worldwide, is that large majority of ministers of God are only interested in getting many people whether converted or not, to fill their churches or ministries without teaching their congregation what true worship is all about. Though many of these ministers or preachers were not really sent by God like Paul said, for not being in covenant relationship with God so as to instruct the ignorant what the new covenant says; and which is, that temple worship or organized ceremonial worship has ended with not only the coming of our Lord Jesus, but also with His death and resurrection. They are therefore not sanctified to preach the truth which will cause the entire Christendom to hear and believe the gospel of our Lord Jesus which says,

"Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him." (John 4: 21 & 23)

If we revisit Paul's statement, "...how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" you will realise that it doesn't mean that the Jews have not heard about the Lord Jesus. Afterall they saw Him when He came, preached, got crucified, resurrected and ascended into Heaven. They were also witnesses to the preaching of the other apostles that salvation is through His name. What they have not heard is that believing in the Lord Jesus Christ is what will earn them the righteousness of God, and not keeping the law of Moses like circumcision of the flesh, etc.

Therefore just like Paul who as the Apostle of Righteousness, led the gentile church into circumcision of the heart as a way of keeping the righteousness of God, in the same way I surrender myself as a covenant partner with God to be used by His Spirit to bring to the world in general, and the Christendom in particular the unfolding secret life of God in this one word called "Covenant".

This is the secret which large majority of people in the Christendom, do not know as what will cause them to be gathered unto the Lord in the much talked about "Rapture of the Saints" as the Psalmist said,

"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself (Ps.50:5-6).

God through the Psalm of Asaph, said that His saints should be gathered unto Him. And in order to avoid confusion as to whom should be gathered, He said it is those who have made a covenant with God by sacrificing their blood or flesh which is their will, as a ransom to redeem their soulish bodies. And God will cause the heavens to declare the righteousness of God unto this people or these saints.

Covenant therefore is a Hebrew word, *ōberīyth*, and pronounced as *ber-eethö*, meaning a compact, confederacy, league, but it is *diath k* in Greek, and pronounced as *dee-ath-ay-kay*, meaning a disposition, i.e. a contract, a testament. According to Chambers Dictionary, Covenant means a mutual agreement (interchanged, reciprocal, given and received, common, joint, shared between two or more), the writing containing the agreement, an agreement entered into between God and a person or a people, a dispensation, a testament. Compact on the other hand is a closely placed or fitted together, tightly grouped, not spread out, a league, treaty or union. Confederacy also means a league or alliance, people or states united by a league. From the view of Nelsons New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, covenant means an agreement between two people or two groups that involves promises on the part of each to the other. According to the thinking of Ronald F. Youngblood, the professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Bethel Seminary in San Diego who is the General Editor of this Bible Dictionary, the Hebrew word for *ōCovenantö* probably means *ōbetweennessö*, stressing the nature of relation as a first principle that lies at the foundation of all covenants. Life on its parts means the state of being alive, conscious existence, animate or vegetative existence, the sum of the activities of plants and animals, continuation or procreation of such a state, continued existence, activity, vitality or validity of anything, union of soul and body, the period between birth and death, career, current state of existence, manner of living, social state, social vitality, human affairs, a narrative of a life, a biography, eternal happiness, a quickening principle, that on which continued existence depends, etc. Chambers Dictionary describes Language as a human speech, a variety of speech or body of words and idioms, especially that of a nation, mode of expression, diction, any manner of expressing thought or feeling, an artificial system of signs and symbols, with rules for forming intelligible communications.

To explain this chapter, "Covenant As The Life God Lives And The Language He Speaks" in one sentence, means that this is a mutual agreement entered into between God and the people who have the same manner of living or biography, and also have the same mode of expression that cannot be shared by non members of that agreement. This also shows that there are some signs and symbols that this people will be known with. What this is saying is that the life which God lives and language which He speaks can only be revealed to the people who through this bond called covenant, have agreed to live the same type of life and speak the same language.

There are covenants that have to do with humanity which I could define in this book as being horizontal. Such covenants were either between equals or between a superior and an inferior. However, there are some covenants that are divine and which I can refer to as being vertical. Such covenants are always between a superior and an inferior. The idea of covenant between God and His people is one of the most important truths of the Bible invented by God. Biblically, a covenant signifies much more than a contract or simple agreement. Why? It is simple; a contract always has a date to end, but a covenant is a permanent agreement that does not end except with death. And in most cases, death does not end a covenant as it transcends beyond death to eternity. This is why Paul in his writings to the Hebrews said,

"For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead, otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth (Heb.9:16-17).

The word force is β βαι s in Greek and pronounced as beb'-ah-yos, meaning stable, firm, steadfast, sure. This goes on to prove that covenants are made stable or sure after the death of the parties concerned. However, there are very few covenants like marriage that ends with the death of any of the parties involved as contained in the scriptures,

"For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man" (Rom.7:2-3).

This place is talking about husband and wife. Why? It is because the word bound is the same thing as covenant and the law mentioned here is the law of the Covenant that binds them together as husband and wife. Therefore what Paul is saying is that only death can break such covenant or law. Death of any of the parties causes the living to be free. Another difference between a contract and a covenant is that a contract generally involves only one part of a person, such as a skill or craft, while a covenant covers a person's whole being. Scripturally, all covenants were religiously performed by killing one or more animals and shedding their blood ó (e.g. Gen.8:20, Gen. 15:9-10, Exo.24:5-8, Jer.34:18-20). The importance of this slaying of animals and shedding their blood is reflected in Hebrew's idiom as "cut a covenant", which was translated to mean "made a covenant". The word "cut a covenant", indicates that the life of a living animal, bird or human being was cut short and the blood used as the blood of covenant that is made. Therefore the approval of using the blood of animals or birds to seal the old and earlier covenants before the coming of our Lord Jesus, was a symbol of the new covenant in the blood of Jesus as can be seen here,

"....This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you". (Lk.22:20).

This blood is shed as a sign and seal of our redemption once for all people and for all time as contained in Heb.10:1-19. One thing that strikes the mind about God's covenants with His people is that God is Holy, Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent, but He consents to enter into covenants with people who are weak, sinful and imperfect. Why? This is because, God by entering into a covenant with people, will make them holy so that they can walk and talk like Him. There is no partaking of God's holiness except through the covenant. This is why God chooses not to make covenants with angels, but human beings who are weak, sinful and imperfect so that He will finally bring them to His realm of Holiness, Perfection and Strength. God did not make a covenant with me because I am holy or perfect, never, He rather made a covenant with me because I am weak, sinful and imperfect, therefore He decided to call me, enter into a covenant with me, and perfect my imperfections. Another reason is that He knows I will obey Him, and so He gave me an opportunity so as to prove me. In the Old Covenant or Testament, there are many examples of covenants between people who related to each other as equals, but the New Testament makes a clear distinction between covenants of law and covenants of promise. Paul in his epistle to the Galatians said,

"Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all". (Gal.4:24-26).

Paul spoke of these "two Covenants", saying that one originated from "Mount Sinai", while the other originated from "Jerusalem above". Paul continued by describing the covenant established at Mount Sinai which is the law, as a covenant that leads to bondage and such that ministers death and condemnation (II Cor.3:7-9). Furthermore Paul said that it is a covenant that is difficult, if not impossible to obey because of human weaknesses and sin. However, the "Covenants of promise" mentioned in Ephesians 2:12-13 said,

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world; But now in Christ Jesus ye sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ".

This was established at "Jerusalem above" and they are God's assurances that He will provide salvation in spite of people's inability to keep their side of the agreement because of sin. The provision of a chosen people through which Jesus our Saviour would be born is the promise of the covenant God made with Adam and David as can be seen in these two scriptures,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).

"... And shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Lk.1:31-33).

Jesus is the first seed of the woman to bruise the head of Satan. The covenant God made with Noah, is a promise not to destroy the world and its inhabitants again with flood (Gen.9:11-12). In God's covenant with Abraham, He promised to bless Abraham's descendants because of his faith (Gen.17:6-8). All these covenants of promise may be summed up in one covenant of grace, which was fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. The death of Jesus opened the door for a new covenant under which we are justified or made righteous by God's grace and mercy rather than our human efforts in trying to keep the law. And Jesus is the Mediator of this new and better covenant between God and humanity. There are three symbolic principles in each covenant God makes with His people:-

1. They all originate with God (Gen.9:9-10, Jer.31:22).
2. They are everlasting because God who instituted them, lives forever (Gen.9:16, Gen.17:13&19, Num.25:11-13).
3. They all have visible signs or symbols as a memorial (Gen.9:12-15).

What this is saying is that no man can tell God, "I want to enter into covenant with You". This is so because, on account of sin, human weakness, etc, man will not be able to keep his own part of the covenant. Man can only make a vow unto the Lord and strive to keep it, but not a covenant for no man can keep a covenant without God. And that is why another name for God is Covenant Keeper, because He originates the covenant, He makes it with the person or persons He has chosen, He fulfils His part, and gives man the grace to keep the human part of the Covenant.

Apart from the fact that God's covenants with His people are everlasting because God Himself is an Everlasting Father or lives forever, they all have physical symbols or signs that you can use to remember them. And these symbols or signs can be found in the life of God, and His language that those His covenant people will live and speak. This is why I have chosen to call this chapter, "Covenant As The Life God Lives And The Language He Speaks", because He does nothing with man except through His covenant. And you cannot have the knowledge of His lifestyle and of His language except He initiates you into or makes covenant with you.

"Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey, for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent" (Zeph. 3:8-9).

God told His people to continue to wait upon Him because His determination is that, after He had finished gathering the nations and kingdoms of the world to pour His wrath upon them, He will then turn or reveal to His people a pure language so that they will not only call upon the name of the Lord, but also serve him with one accord. The pure language is not only heavenly, but one pure language of worship that cannot be mixed like or with the language of men. And this can only be revealed to those who through their covenant with God, have patiently waited for the indignation to be over. According to the Psalm of Asaph, the song musician in the Temple of God who had earlier sounded cymbals before the Ark of the Covenant when it was moved from the house of Obed-Edom to Zion in Jerusalem,

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son" (Ps.50:16-20).

God does not hesitate to answer the call of those who are keeping His covenant by sacrificing their will unto Him, and when He delivers them, they show appreciation by glorifying His name. However, He hates the wicked mentioning His word or speaking about His covenant when they have rejected obeying His word. He said that they not only keep company with thieves, fraudsters, etc, but also take part in committing adultery. The wicked here, may not only mean sinners, but even among the professed Christendom, those that indulge in these evil acts are regarded as the wicked whom the Lord is warning

to stop preaching His word and stop deceiving the unbelieving world that they are in covenant with God.

Chapter 2

Some Divine Covenants That Are Humanly Or Horizontally Connected

Divine is "th i s" in Hebrew and pronounced as thi/-os, meaning godlike, godhead. But according to Chamber's Dictionary, divine means belonging to or proceeding from a god, holy, excellent in the highest degree, wonderful, splendid, prescient, having forebodings, etc. Horizontal on its part means relating to the horizon, parallel to the horizon, level, near the horizon, measured in the plane of the horizon, applying equally to all members of a group, aspects of an activity, etc, of relationships between separate groups of equal status or stage of development, etc. What I really want to talk about in this chapter is some covenants God made with either the human race or some separate groups of people, using some individuals as representatives of others in those covenants. But such covenants equally apply to all the members of the human race or that group as it does to their representatives.

God's Covenant With Adam As A Representative Of The Human Race

God's first covenant with humanity was with Adam as a representative of the human race. In this covenant, there were some laid down principles Adam and the entire human race would obey, so as to receive the promises of God. These promises can be found in Gen.1:28-29, which says,

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat".

The promises can be summed up as (a) Be fruitful (b) Multiply (c) Replenish the earth (d) Subdue it by having dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (e) Man is also to have every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every fruit of a tree, yielding seed, as food. I underlined number (c) Replenish the earth so that I can bring out the mystery in the word replenish, and also show man God's love towards us. "Replenish" means to fill again, to fill completely, to stock abundantly, to people. To replenish the earth therefore, indicates that man is to fill the earth again which became empty after the destruction of the former beings (not human) that inhabited it. These beings, probably spirits, were governed by Satan before their fall and banishment to the Bottomless pit where they turned to demons or evil spirits. This is why man was created to fill again the earth, but this time through the bond called "covenant", man is supposed to subdue the entire earth and have dominion over everything in the earth both living and non living. What this means is, that God cannot stop dealing with man or exterminate man from the face of the earth like He did to the other spirit beings that He sent into the Bottomless pit before the creation of man. Even if man sinned against God like humanity has been doing, He will continue to raise other occupants of the earth from the human race and not from other of His creatures. Therefore until man is multiplied to fill the earth completely, and through righteousness subdues it, the covenant is still unfulfilled. This is why God continued to renew the covenant with so many representatives of the human race until His glory or His

righteousness covers the earth through the redemption of His covenant people. This also is why the angels are worried that inspite of man's constant sins, God continued to be mindful of him as you can see David and Paul reciting their feelings in Ps.8:4-8 and Heb.2:6-8. In continuation of God's promises and blessings to mankind, He planted a garden in the eastern part of Eden which spiritually means a delightful church (i.e. it is delightful because it has to be operated only through grace). All the trees God allowed to grow there were pleasant trees (i.e. pleasant or delightful vessels). However for God to know how faithful man will be in obeying His principles, He planted also both the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden (ref. Gen.2:8-17). God also had a river (representing the Holy Spirit) pass through Eden to water the garden (i.e. to provide the word for the church). According to God, man in order to fulfil his own part of the covenant, was supposed to dress the garden (i.e. through intercession and preaching of the good news to the occupants), and to keep it (i.e. by watching over the garden and the inhabitants). God did not leave man without a warning, for He said, eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden, but that of the knowledge of good and evil, do not eat for there is a death sentence hanging on anybody that eats it. This covenant between God and Adam was both vertical and horizontal. The covenant is vertical because it was divinely conceived, divinely decreed, and divinely implemented. Why? It is because God Himself was directly and personally involved. On the other hand, it was horizontal as the covenant was not supposed to stop with Adam. This means that Adam was just a representative of the human race, and it is the human race that God made the covenant with as can be seen here,

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen.1:26-27).

How did the Determinate Counsel of God or the Trinity come about the decision to create man, especially in their own image? The answer is clear in the Scriptures, God had come from His Eternal Abode or Eternity to create the Third Heaven and The Earth, which later became the Second Heaven (ref. Gen.1:1-2). After this, He created Lucifer as the head of both the Angels and the rest of His (God's) creatures at that time. Lucifer was also in charge of the governance of the first Earth now known and called the Second Heaven. He was created with all the beauties of Heaven and had great power, even the power of divine or spiritual procreation (ref. Ezek.28:12-19). Through this divine procreation, he took part in the creation of other spirit beings that inhabited the first earth, just as Adam through natural procreation took part in the creation of the human race meant to replenish the Earth. This was his (Lucifer's) ability to inject his thoughts in the minds of these spirit beings and the fallen angels when he planned his first coup against God. He does not have the power to create human beings, but through this power of spiritual procreation, he brings those evil spirit beings to transform to human beings, so that he could satisfy the heart desire of his faithfuls who are looking unto him to grant their request. When therefore Lucifer and his subjects sinned against God in Isa.14:10-20, the Power of the Trinity threw him down like lightening from the Mountain of God in Heavenly Jerusalem, to the first Earth (i.e. second heaven), and his subjects (i.e. the spirit beings dwelling in that Earth, were all thrown into the Bottomless Pit and they became

demon spirits. This was how the first Earth became empty as the water that submerged the Earth was covered with darkness, probably because of the presence of satan who by then, had turned from light to darkness as the Light of God was withdrawn from him. With the termination of satan's appointment as the governor of the first Earth, and the destruction of that Earth, the Trinity now decided to create man to be like Them (i.e. the Trinity). How are They? They are equal unlike Angels who were not created to be equals and so humanity has to be equal. See what Paul said about Jesus in Phil.2:5-11:

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Jesus is equal with God but for the purpose of redemption of the human race, He accepted to be a Servant or a Son. The only thing in the Trinity is that They have three different functions, but in terms of Personality, it is One Supreme Being (Ref. I Cor.12:4-6). And so Adam was created as one entity, but for the purpose of performing the female part of the function, Eve was brought out. God's second reason is that man was created to replace satan who could not subject himself to the Authority of God, as no Angel is qualified to presently take over from him. This is because since satan is Arch-angel number one, any Angel that tries to usurp authority over him, will invoke the wrath of God who ordained authority channel. But man was created to be higher in power and authority than all other creatures including Angels and satan. Thirdly, the covenant that God made with the human race, had both the male Adam and the female Adam as the representatives, as you can see God saying, "and let them have dominion", also "male and female created he them". What this shows is that God made the covenant with just two people, as those that will continue to multiply until they are able to replenish the earth. Again, instead of exterminating the human race from the face of the earth when their head, the male Adam sinned like He did to those spirit beings, the female Adam will serve as an avenue for God to continue with a new covenant. The basis of any covenant is to give and not to receive, and that is why in any covenant relationship there must also be a sacrifice. Covenant or Testament is effective after sacrifices are made. However, God accepts no sacrifice from man that has no blood, which for us in the New Testament is your human will (i.e. anything that is done outside the leadership of God's Spirit, is not acceptable before Him).

According to Apostle Paul,

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom.12:1).

"Living sacrifice" can simply be defined as a life put on the altar, with no more will or desire than a dead animal, which is ready to be consumed in the service of God, a heart attitude of absolute and unquantified surrender. What Paul meant by this statement, is that until you are ready to have a heart attitude of absolute and unquantified surrender of your will through much tribulations, reproaches, famines, persecutions, etc., for the sake of Christ, your sacrifices will not be holy, they will not be acceptable, and they will not

be a reasonable service. This is because the life of the flesh is in the blood and it is only the blood that can be used to make reconciliation between God and man as stated in these scriptures,

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof, whosoever eateth it shall be cut off” (Lev. 17:11,14).

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22).

This blood is the same with human will and God said that whosoever will eat the blood of any flesh shall be cut off. For us now, it means that whoever will not drop his human will at the feet of our Lord Jesus as a ransom for the redemption of his own soulish body, will eventually perish because the will of man is in his blood. It is only the blood that can be used to redeem the sin of man. As for the will of man, anything you do without getting a clear approval from the Spirit of God, is your will. And such things are not holy, they are not acceptable unto God because they are not God's perfect will, and finally they are not a reasonable service because God did not give you rhema to do it. By the way rhema means the voice of God or the word of God spoken to a particular person, at a specific time for a specific purpose. Like I said earlier that the basis of covenant is what you give and not what you receive, God immediately started giving out what He has, together with the pleasures of life to man. First, He told man to name all the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, etc. He did not stop at that, He made man to sleep and out of His own good initiative, He created and gave man the best gift man can ever think of, and that is the woman, to be a help meet (i.e. an aide or a suitable or qualified assistant) to the man (Gen.2:18-25). God kept coming down daily to have an intimate fellowship with them. Adam and Eve in fulfilling their own part of the covenant so as to reciprocate God's good gesture, were supposed to keep away from eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, so that they will not be self willed or walk according to the wisdom of the world. All this is now history as they broke the covenant of father/son relationship by eating the forbidden fruit, and became naked. (Gen.3:1-11). Let us see what they did when they knew that they were naked,

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked: and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons” (Gen.3:7).

Whether biblically or in the dream, for one to see himself naked, means that the person is in sin. As soon as they discovered that they were in sin, they made aprons (i.e. a loincloth or girdle that apparently covered the front of one's body) with fig leaves to cover their nakedness. These aprons which signify the righteousness of Adam and Eve or man's or self righteousness, are what the Lord through the mouth of prophet Isaiah called "filthy rags".

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isa.64:6).

Apart from the grievous nature of the sin of Adam and Eve, this act of seeking for their own righteousness so as to cover their sins without true repentance and confession, is very common in the Christendom. Many commit grievous sins and when they realize that they are in sin like Adam and Eve, some will just repent while some will even fast and pray, but after some time they find themselves committing the same sin. What they are doing is that they are seeking for their own righteousness which is not based on the word of God. See God's standard of how such sins are dealt with;

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov.28:13).

"Confess your faults (sins) one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas.5:16).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn.1:9).

You must repent and confess your sins not only to God, but to people especially your fellow Christian brethren who can also help in praying for your healing or deliverance. And then forsake such sins (forsake means to abandon or to desert). For the scripture to say "confesseth and forsaketh", it means a continual process. As often as you find yourself in such grievous sins, you keep on confessing and forsaking it. By doing so, you will be healed or delivered because you are exposing the demons and allowing yourself to be humbled through reproaches from people and God will be merciful unto you, and allow you to succeed or prosper. That you are prospering financially or materially with an unrepented, unconfessed and unforsaken sin, is not divine prosperity at all. God is just allowing the devil to prepare you as a Christmas goat getting ready to be slaughtered, and it will be disastrous the day He will judge you (ref. Prov.28:14, Prov.29:1). Whenever you start seeking for your own righteousness, you are breaking the covenant of God, and acting like Adam and Eve in their fallen nature. Due to the fact that the covenant between God and Adam was vertical, He pronounced the sentence of death on Adam for breaking it, apart from other punishments of cursing the ground and making Adam to till it as a way of feeding himself.

"And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return" (Gen.3:17,19).

Adam's greatest problem was to listen to the wife's evil counsel. If he had not taken the counsel of Eve like Job who rejected the counsel of the wife to curse God, he wouldn't have fallen from the glory of God and the human race will not be going through these pains. This will serve as a warning to many people especially Ministers of God. On the side of the woman, God decided to modify or renew the covenant by placing on her shoulders, the responsibility of watching the home, and keeping the enemy whom she allowed into God's covenant institution, permanently out of their home as stated here,

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” (Gen. 3:15-16).

In this statement, God entered into a new covenant with humanity using the woman as a representative of human race. Some may ask, "how can this statement or curse be the covenant God made with the human race after the fall of Adam"? In answering this question, it is important to note that I had earlier said in chapter 1 of this book, "That all vertical or divine covenants have visible signs or symbols as a memorial". For a clear understanding, let us see the symbol of God's covenant with the male Adam.

"And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of the Man” (Gen.2:18, 22-23).

Therefore the promise by God to make a help meet (i.e. the Woman) for Adam so as to end his loneliness is the symbol. And for this to be possible, God acted according to Heb.9:17 which says,

"For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth”.

By this statement from the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Paul, God had to cause a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept, which spiritually means that God caused Adam to die and when he died, not only did God create him a perfect man full of bones and flesh, which is what Jesus is today, but through that death, the covenant became effective with the creation of Eve as a symbol of God's covenant with Adam. Therefore the Woman is a symbol of God's covenant with the Man. When therefore Adam aided by Eve broke the covenant, God now turned to Eve and said, My new covenant with the human race is now vested on your shoulders as a representative, and you will sorrowfully produce a physical seed as a symbol of My covenant with you, and who also will help you to bruise the head of Satan. Therefore for the woman to bruise the head of Satan or to overcome or subdue or have dominion over Satan, she must sorrowfully bring forth children who are the symbol of her new covenant with God, she must totally depend on the man or husband to provide all that she needs, and finally, the husband must have dominion or must rule over her. When these things are done, the seed of the woman which spiritually is the Word of God will bruise the head of Satan and the woman will overcome. In any case, a much clearer way of seeing and understanding that God's new covenant with humanity is through the woman as a representative of the human race can be found here,

“How long will thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? For the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man” (Jer.31:22).

The word woman here is *ōCêbelö* in Hebrew and pronounced as say/-bel, meaning a load, (fig:-) burden, charge, while the word *ōcompassö* according to Chambers Dictionary means to pass or go round, to surround or enclose, to grasp, comprehend, to bring about, accomplish, achieve or obtain, to continue or plot, to curve, bend, etc. What this is saying, is that a woman which spiritually does not just mean a wife, but the female man, or the weaker part of man, or the younger man, takes over after the fall of the older or the elder man as the load carrier, burden bearer, the one who is in charge spiritually as she surrounds, encloses, grasps, comprehends and helps to bring about changes in the elder man. She is the one that God uses to accomplish, achieve or obtain first, what He would have used the elder man to do being the first creature in human race. When God finished making the covenant with the woman, He sealed it with a sacrifice and the shedding of blood to make it to be very effective as contained in Heb.9:15-17, by killing probably two or more animals thereby using their blood to remit the sins of Adam and Eve (ref. Heb.9:22).

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Gen.3:21).

The skins of these animals which God killed were used by Him to make coats for Adam and Eve. The shedding of those animals' blood which remitted the sins of Adam and Eve, made it possible for them to stand righteously before the Lord and the door of fellowship with God was once more opened, but this time, it was outside the Garden of Eden. The first covenant God made with Adam could not stand because no sacrificial blood was used to seal it as they were still living in their glory. What this is saying is that the term, *ōthe elder shall serve the youngerö*, was instituted by God as His covenant with humanity after the fall of man, so that through humbling of the younger man in bearing the burden of the elder, He will restore the elder back to his position after redemption. This is also why Jesus kept saying, *ōthat many of the first, shall be the last, and the last shall be firstö* (Matt.19:30, Mk.10:31). One who closely studies the Word of God will see that the right hand anointing always belongs to the younger. By virtue of physical or natural birth, the elder is supposed to be the one that this belongs to, but according to the covenant God instituted after the fall of the elder man, and also by the law of adoption which has its root through that covenant, this right hand anointing belongs to the younger, as God uses her to carry the load of her elder brother, and redirects the elder to the original plan of God. Like I said earlier, the symbolic principle in the covenant God made with the younger or female Adam (i.e. the woman), is that she will sorrowfully produce a physical seed (i.e. man child) who is to fight the battle for her as both the male and female Adam have lost their strength/authority to the enemy through eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

After the destruction of the first physical earth, Noah and his family, together with all the living creatures that were saved, came to the new or present earth, and Noah in appreciation of God's love and mercy towards him and his family, decided to seek God and have the presence of God around him. For this cause, Noah built an altar unto the Lord,

“And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour: and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done” (Gen.8:20-21).

God had been mourning in Gen.6:1-7 for creating man who has unceasingly been sinning against Him. This made Him for once to overlook His word that says, *“Multiply and Replenish the earth”*. Therefore out of His wrath, He decided to wipe man and everything He created from the face of this earth since man has refused to subdue and have dominion. Rather choosing to live according to the dictates of satan and his agents and thereby multiplying sinful men and their sinful creatures on earth. But God in His infinite wisdom and mercy, made sure that His covenant with the human race through Adam as the representative, and later continued with Eve, was not broken as one man and his family of eight (8) souls altogether found favour before God for having walked according to God’s statutes. In appreciation of this gesture, Noah built this altar and took the best of the animals and birds, and offered an acceptable burnt offering unto the Lord. I called it an acceptable, because all the things he used in the sacrifice were clean and they had blood which was used to usher them into a new earth, and pave the way for the covenant God made with Noah. For once after a long time, God smelled a sweet savour and became so pleased that He has been able to find a man who with his family, understood how to obey Him. And for this reason, He entered into a covenant not only with humanity, but with every living creature using Noah as a representative.

“And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth” (Gen.9:11-16). For the sake of Noah and his family who were the representative of mankind, God promised not to destroy the earth again with flood, and went further to enter into a covenant relationship with humanity and other living creatures. The main purpose of this covenant between God and all living creatures using Noah as a point of contact, is a divine decree to suspend the destruction of the earth and all living creatures while the process for the salvation of those among the human race who through receiving the Lord Jesus as the Righteousness of God, have agreed to be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue and through perfect love (i.e. instant obedience to the word of God) have dominion over all other creatures including the devil, is going on. Immediately this group among the human race who will replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion over other creatures that includes satan, are multiplied to the number God ordained and redeemed, the wrath of God will be poured once more upon the earth for its destruction. Therefore let this serve as a warning to those who think or believe that God has left this earth to the fate of the inhabitants. No, far be it, as soon as there is a redemption of the

man-child company who as overcomers will not only have dominion over all other creatures, but will ascend to 2nd Heaven to throw down satan and his cohorts to this earth, the judgment of God will fall upon those left behind. The symbol of God's covenant with all creatures using Noah as a point of contact is the rainbow. The rainbow is a reminder to both God and His creatures; to the creatures, it reminds them that God is waiting and therefore no amount of rain or flood will destroy the earth until the appointed time. And to God, it reminds Him that the earth cannot be destroyed again, until the total redemption of those who have fruitfully been multiplied to replenish the earth and subdue it by having dominion over other creatures.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Abraham the Syrian was living in Ur of the Chaldees, the Iraq of today with Sarah his wife, Tera his father, and other relatives when God called him and said,

"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen.12:1-3).

God had commanded Abraham to depart from his father's house, his kindred, his country, to an unknown land. And he promised to make of Abraham a great nation, to bless him and his descendants and make his name great. He said further that Abraham will be a channel through which God's blessings could flow to the rest of the world, as God promised to bless those that will bless Abraham and His descendants, and curse those that will curse them. And for us now God says you must separate from everything that has to do with the cultures or traditions of your father's house, your kindred, your country, to an unknown land which is the land of Canaan, and which means that your vessel will be consecrated or dedicated unto God as that of humiliation, humility, of low degree, submission, etc. to the Word of God after your total separation from these places. And as you depart or separate, you will remain faithful to God by obeying Him without going back to those traditions and cultures you have left behind. It is by keeping to these standards that God will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you, and God will become an adversary to all thine adversaries. With the appearance of God to Abraham in a vision, to reassure him of His (God's) promises, and how Abraham should be fearless, he quickly protested to God that he was not too sure this could be a reality since he had no child. God told him not to worry that his children shall be numbered as the stars of heaven. And Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Gen.15:1-7). When therefore God reminded him that He brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees to give him the land of Canaan to inherit, Abraham doubted and said, *"Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (Gen.15:8)*. On hearing this, God said, let us cement the relationship, and He told Abraham what and what to bring, and what to do as He said,

“Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another; but the birds divided he not. And when the fowls (principalities) came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river of Euphrates” (Gen.15:9-18).

God's final commitment to do anything with man is in Covenant. In other words, covenant represents a final, irrevocable commitment. Once it is made, it cannot be revoked or broken, if broken, the covenant breaker is faced with a divine sentence of death which will manifest at God's appointed time. After God had finished making the covenant with Abraham, He no longer spoke in the future tense. That is, He stopped saying, *“I will give you it”*, rather He began to say, *“I have given you it”*. Covenant has therefore finally and forever settled it as you can see in Gen.15:18. This is exactly what Paul was explaining to the Jews when he wrote to them and said,

“For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil” (Heb.6:16-19).

The end of strife, doubt, unbelief, anxiety, fear of infidelity is in Covenant. Once it is made and confirmed, it becomes a strong consolation for the parties concerned, and an anchor (i.e. something that gives stability or strength or security) which they can always hope on. When we take a look at the method in which God entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham apart from the fact that it was God who told Abraham to kill the sacrificial animals, and divide them into two pieces, but then it was Abraham's responsibility to drive away the fowls (principalities and powers, or other kinds of evil spirits) that came to eat the carcasses as contained in Gen.15:11. Truly God is the One that ordained the animals to be used for the sacrifice, but to keep them intact until the covenant is finally made was the job of Abraham. Just like the case with us in the Christendom, God has chosen and ordained the vessels He wants to be in covenant relationship with, and to some, He has even made the covenant with them, to others, He will still enter into such covenant, but it is the duty of anyone that is in covenant relationship with God, to keep the devil out of his or her life by resisting him and keeping yourself undefiled from the world and its system. Those fowls or demonic birds had come to eat the carcasses so as to stop the sacrifice, and hinder Abraham from reaping

the benefits of the covenant. Likewise, it is important to know that there are some devilish birds or principalities and powers that have been assigned by the devil to hinder you from performing or keeping your own part of the covenant by trying to eat your carcase (i.e. causing you to lust after the things of the world and thereby refusing to suffer with Christ or sacrifice your will). By this act, you will be robbed of your benefits which have been provided by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross. No matter how many times you are attacked by doubt, unbelief or fear, it is your duty to keep your body as a sacrificial object intact, by obeying the Word of God. Another very important spiritual experience Abraham went through as a matured, committed believer, and which we must have to go through individually as his descendants, could be found in Gen.15:12,

“and when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.”

öThe going down of the sunö, could be likened to a process of spiritual growth in which mature Christians go through periods of spiritual darkness. This is part of God’s plan because it is intended not only to cause you to be humble, but to add to your total spiritual experience. The scripture unveils another mystery in verse 17, as Abraham, having been matured in the things of God, enters into a great spiritual slumber, as he experiences a smoking furnace which typifies intense sufferings. There are some stubborn demons in you that can only go out in this furnace of affliction. However, one encouraging thing which shows that God was and is still in charge is the öburning lampö. This lamp which represents the presence of the Holy Spirit shows that as you pass through that intense suffering, God is the One allowing this to happen so that as you are tested and refined, you will come out as a precious metal or vessel of honour. It is important to note that precious metals or vessels of honour are never purified without intense heat or burning which are what trials, persecutions or tribulation, etc stands for. Therefore your reaction in this furnace of affliction will determine your final destiny, because it is in it (i.e. furnace of affliction) that vessels of dishonour are known as they usually will leave and run away. It is after you have gone through this intense suffering and become successful, that verse 18, which says, öI have given this and that to youö, will become a reality. What I mean is that the promises of covenant relationship start manifesting after the intense suffering as your obedience to the word of God is fully guaranteed since the chaff or idols in you must have given way for the precious ornament or vessel. Like I stated earlier, there is always a symbolic sign in each covenant, and in God’s covenant with Abraham, it is the circumcision of the foreskin or flesh.

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant” (Gen.9:10-14).

And so this is the symbol of the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants whether Jew or Gentile. Therefore by virtue of this covenant God made with Abraham, any man from any part of the world who has this symbol in his foreskin or flesh, must trace his descent to Abraham. Finally it is worthy to note that these symbols come after the covenant is cemented as you can see in Gen.17:23-27.

Chapter 3

The Relationship Between The Covenant Jacob And His Sons Made With The Shechemites, And That Which The Israelites Made With The Gibeonites.

I have often read and wondered why God should allow Joshua and the princes of Israel to be deceived as they entered into a covenant with the Gibeonites who as the Hivites, were one of the nations God warned them not to enter into any covenant with. Some people may say it is because Joshua did not seek counsel at the mouth of the Lord, but there is more that the eye cannot easily catch, to this. And it is that more that the Lord Holy Spirit wants to unravel through me. I urge the readers to follow the mysteries as they unfold or open.

After the meeting of Jacob and his sons with Esau and his sons in Padan-aram, where they reconciled their differences having lost contact with each other for many years because of the way Jacob supplanted Esau, Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem in the land of Canaan and brought a parcel of field from the children of Hamor where he erected a tent for himself and his family, and also an altar for God.

“And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan-aram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it El-e-lohe-Israel” (Gen. 33:18-20).

A closer look at this scripture, will show that Jacob was very conscious of whom he was. He knew he was in covenant relationship with God, and that both himself and his sons had the symbol of that covenant which is circumcision in their foreskin, and for this cause, they were always supposed to be separated from the uncircumcised. This was why he bought a land which was not in the city (camp or the system) but in the field (which is a symbol of separation or Zion). He had both his own tent or house, and the House of the Lord erected in the field to show his willingness to keep the covenant of God, by continuing in the separation God had demanded from Abraham and his descendants when He called Abraham and later entered into a covenant with him and his seed. Another mystery here, which will later be unveiled in this chapter, is that Jacob bought the parcel of field at the hand of the children of Hamor for hundred pieces of money. Now one hundred in God’s Arithmetic of Numbers is the *öElectö*, and by this, God meant that not only have the children of Israel been divinely elected to inherit the land, but that the Shechemites have also been chosen or divinely elected to dwell in the land with them (the children of Israel) by becoming the descendants or seed of Abraham, and the children of God through the circumcision they later did. The buying of the land indicated that they have also divinely been bought as slaves or bondmen as we will see in this chapter. The Lord allowed the children of Jacob to have this contact with the Shechemites because He had ordained that Jerusalem, which was called Shalem then, and in the land of the Shechemites, will be His (God’s) Headquarters on earth. Though He planned or had

promised to give the seed of Abraham that land, but not by force as He purposed in His mind to unite the Israelites and Shechemites not only to be one, but together, to be the seed of Abraham whom He promised will inherit the land.

“And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her. And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel. And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife. And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter, now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come” (Gen.34:1-5).

This Hamor the father of Shechem was a Hivite, but he was the king of the country called Shechem. When therefore Shechem the prince of the country and son of Hamor, saw Dinah the daughter of Jacob who came out of her father's tent which was in the field, to see the daughters of the land, he took her and lay with her and defiled her. The word *took* here is *Lâqach* in Hebrew, and pronounced as LAW-KAKHö, meaning to take, accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, etc. If you take a closer look at the meanings of the word *took* in this part of the scripture, you will see that what transpired between Shechem and Dinah was not by force, but an act of lust and enticement on both sides, and therefore should not be regarded as rape. Jacob and his family were dwelling in the field while Shechem and his father together with the inhabitants of the land were dwelling in the city. If Dinah had kept to their separation without lusting after the city's life and the people of the city, Shechem the prince, would not have seen her to lust after her, talkless of defiling her. This should serve as a serious note of warning to the remnants who are separated unto the Lord in Zion, not to lust after the life of those in the camp or system, or desire to go back to the system. Why? If you do, you will be defiled like Dinah in the system by the prince of this world and his agents, and you will lose your virginity or chastity. In any case, Shechem had the intention of marrying her as can be seen in verses 3 to 4 where it is said that his soul clave (i.e. stuck or adhered or united) unto Dinah and Shechem loved her and spake kindly to her. Therefore his intention was not just to be with her and defile her, but because there was no covenant of marriage between both of them prior to this act, he invoked the wrath of Jacob and his children who believed that Shechem had committed an abomination by defiling their sister.

“And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her to wife. And make ye marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you. And ye shall dwell with us; and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein.” (Gen.34:8-10).

This could further prove how desirous Hamor and his sons were, as they believe that this marriage if accepted by Jacob and his sons, will open the door of intermarriage and international relationship with the Israelites, and also boost their economy as both nations will have great possessions which is great profit from their trade relationship, and they could live together in the same land.

“And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister: And they said unto them, we cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised (not in covenant with us and our God); for that were a reproach unto us: But in this we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised; Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone. And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor’s son” (Gen. 34:13-18).

The statement, *ōif ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcisedō*, indicates that if the Shechemites will agree to enter into the same covenant Jacob and his sons were into with God, through the covenant God made with Abraham, which symbol is circumcision, then they will inter-marry, dwell together and become one people.

“And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city” (Vs 24).

This sentence, *ōevery male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his cityō*, means that all the males went contrary to the law of their land. Which is to say that they walked contrary to their custom by consenting to this circumcision. But it was an act of God so that He could fulfil His plans and purposes as Hamor and his son Shechem, together with other leaders and all the men of the city of Shechem agreed with the condition offered unto them by the sons of Jacob. When eventually they circumcised themselves, they became initiated into the same covenant God made with Abraham as can be seen in Gen.17:9-13, and through this process became the descendants of Abraham too like Jacob and his sons. By giving up their own custom, and surrendering to the will or standard of God, the Shechemites were supposed to dwell together with the Israelites, inter-marry, and become one people. But the two sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi dashed this hope and thought they could stop the purposes of God which was predestined to be, as they became uncontrollable in their actions:

“And it came to pass on the third day, when they (i.e. the Shechemites) were sore (i.e. from the circumcision), that two sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males. And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house, and went out. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the field; And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house” (vs.25-29).

Simeon and Levi, out of great wrath and ignorance of what covenant signifies, entered the city with their swords and slew all the men of Shechem who through the circumcision, still had sores on their skin and spoiled their city after they had taken Dinah their sister out of Shechem's house. They also looted the city, taking with them, their (the Shechemites) sheep, oxen, asses, all their wealth, their little ones and wives. Their father Jacob, was not only furious that his children had broken the marriage covenant between Dinah his daughter and Shechem the son of Hamor, and the covenant of unity between them and the people of Shechem, but was also afraid that this act of his children will cause other nations dwelling around Shechem to wage war against them, Jacob and his children were however saved by God as they relocated to Bethel but he continued to be in agony of what Simeon and Levi did. And so when the old man Jacob surnamed Israel by God, was pronouncing his last blessings and instructions to his sons before his demise, God in His infinite wisdom, used him (Jacob) to place a curse on Simeon and Levi for breaking the covenant of God and that of brotherhood as he said,

"Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self will they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel" (Gen.49:5-7).

I decided to underline, ōI will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israelō, so as to bring out the spiritual meaning of that statement. Jacob means supplanter and to supplant means to oust, to supersede, to dispossess and take the place of, to overthrow, to lay low, to uproot, while Israel means to rule with or as God, soldier with or of God. This therefore means that God will in the cause of dividing them, overthrow or oust or dispossess them of their portion or inheritance or allow another tribe to take their places. ōAnd to scatter them in Israelō, means that for them to rule with God, or to be soldiers of Christ, they must be scattered throughout the world.

In explaining how this was fulfilled, let us revisit what transpired in the life of Reuben the first son of Israel.

"And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Israel heard it." (Gen.35:22)

By this abominable act of sleeping with Bilhah, the maid of Rachel and Jacob's concubine, Reuben did not only sin against his father, but also God, and for this, he lost the double portion which was his due right as the firstborn.

"Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch." (Gen. 49:3-4).

This was the curse pronounced on Reuben by his aged father for sleeping with his father's concubine. The position of kingship and priesthood which is the double portion, was supposed to be an automatic portion of Simeon the second son since Reuben the rightful owner had lost it, but then Simeon too, lost it because of the curse placed on them (i.e. himself and Levi) by their father for breaking the covenant of unity between the Israelites and Shechemites. Levi the third son got the priesthood while Judah the fourth son got the kingship. If not for the curse on Levi too, he would have got the double portion of kingship and priesthood, but he got the lesser which was for priesthood since Israel their father in Gen.49:6 had said, "O my soul, come not thou into their secret, unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united" (Gen. 49:6).

He neither wanted his spirit or soul to rest in their assembly, nor his honour (i.e. the Lion of the tribe of Judah, which is the Lord Jesus) to come from their habitation. It is very important to note that kingship should come before priesthood but God reversed it. Simeon was supposed to be king like I earlier said, while Levi would have received the priesthood. When God bypassed Simeon after Reuben's punishment, the position of kingship would have been the lot of Levi as the next in order or seniority, but he too, lost it to Judah who received kingship and Levi the elder, got priesthood which is lesser. And again, his priesthood did not continue forever, but ended in the Old Testament or Covenant. In any case, Simeon who lost his due portion received his own inheritance, but Levi who got his portion as a priest, did not have any inheritance like their brethren as the Lord became their inheritance. This is proved in the scripture here as the Lord said,

"The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance. Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them." (Deut.18:1-2).

This was the beginning of God's vengeance on these two sons of Jacob (Israel) who were named instruments of cruelty by their father, for breaking the covenant of God. What the sons of Jacob rejected, which was to dwell with the Shechemites, who were the Hivites, inter-marry, and become one people with them, and which also made them to destroy all the males that were circumcised at that time, God the covenant keeper did. First, God drew His plan on how to lead the children of Israel to the promised land after His covenant with them at Mount Sinai, as a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation. This plan was handed over to an Angel who was to lead them, with some strict instructions or warnings which they were to obey. The warnings were; *"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an adversary unto thine adversaries. For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works; but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee"* (Exo. 23:19-24, 28, 32-33).

And from this instructions here, it became very clear that God did not want the children of Israel to enter into any covenant with all these nations mentioned here (i.e. Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, Jebusites), and also with other nations that were round about the land they were going to possess. Meanwhile, those little ones and the wives of the Shechemite men taken captive by the sons of Jacob in Gen.34:29, have grown, inter-married with the Israelites, multiplied to become a nation and settled in a hilly city called Gibeon which was in the land of Hivite. They also chose to be called the Gibeonites; all this was God unfolding a new drama into this mystery word called ðcovenantö. And so when Moses the servant of God called unto Israel in the land of Moab to pass God's last instructions to them before his demise, he prophetically told them that they will have strangers in their camp who will be hewers of wood and drawers of water. Hear him;

“Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. Ye stand this day all of you before the Lord your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel. Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water” (Deut.29:9-11).

After the death of Moses, Israel led by Joshua the commander in obedience to Moses's instructions, continued with their conquests without compromising the commandment of God until after they had destroyed Ai. Fear gripped all the nations around and they (i.e. those nations), being moved by satan, quickly formed a league to fight Israel. While the Hivites who were the inhabitants of Gibeon inspired by God who was bent on bringing into reality the covenant the Gibeonites forefathers called the Shechemites, made with the Israelites, and broken by Simeon and Levi, in the same subtle way which the sons of Jacob destroyed their forefathers (i.e. Hamor, Shechem and all the males who got circumcised), deceived Joshua and the princes of Israel. The over-zealous Joshua the commander of Israel's army thought that he had arrived by his exploits or conquests of Jericho and Ai, and therefore failed to ask counsel at the mouth of the Lord, choosing rather to lean on his own understanding by trusting the Gibeonites instead of seeking for what God was saying through the high priest, finally made a league with them contrary to the Word of God, as can be seen here;

“And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai; They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, we be come from a far country: now therefore

make ye a league with us. And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? And they said unto Joshua, we are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, who are ye? And from whence come you? And they said unto him, from a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the Lord thy God: for we have heard the name of him, and all that he did in Egypt. And the men (i.e. princes of Israel) took of the victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord. And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them. And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we swore unto them. And the princes said unto them, let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all congregation; as the princes had promised them. And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the Lord, even unto this day, in the house which he should choose.” (Josh.9:3-9, 14-16, 20-21, 27).

A careful study on this part of the scripture, will show that God the Covenant Keeper, was really in action. It is said that, “*he that leadeth into captivity must go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword,*” the sons of Jacob led by Simeon and Levi, through subtilty not only destroyed the Shechemites and broke the covenant of God, but also led the little ones and the wives of those killed in captivity. In the same way, God inspired the Gibeonites who were the rejuvenated, resettled and reunited descendants of the Shechemites to deceive Joshua and the princes of Israel so as to renew the broken covenant, and have themselves (i.e. Gibeonites) reintegrated into the Commonwealth of Israel, and the covenant of promise with God. And as we can see, they did this by claiming that they were ambassadors who came from a far country, and had come to congratulate Joshua and his company for all their conquests. But in the process, they subtly lured Israel with gifts that pervert the heart of the righteous, to enter into a league or covenant with them contrary to the commandment of God. Joshua and the princes of Israel being enticed with gifts, consented unto them after a little interrogation, and made a league with them, not to kill them, but to let them live. After three days which is the number for resurrection, the buried truth was revealed and the men of Israel found out that they had disobeyed God by entering into covenant with the Hivites who were really those that inhabited Gibeon (ref. Josh 11:19). The Gibeonites pleaded and asked to be made bondmen when the truth was revealed to avoid being destroyed. The princes of Israel led by Joshua, after resisting pressures from the congregation to kill the Gibeonites, placed a curse on them to be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto the congregation of Israel and the House of God in fulfilment of the prophecy of Moses. Like I said earlier that when the sons of Jacob killed the men of Shechem who were the Hivites, they had spared their little ones and their wives, and took them captive (Gen. 34:29). It will therefore be recalled once more, that it was this set of young ones that grew up, got married and later became those Hivites that inhabited Gibeon, popularly called the Gibeonites. So in a way, it was a renewal of the covenant which their forefathers known by then as the Shechemites made with Jacob and his sons, and which

Simeon and Levi broke, that they (the Gibeonites) entered afresh with the Israelites who were not only the descendants of Jacob, but also of Simeon, Levi and other patriarchs. It is important also to note that God had allowed Simeon and Levi to stop the first covenant the Shechemites wanted to enter with Jacob and his sons because the Shechemites had secretly planned to make them (i.e. Jacob and his sons) bondmen after the covenant (ref. Gen.34:23). And because God had sworn to Abraham that his seed shall not be bondmen except to Egypt, which He will later judge, but a possessor of their enemy's gates, He allowed Simeon and Levi to kill the Shechemites and stop their evil plan of enslaving Israelites. Remarkably, God does not allow His covenant people who are keeping His commandments to be bondmen or slaves to unbelievers, so in the time of Joshua God inspired the Shechemites but known then as the Gibeonites to make a league with Israel as their (Israel's) bondmen forever, which is the way it ought to be. The curse pronounced on the Gibeonites by Joshua (ref. Josh.9:23) was an act of God, and also an extension of Jacob's curse on Simeon and Levi, that they will be divided in Jacob. From the moment they entered into this covenant, it became the responsibility or duty of Israel to fight for them and seek for their welfare (ref. Josh.10:1-end). The punishment for Joshua and all Israelites for entering into this covenant relationship with the Gibeonites was the refusal of the Angel of God to drive out all the inhabitants of the land which they finally possessed (Judg.2:1-8). The children of Israel much later, had the tabernacle of the congregation (Outer Court) pitched in Gibeon, while the tabernacle of David which had the Holy place and the Most Holy Place was erected and kept in Zion. But before then, there is a big lesson for every reader of this book to learn so as to be careful never to break any covenant believing it doesn't matter. Before the ascension of David to the throne as the king of Israel, Saul who then was king, out of over-zealousness, fought and killed many of the Gibeonites thereby breaking the covenant of God again (II Sam.21:1-2). Now when David became king after the death of Saul, Jonathan and many of his armies, God sent famine in the land of Israel for three consecutive years, until David sought the face of the Lord. When he learnt what caused the famine, he repented for himself and on behalf of all Israel, sent for the Gibeonites and sought to know what he could do so that the Gibeonites will pray for Israel and bless them so as to end the long and painful plight of the Israelites. Look at their request;

"Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, what shall I do for you? And wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the Lord? And the Gibeonites said unto him, we will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, what ye shall say, that will I do for you. And they answered the king, the man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel. Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord did choose, and the king said, I will give them" (II Sam.21:3-6).

In spite of the fact that Saul was dead before the revelation of what he did, God made David the king to grant the request of the Gibeonites which says that seven (7) men from the family of Saul should be given to them, and they will hang them unto the Lord in Gibeah. This is the only condition that will cause the plague of famine in Israel because of the covenant Saul broke, to cease. Since Saul as the king, was the head of all Israel, and because the Gibeonites' covenant was with the whole Israel, the entire nation paid the price through this punishment of famine for three years until the truth was revealed and also dealt with. Therefore breaking this covenant of unity between the Israelites and Gibeonites, the children of Israel had to depend on the people they regard as their slaves to pray and bless them before God could forgive them. If you break a covenant you have with someone, there's no healing except you go back to the person, repent and the person will pray for you so that you will be healed and restored. This should be an eye opener or serve as a deterrent to many people both believers and unbelievers who do not regard covenant as anything. Will you pause a while and check the covenant you made with God or any other person, believer or unbeliever which you have broken, because this is contributing to your problems. A lot of families are going through some ancestral problems because of the covenants their fathers, or grandfather, or great-grandfathers, who were heads of those families, made and broke when they were alive. These have started affecting the new generation of those families, and the living are the ones paying the price. Therefore in order to be saved, you will enter into a new covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ who will protect you from the curse or punishment of the former. David in order to avoid a repetition of what Saul did, was used by God before his demise, to fulfil the curse of dividing Levi in Jacob, when he divided the sons of Levi and gave them functions in both the tabernacle of the congregation which was then in Gibeon, and the tabernacle of David which was in Zion (ref I Chron. 23:6-32). He (David) further divided the priesthood for the two remaining sons of Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar. Eleazar who became high priest after the death of Aaron his father, got sixteen priests from his lineage who were ministering in the Holy Place which was in Zion, while Ithamar got eight priests from his lineage who were ministering in the tabernacle of the congregation to both the Gibeonites whom they rejected being in covenant relationship with, and to other strangers (ref. I Chron. 24:1-31). These sons of Levi who were ministers of God in the tabernacle of the congregation, through teaching and preaching unto the Gibeonites and other strangers, circumcision both in the flesh and in the heart (i.e. water and Holy Ghost baptisms) which is like repentance and conversion so as to become the children of God, miracles, healings and deliverances, etc, became also hewers of wood and drawers of water in fulfilment of both Jacob's and Joshua's curse. And then as soldiers of Christ, they will both be scattered throughout the world (i.e. in Israel, Gibeon and other parts of the world), preaching and teaching people about repentance, conversion which includes water and Holy Ghost Baptisms, healings, deliverances, miracles, etc. Remarkably, those who minister in the Holy Place will exactly be like Christ because 16 is the number for love in the Arithmetic of God, and Christ is the manifestation of God's love on earth. While number 8 is new birth or new generation, meaning that in the new earth, God will join the two priests to become one as the 24 elders, just as Solomon joined both tabernacles when he finished building the temple of God during his reign.

Chapter 4

SOME HUMAN OR HORIZONTAL COVENANTS THAT WERE DIVINELY PROTECTED OR PUNISHED

Human according to Chambers Dictionary means belonging to, relating to, or of the nature of, man or mankind; having the qualities of a person or the limitations of people; humane, not invidiously superior, genial, kind, a human being. What I really want to talk about is, some covenants that have to do with human beings (i.e. between a person and person or group of people with another, which God protected from being broken or which He punished when broken. And in talking about covenants, Abraham the father of the Israelites, and also the father of faithful children of God throughout the world, should always come to mind. This is because, after he was tested and proved, the Holy Spirit said of him through Apostle Paul; “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all” (Rom.4:16). With this, it is closer that Abraham is the physical father of covenant people whether those that are of the law, or those that are of faith.

ABRAHAM’S COVENANT WITH ABIMELECH

Before Isaac was born, Abraham and his family which includes Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael (because he was already born before then) and all his servants went to Gerar to sojourn. And as his manner was when he told Sarah to lie to Pharaoh the king of Egypt,

“he said of Sarah his wife, to king Abimelech of Gerar, she is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man’s wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, she is my sister? And she, even she herself said, he is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shall live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine” (Gen.20:2-7).

This was the beginning of the encounter between Abraham and Abimelech as God used this process to show His presence in the life of Abraham and his family, and also to announce to king Abimelech that he was dealing with a prophet of God. By the commandment of God to Abimelech, it can clearly be stated that Abraham was made a god to Abimelech as they (i.e. Abimelech and his family) depend on the prayer of Abraham to live and be healed.

“And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife. And Abimelech said, behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee. And unto Sarah he said, behold, I have

given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other; thus she was reprov'd. So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. For the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife (Gen.20:14-18).

After God had warned Abimelech in the dream, it became obvious to him that he was not dealing with an ordinary man, therefore he began to do anything to please Abraham and his family because by doing so, he will get favour or blessings from God. First of all, he gave Abraham sheep, oxen, menservants and womenservants, and told him and his family to dwell in any part of their land where Abraham liked. Sarah also benefited a thousand pieces of silver inspite of being restored back to Abraham. In return, Abimelech and his family received the blessings of God through Abraham's prayer as his wife and his maidservants got healed from barrenness and bare children. A lot of people in the world today do not know that they are the architects of their problems. The words you speak against anointed servants of God, the evil thoughts you nurture in your heart towards them, and the way you treat them in your offices, houses, business, schools, on the roads, markets, courts, etc, contribute a lot to your problems. Most people especially those in occult groups or societies hate to hear or see a minister of the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They can accept those priests in Orthodox churches because large majority of them have links with the same societies, but they find it difficult to accept those in Pentecostal Churches except those that have grown so big and are out of the will of God, and also practise virtually ninety percent of what the Orthodox churches or priests do. It is not surprising why the Lord Jesus Himself told these rejected disciples or ministers of God, *"He that receiveth you receiveth me (i.e. the Lord Jesus), and he that receiveth me receiveth him (i.e. God the Father) that sent me."* Inspite of the fact that Abraham was hiding his identity and telling lies for fear of being killed, God still announced to Abimelech that he was dealing with a prophet of God. And when Abimelech heard it, he not only warned his people to stay clear of Abraham and his family, but also gave Abraham a lot of gifts, and finally told him to dwell in his choice land. These things Pharaoh did not do when confronted with a similar problem about Abraham (ref. Gen.12:10-20), but rather sent him and all that he had away, thus indicating that he (Pharaoh) did not receive Abraham. Abimelech and his family having received their healing through the prayer of Abraham, began to study the character of Abraham. They wanted Sarah whom Scientists had written off as a barren woman for life considering her age, give birth to Isaac. They saw Isaac become a grown up boy, in fact they saw so many miracles and blessings in Abraham's life and one day, Abimelech and the chief captain of his armies called Phichol, came unto Abraham and said,

"God is with thee in all that thou doest: Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son: but according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourn'd. And Abraham said, I will swear. And Abraham reprov'd Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away. And Abimelech said, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but today." (Gen.21:23-26).

Unlike Pharaoh who threw Abraham, his family and all his belongings out of Egypt, Abimelech and his family not only accepted Abraham and his family, but allowed them to dwell in their land, and finally demanded that Abraham should enter into a covenant with him to deal kindly with him (i.e. Abimelech), his son or his grandson and the land he has dwelt in. And Abraham consented after rebuking him of what his (Abimelech's) servants did to him, of which he apologised. And he said,

“For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well. Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they swear both of them.” (Gen.21:30-31).

Beersheba became the symbol of their covenant because it is there that Abraham not only digged a well, but also entered into the covenant that Abimelech asked of. Therefore Beersheba which means *the well of an oath* became one of the inheritance of Abraham and his descendants. It was this covenant which Abraham and Abimelech entered into this place, that protected Isaac as God told him to return back to Abimelech the king of the Philistines after warning him not to go down to Egypt (ref. Gen.26:1-6). And when the men of that place asked him about the wife, the ancestral spirit he inherited from his father attacked him and he told a lie like his father Abraham did, that Rebekah was the sister (ref. verse 7). The lie Isaac told the people of Gerar was a repercussion of that which his father Abraham lied to both Pharaoh and Abimelech, because then, children up to the fourth generation suffer the consequences of the sin of their fathers. After Isaac had finished telling the people of Gerar that Rebekah was the sister, Abimelech who had been a victim before that time, continued to watch Isaac and Rebekah and one day, he saw them playing romantically and quickly called them to really inquire about their relationship.

“And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked at a window, and saw, and behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife. And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how sadist thou, she is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, because I said, lest I die for her. And Abimelech said, what is this that thou hast done unto us? One of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us. And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, he that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.” (Gen.26:8-11).

Once beaten, twice shy they say, and so Abimelech having learnt his lesson from the bitter experience he had with Abraham and Sarah, and then recognising that Isaac was the son of Abraham who he entered into a covenant relationship with, he pronounced a death sentence as the penalty for anybody that will touch either Isaac or Rebekah. Again, the covenant relationship between Abraham and Abimelech protected Isaac and Rebekah from being attacked or killed.

JACOB'S COVENANT LABAN

Jacob aided by his mother Rebekah, ran away from the wrath of his brother Esau whom he tricked and obtained his (Esau's) blessings to the house of Bethuel his maternal grandfather in Padan-aram. And according to the instructions of his parents (i.e. Isaac and Rebekah), Jacob went to live with Laban his maternal uncle in Haran, and to serve him, and later to take a wife from one of Laban's daughters. Laban received him joyfully, entertained him and after one month, Laban said unto Jacob,

"Because thou art my brother, shouldst thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me, what shall thy wages be? And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed: but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, it is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me." (Gen.29:15-19).

This was the first covenant between Jacob and Laban, and Jacob faithfully served Laban for seven years thereby keeping his own part of the covenant. At the end of seven years, Jacob requested Laban to keep his own part by giving him Rachel to wife. But according to this common saying, one that killeth with the sword, Jacob got what he bargained for when he cheated his brother Esau by fraudulently getting his blessings. For this cause, God allowed Laban his uncle, a greater cheat than Jacob, to pay him back in his own coin as he (Laban) made a feast and gathered all the men of the place. And in the evening when Jacob had been well drunk, Laban took Leah his elder daughter instead of Rachel the younger whom Jacob served for, and brought her to him and Jacob slept with her. By this deed of Laban, he (broke) his covenant agreement with Jacob and thereby brought God into the scene to fight for Jacob, and punish him (Laban).

"And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, what is this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And Laban said, it must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave Rachel his daughter to wife also" (Gen.29:25-28).

Laban later gave Jacob Rachel to be his wife too, after he had made Jacob to serve him another seven years. They began to live but Jacob hated Leah and loved Rachel and for this, God opened the womb of Leah and she gave birth to six (6) sons and one daughter, while her (Leah's) maid Zilpah whom Leah gave to Jacob to bear children for him, gave birth to two sons. Rachel's maid Bilhah was given to Jacob also by her mistress to bear children for her since she could not conceive. And she gave birth to two sons. Afterwards Rachel conceived and gave birth to two sons, and Jacob's children were twelve sons and a daughter. After Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob went to Laban and said unto him,

"send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee." (Gen.30:25-26).

When Jacob's children multiplied, coupled with the fact that he has fulfilled all his covenant agreement with Laban, he approached Laban and asked for the release of his wives and children so that he could go. And as it is the case with large majority of masters and bosses, when they find out that your stay with them is bringing blessings to them, they will hardly let you go. Laban therefore said to unto him,

“ I pray thee, if I have found favour in your eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake. And he said, appoint me thy wages and I will give it” (vs. 27-28).

In response, Jacob reminded Laban the uncle how small his business was before he came and how it has increased tremendously to be a multitude of flock and how the Lord has blessed Laban since his comings, and that he (Jacob) will like to have his own business so that he can provide for his own house also. On Laban's insistence to know what he could give Jacob as his wages, Jacob having received a divine revelation from the Lord, agreed to continue to feed and keep Laban's flock, but only on one condition. And the condition is,

“I will pass through all thy flock today, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before my face: everyone that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen by me. And Laban said, behold I would it might be according to thy word” (vs. 32-34).

This was the third covenant Jacob entered into with Laban, and having faithfully kept the first two, while Laban continued to cheat him, God came down from His throne and decided to bring the prophecy of Ezekiel, which then had not been spoken by the prophet who was not yet born, into manifestation;

“Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more until he comes whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezek. 21:26-27).

The word *ōdiadem* is *mitsnepheth* in Hebrew and pronounced as *mits-neh-fethö*, meaning an official turban of a king or high priest, a crown, a jewelled headband, and arch of a crown, a regal or royal power, a crowning glory, etc. what God did to Laban here, should serve as a great lesson to so many of those masters and bosses who as cheats, have formed the habit of sending their servants away empty handed when it is time to settle them. Some normally change the wages of those servants or workers, while some will extend the time of their settlement waiting for them to make one mistake or prove stubborn or commit any sin, and they will be fired or sent packing with nothing. If you are a master or boss who have done such a thing, and have read this book or are reading it, learn from what God did to Laban through the wisdom He gave Jacob as He divinely

transferred the wealth of Laban to Jacob. After God had removed the royal power of Laban as the owner of the business and given it to Jacob, He overturned everything in favour of Jacob as he began to apply the wisdom God had given him in a dream revelation. First he (Jacob) removed the he goats that were ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every other one that had some white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave them to his sons so as to start his own business with an instruction to keep them afar off, while he began to feed the rest of Laban's flock.

“and Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree; and piled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. And he set the rods which he had piled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled and spotted. And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle. And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. and the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants and menservants, and camels and asses” (Gen. 30:37-43).

It is good for the readers of this book to learn from this mystery because a lot do not know that what they watch in the television, cinema, pornographic magazines, etc, affect their thinking, and in most cases the dreams they have come from those thoughts. Such pictures which affect their minds, also influence their behaviours as they act according to their thoughts. This is one major reason why some pregnant women give birth to abnormal babies, but scientists will give one medical term or name as the cause. God uplifted Jacob by giving him the divine revelation of conception. In it God showed Jacob that the mystery of conception and bringing forth children or offspring does not end with sexual intercourse between the male and female human or animal creatures only. But that through the fourth dimension where God by His Spirit controls, what one sees can form a vision in his or her mind, and through receiving and confessing it, manifest like that in the physical. And as it is in human beings, so it is in other creatures that pass through this process of procreation. This also is why some men ignorantly reject their children when they are born, claiming that those children neither resemble them, their wives nor any member of their families. The children in most cases may resemble anybody that the wife sees during her pregnancy period either physically or in the television while watching some programs. And so Jacob armed with this mystery from God, took rods of green poplar and of the hazel and chestnut tree, and bore a hole in them using a kind of white paint or colour, which he made to appear or look visible in the rods. And he went and set them in the gutters where the watering troughs for the flocks of Laban, which were stronger, were kept. And so when the flocks conceived and came around there to drink water, the piled white strakes, rods and chestnut leaves which looked speckled and

spotted, will begin to register or form in the minds of those animals, and through this act of fourth dimension which is the realm of God, affect the yet unborn cattle. These strong flocks of Laban eventually gave birth to ringstraked, speckled and spotted cattle, which were also strong. According to their covenant, Jacob took them while the feeble ones that were not specked or spotted became Laban's own. And through this process of divine exaltation, God transferred Laban's wealth to Jacob. You masters and bosses who have treated your servants that faithfully served you in this way, borrow a leaf from Jacob and Laban's experience, and repent. Go and look for that servant of yours, settle him and also compensate him for all your delays in obeying the agreement you made with him, or God will not only give him the wisdom He gave Jacob, but will also through this fourth dimension, transfer your business and finance to him, and your business and finance will look feeble. And so the success of Jacob became glaringly clear to Laban and his sons and hear their statement,

"... Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory. And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee"(Gen.31:1-3).

When Jacob discerned that Laban his father-in-law and his brothers-in-law were not happy with him because of his progress, he sought the face of the Lord and He told him to return back to the land of his fathers, and He (the Lord) will be with him. Jacob therefore sent for Leah and Rachel, and said unto them,

"I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. If he said thus, the speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, the ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. And it came to pass at the time the cattle was conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. And the angel of God spoke unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, here am I. And he said, lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowest a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out of this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred. And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him as strangers? For he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do" (Gen.31:5-16).

This place showed clearly that God is the One that gave Jacob the revelation of what he did so as to have the riches of Laban transferred to him. When your boss or master becomes envious of your success or progress, then seek the face of the Lord because it may be time to go. Your bosses or masters, your changing of the wages of your servants or employees, your transferring them from this shop or office to the other so as to make them live a miserable life cannot stop their success. Why? It is because their success or progress is divinely approved and no man can stop it. And if you try to hurt them, God will deliver them and you will perish in their stead. And if you wives and spinsters who are ready to get into marriage, look at the underlined portion of the reply given to Jacob by Leah and Rachel his wives. This is because marriage these days is not biblically based; many married women see their marital homes as their second home and not the first. They will leave their marital homes and come to their father's house to cause confusion. And by doing so, they will tear their father's house apart and become enemies to those who resist their interference. Hear it from the mouth of this two faithful wives of their husband, *"is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?"*. Once your marriage is consummated, you are now a stranger in your father's house, and can only contribute or air your own views when you are called upon to speak your mind. Again it has to be by the permission of your husband who is now your Lord (owner). After Jacob's discussion with his wives, he prepared his family and all that he had and left for his father's house without informing his father-in-law, Laban. And after three days when Laban learnt of it, he took some men and pursued after Jacob and his family. Before Laban overtook Jacob on the seventh day in the mount of Gilead, God had intervened;

"And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad" (vs.24).

This is what covenant does, for Jacob was not only in covenant relationship with Laban, but also with God. Since Laban's heart was already hardened to harm Jacob, God through both His covenant with Jacob, and the vow Jacob made unto Him as seen in Gen. 28:20-22, delivered him from the wrath of Laban. This is the confession of Laban as to what he would have done to Jacob;

"It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt : but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, take thou heed that thou speak not unto Jacob either good or bad" (Gen. 31:29).

Finally God not only punished Laban for breaking his covenant with Jacob several times, but restrained him from harming Jacob as Laban after confessing his intentions, and peaceful resolution with Jacob, entered into a new and final covenant with Jacob (ref vs. 43-54).

RAHAB'S COVENANT WITH THE SPIES OF ISRAEL

After the death of Moses, Joshua was charged with leading Israel into the promised land of God. Therefore he appointed two men to go and secretly spy the land of Jericho which was next in their conquests. When they came into Jericho, they went to the house of Rahab the harlot and lodged there. Information, however, got to the king of Jericho that spies from Israel came in to search all the country. The king sent word to Rahab to bring those men that entered her house. But before the messengers or the king's warriors could come and deliver the king's message, she hid the spies in the roof of her house covering them with the stalks of flax which she had orderly arranged upon the roof. Having hid the spies, she then deceived the messengers that the spies truly came to her house, but left in the night before the gate was shut. Therefore the warriors pursued after the spies towards the way to Jordan. When the warriors had gone far, she shut the gate and came up unto the spies upon the roof and acknowledged that they (the people of Jericho) were aware that God had given the land of Jericho to Israel, because they had already heard about all the miracles God performed for them, and also their conquest. After the commendation, she said,

"Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me By the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew me kindness unto my father's house and give me a true token: And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. And the men answered her, Our life for yours if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall. And she said unto them, Get ye to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way. And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. Behold when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be our head, if any hand be upon him. And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. And she said, according unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window" (Josh.2:1-21).

A careful study of this part of the scripture will show that there are some unbelievers who like Rahab, know how to be in covenant relationship, and also through walking by faith, keep to the laws of their oath of covenant. Such vessels are not far from the kingdom of God as God who is a Covenant Keeper will devise a way to show them His salvation. Just imagine Rahab, a well known or popular harlot in Jericho, who would have been one to quickly report the spies to the king, as the destruction of Jericho meant an end to her business of prostitution, as she became the one that not only received them, but opened the door of salvation to her parents, brethren and all they had. Look at the faith she walked in; if the spies were caught after she had lied to save them she would have lost her own life with them, and probably her entire father's house would have been affected. Another mystery here is that the spies were saved with a scarlet thread that was let down

through the window, which is like the blood of Jesus that purges or cleanses the hearts, consciences and the minds of the sinners. In like manner, the spies inspired by the Holy Spirit, warned that anybody who will be saved among Rahab's family must pass through the same process of coming into her (Rahab's) home, which is like accepting the Lord Jesus since she, by that time, had made peace with God, and then availing himself or herself to the Holy Spirit to use the blood of Jesus which the scarlet thread represents, to cleanse his or her heart, conscience and mind. Whosoever fails to come into that house already covered by the Blood, will not be saved. And the spiritual meaning of their covenant agreement is that Rahab and her father's house will repent and be converted so as to be saved.

When the children of Israel eventually overthrew the land, look at what happened;

“and the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had: and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho ” (Josh.6:17, 22-23,25).

Only Rahab and her father's house were saved out of a million or more people that inhabited Jericho then. This will serve as a great lesson to those who believe that God is too merciful and therefore will not allow the billions of unrepentant souls to perish in hell fire. If those billions of souls fail to repent in spirit and truth, and be converted, they will all perish. Rahab, her father, mother, brethren and all they had, were saved because they heard the Word of God from the mouth of the spies and obeyed it by taking hold of their salvation. Not only were Rahab and her father's house with all they had saved, but they were made to walk in total separation as you can see in the underlined portion of this scriptural quotation, showing that they were kept without the camp of Israel. It will interest the readers also to know that one of the two spies called Salmon, later became the husband of Rahab, and she gave birth to Boaz who also was the father of Obed, the grandfather of David. And so Rahab's covenant with the spies saved her and her father's house, and paved the way for her marriage to a man of God.

JONATHAN'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

After God had given David victory over Goliath, Saul sent for him and when he had finished inquiring whose son David was, he (Saul) made David to start living in the king's palace and David could not go to his father's house again, from where he was coming to play the harp for Saul as his armour bearer whenever an evil spirit came upon Saul (ref. I Sam.16:18-21) before he killed Goliath. Therefore Jonathan the son of Saul loved David so much that both of them had to enter into a covenant of love.

“And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him go no more home to his father’s house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments; even to his sword and to his bow, and to his girdle” (I Sam.18:1-4).

Look at the extent of love Jonathan had for David, the underlined part of the scripture proved that, as he surrendered his royal sceptre as the heir apparent to the throne, to David as though he knew that God had anointed David to take over from Saul his father. This agreement between Jonathan and David, bound each of them to certain responsibilities, and from that moment each began to seek for the welfare of the other. While Saul kept on looking for a way to kill David after David’s victory over the armies of the philistines and the death of Goliath, which made the women of Israel to ascribe to David the success of killing ten thousands while they gave Saul thousand. Jonathan on his part was thwarting all the efforts his father made to kill David, as he continued to reveal his father’s secret plot to David (refs. I Sam.19:1-19, 20:1-42). Jonathan had earlier assured David that Saul will not kill him after Saul his father swore in I Sam.19:6-7, that David will not be slain. However, when the evil spirit came upon Saul again and he began to seek for David’s life, he hid his plans from Jonathan having found out that David had found favour before Jonathan. And so when David told Jonathan that Saul hid his plans from him (Jonathan), because he knew that Jonathan loved David, Jonathan asked David what he wanted him to do for him. When David told him, Jonathan replied and swore an oath to David by saying,

“ O Lord God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow anytime, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it to thee; the Lord do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the Lord be with thee, as he hath been with my father. And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not: But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever: no, not when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David everyone from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, let the Lord even require it at the hand of David’s enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul” (I Sam.20:12-17).

This swearing of oath to renew their covenant, Jonathan had promised to speak good about David to his father Saul, as a way of knowing his thoughts towards David. And if Saul’s heart was right or good towards David, but if it was evil, he will send David away in peace so as to escape from Saul’s death trap. David on his part was supposed to show

kindness not only to Jonathan while he was still alive, but to his house forever, after God must have cut off the enemies of David. A careful study of I Sam.20:18-42, will show how Jonathan kept his own part of covenant when he revealed his father's plan against David and through that process, made David to flee from the palace. David did not disappoint Jonathan either when God cut off the enemies of David. Though Jonathan was dead, but David sent for Mephibosheth, the only surviving son of Jonathan who was disabled to show him kindness because of his covenant with Jonathan and he was made to dwell in the king's palace in Jerusalem, and he was fed from the king's table.(ref. II Sam. 9:1-13). Even when the Gibeonites requested for seven sons from the house of Saul whom they hung their heads unto the Lord on Gibeah, to appease the wrath of God because of the covenant of brotherhood between Israel and the Gibeonites which Saul broke, Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan was again protected by the king David because of their (David and Jonathan's) covenant.

“But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the Lord's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul” (II Sam. 21:7).

Finally, through covenant agreement between Jonathan and David, Jonathan obtained favour for his children before David, as the latter did not disappoint when it mattered most.

Chapter 5

The Consequences Of Entering Into Covenants With Secret Cults Or Societies Outside The Will Of God, And Solutions.

“When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shall not learn to do after the abominations of these nations. There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do” (Deut.18:9-14).

This was part of the commandments God had given to Israel through Moses which they were supposed to keep when they enter the promised land. And the commandment was not only to Israel, but to all the children of God throughout the world which is what Israel spiritually represents. The words ÷diviner, observer of times, enchanter, witch, charmer, consulter with familiar spirits, wizards, necromancer, etc all describe the agents of satan and occult practices, such as fortune-telling, witchcrafting, etc, forbidden by God. Now for the benefit of doubt, let me explain the meanings of all these one by one; The act of passing a son or daughter through the fire, refers to the process of sacrificing or dedicating a child to an idol or a god. This process is done when the child is taken by the parents or guardians, to any of the aforementioned agents of darkness in their shrines or religious houses to do one sacrifice or the other as a way of dedicating the child to their gods, or praying for the child to receive healings, or pretending to be washing away evil spirits from the child, etc. And in most cases, the child is given some tribal marks on the body or face; or made to wear beads on the waist, or ankle or wrist or neck, or it may be rings that the child will wear on the finger or toe, etc, such acts done by parents for their children knowingly or unknowingly, is are all abomination before God and also a way of initiating those children into covenants with the devil. Some of these agents use candles which they make their victims to go round, while some will make their victims go round the burning fire. Virtually all the secret cults, tertiary institutions like universities and polytechnics, colleges of education, and more recently in some secondary schools use this process to initiate their members into those cults. By this act, those new members are entering into a covenant relationship with the spirit that controls fire and they worship the spirit through all their sacrifices, incantations and practices.

Divination is the art or practice of divining, seeking to know the past, future or hidden things by supernatural means, instinctive prevision, prediction, conjecture. In divination, they use different objects like images, kolanut, occult mirror, beads, precious stones, etc, for the practice of divining things. Observer of Times is also a soothsayer who reads the

cloud so as to foretell the future. They are the same with the astrologers who as stargazers read the stars and get assistance from the spirits operating in the planets. They are prognosticators that give analysis of horoscope based on the twelve zodiac signs published daily in some newspapers. By this act, many that read or trust in those signs are indirectly being linked to demonic operations. An Enchanter is a sorcerer or magician who enchants, charms or uses magical arts or casts a spell upon his victims. A witch is a person, especially a woman, supposed to have supernatural or magical power and knowledge through contact with evil spirits. A charmer is one who uses occult power to fascinate, to charm or cause personal attraction or that which can please irresistibly especially that brings good luck, such as an amulet, a metrical form of words, etc, a talisman, a trinket especially one worn on a bracelet, etc. It is also the process of influencing by a charm, to subdue by secret influence, to delight, to allure, etc. Consulter with familiar spirits is the biblical word for ventriloquism which is a highly possessed witch or wizard that operates the art of speaking so as to give the illusion that the sound comes from some other source. But those who practice such, speak by a familiar spirit projected through occult means in the belly of the human agent. A wizard is a man who practices witchcraft or magic, a sorcerer or magician, someone who works wonders, an expert, a genius, a fortune teller, etc. A necromancer is one who conjures spells, or a medium or a spiritist, or one who calls up demons that appear as the spirits of the dead and questions them about past or future events. One thing that is very important, is that all these ways mentioned here, and many more that are not mentioned which are ways of consulting a god, idol or spirit, for sacrifice, dedication, healing, protection, promotion, success in any way, power or popularity or having knowledge of the future, are all occult manipulations. Why did I say so? It is because these agents of darkness through the sacrifice they will make to appease these demons will invoke those evil spirits that appear as gods, idols, or spirits of the dead and speak to their victims. And God warned that all who do those things are an abomination to the Lord. To get a clear picture of this chapter, let us look at the meanings of the words ðsecret and cultð. Secret according to Chambers dictionary means kept back from the knowledge of others; guarded against discovery or observation; un-revealed, unidentified, hidden, secluded, recondite, occult, preserving privacy, a fact, purpose, method, etc, that is kept un-divulged or not made public or undisclosed, anything un-revealed or unknown, etc. Cult on the other hand means a system of religious belief, a sect, an unorthodox or false religion, a great, often excessive, admiration for a person or idea, the person or idea giving rise to such admiration, etc. It is also good to explain the meaning of orthodox so that people may not be misguided into what is commonly believed by the world to be orthodox, as what I am referring to as true religion. Orthodox means sound in doctrine, believing, or according to, the received or established doctrines or opinions, especially in religion. This is to show that those protestants like Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, etc, who through protesting the occult practices of Catholicism began the orthodox churches, established them on sound doctrine. But not quite after three to four centuries of establishing these orthodox churches, the papal church as Catholicism is known and called, through their agents that became members of these orthodox or protestant churches, reintroduces some of these occult practices to those orthodox churches. Just as the Pentecostal churches or the charismatic movements began on a sound note or with sound doctrine, but today more than ninety percent of them have gone back to the way of the orthodox churches. Secret cults therefore, could best be described as a sect or false religion whose practices or methods of operation are not made public, or kept back from the knowledge of others, or

guarded against discovery or observation, or hidden, or unrevealed, etc. And in order to become a member of such sect, you must be in covenant relationship with them, Now this covenant relationship I am talking of here, is satanic or occultic because it has nothing to do with God. Like I mentioned in my book "Christian Race To The End (Qualification For The Throne), that where there is a covenant, there must be a sacrifice, and in any sacrifice that is acceptable before God or in the Spirit realm, there must be the shedding of the blood. This is why the scripture says, *"without the shedding of blood, there cannot be the remission of sins"*. And for this cause, Satan who does not know how to do good or initiate any good project, but rather to copy God and introduce a counterfeit of any good move, decreed that for people to be admitted into his secret cults, they must through entering into a covenant with him, sacrifice the blood of a living human being. This is to serve as a temporary reprieve for their own blood, which will still be shed at the appointed time. Why should the person's blood be shed at the appointed time? This is as a result of the laws existing in covenants which says,

"for where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb.9:16-17).

Biblically, testament is the same thing with covenant and in any covenant that is made, somebody must die for it to be effective. And because God does nothing with man except through covenants, He had ordained that the terrestrial flesh and blood will be used as a ransom to redeem the celestial flesh and bones or the soulish body, so that His covenant with humanity can have strength. In order for God's covenant with humanity towards the redemption of those who through being fruitful, have multiplied and are about to replenish the earth by subduing it, to have power, He decided to come in the likeness of man, first to pay His own price of death as the Testator, and secondly to save man from the bondage of sin and death. This is what Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, was trying to explain to the Jews when he said,

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham" (Heb.2:14-16).

God did not come to this earth in the form of an angel because He has no covenant with angels, and they (angels) have no blood which is required to remit sins so that covenant could have strength. Rather He came in the form of flesh and blood (man) whom He is in covenant with, and whose blood is needed for sacrifice, that through sacrificing that blood in death, He might destroy Satan who has used the fear of death to keep humanity in bondage. This is for the purpose of saving man so that man can once more return back to the Paradise of God and have a sweet fellowship with His Maker. And for man, on account of sin, he cannot sacrifice his blood in death now and still be alive in this world,

therefore the blood of Jesus stands as a reprieve for man that through dropping his will totally (which is a symbol of blood) to the Lord Jesus who shed His own blood to save man, he (man) can keep his own part of the covenant until God's appointed time when man is expected to drop this flesh in death and enter his soulish body where he is expected to keep his everlasting covenant with God. This is what Satan copied, and devilishly introduced it to his occult groups or societies, and so those who aspire to enter those occult societies, or have entered, are initiated through covenants. And in such covenants like I earlier said, they are required to donate through sacrifice, the blood of a human being which will be used to seal their secret vows. The blood will also be used to seal the regalia of the members, their rings, necklaces, clothes, bones they keep in their secret chambers or other properties, etc. In most cases or in most secret societies or cults, all the members will drink the blood, and the donor of the blood being used for such initiation, will swear an oath of secrecy, not to openly confess to non members their activities, not to ever burn their materials with fire or destroy those materials in any way as long as he lives. And if he does burn them or destroy the materials, he will become mad within a few days. And in some cases, if any member of these secret cults or societies breaks the oath of secrecy, such an individual will die. There are so many other devilish ways that people are admitted or initiated into secret cults or societies, but one thing is clear, and that is, it must be through covenant. And such covenants or vows or oaths which are binding, will always be sealed with blood. Why blood? I will tell you.

Satan knows that he is a condemned foe and that his lot is in the Lake of Burning Fire and Brimstone, and that he can never have opportunity of repentance or going to Heaven, the abode of God again, For this reason, he swore to make sure that even if the whole world or humanity did not go to hell with him, he will have a greater percentage of people in hell than in Heaven. He also knows and understands the meaning of this scripture,

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off" (Lev.17:11-14). "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat" (Gen.9:4).

I had to quote this scripture from Genesis also to bring to nothing the confidence of those who after reading the quotation from Leviticus, will quickly conclude, "this is for Israel". The quotation in Leviticus was a continuation of what God told Noah and his sons in Genesis, as the representatives of the human race that time. Satan having been armed with the knowledge of this divine law, and the consequences of breaking it, entices or deceives or manipulates man with all kinds of worldly gifts or ambitions, into walking

against God by committing all kinds of abominable acts. Therefore he causes those his captives who are either members of his secret cults or out of the will of God to be trapped through their oaths or vows. In some of those secret societies where a new member will be initiated with human blood, or will donate a human being for sacrifice so that the person's request or heart desire will be granted, Satan through his major human agents that head those societies, will require the member to bring the vessel meant for sacrifice by himself, and through their occult manipulation, the spirit of the victim will be invoked and he or she will appear in their occult mirror or in their occult room, and the donor will be told to kill the person. And later it will manifest in the physical if the person or victim is out of the plan of God for salvation. The essence of this wicked or abominable act from the devil is first to cause you who have shed, or is waiting now to shed blood, to have a divine sentence of death from God hang on your neck for shedding blood or for eating human flesh and blood. And when this is done, he will through his human agents, place a mark of destruction on you, lock you spiritually in their witchcraft prison, and use you to perpetrate other evil acts so as to achieve your heart desire until your own appointed time of destruction or death, and he will kill you and all his promises of making you a king or queen or giving you an important position in his kingdom, will become clearer to you, as you end up gnashing your teeth in hell where his kingdom ends. Some other secret societies or cults that may not immediately go through this process of shedding blood through sacrifices of human souls, still have their vows or oaths of allegiance or occult materials sealed with blood as a covenant between you and them. And look at what you have done by this act, *"Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth"* (Prov.6:2). The word "snared" is yâqôsh in Hebrew, and pronounced as yaw-koshe', meaning to ensnare. But according to Chambers Dictionary, snare means a running noose for trapping, a trap, an allurement, temptation, entanglement or moral danger, to catch, entangle or trap in a snare, to remove with a snare, etc. What this means is that you have fallen into the trap of the devil or he has caught you by the vows or oaths of allegiance which you made with your mouth, and through the confessions of your mouth, you have become his (devil's) captive or his slave because you have sold your soul to the devil in exchange for the things of this world. By this act, you are supposed to involve yourself in all kinds of evil acts towards the promotion of the kingdom of darkness, and win disciples for Satan, and in most cases kill some who refuse to succumb to your manipulations. And you are made an instrument that the devil uses to fight true Christians. Why I used the word true Christians is because the world believes that anybody who is religious and goes to church or mentions Jesus Christ as the Son of God is a Christian, and this has given the devil and his human agents enough room to operate freely in the Christian fold. But the scripture makes it clear that Christians are disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, and anybody who is not born again, baptized in water (i.e. immersion baptism) and Holy Ghost, and continues to observe and obey the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles as written in the Bible, is just a church goer and not yet a Christian. Though there are many unbelievers or church goers who are more kind, more religious, more liberal, with much better conduct than large majority of the professed believers, but because the foundation of God says, "you must be born again so as to see the kingdom of God, and that you must be born of water (Word of God) and Holy Spirit (i.e. leadership of the Spirit) so as to enter", they are still sinners. Some of these captives of the devil who have exchanged their souls for the things of this world like wealth, promotion, protection, popularity or power, etc, after getting their heart desires, try to play a fast game on the devil. How do they do it? When they reach their time to die or be sacrificed apparently because they

shortened their lives through their vows, in exchange for money, power, etc, or they are required to sacrifice their children or loved ones maybe once in five years or more, so as to appease or activate their rituals, they start running helter-skelter, looking for a solution to avoid paying for what they had vowed. Many end up running into the hands of some disguised agents of darkness like the white garment churches, or some churches masquerading as Pentecostals, but are rather owned by higher agents of darkness, and they are finally enslaved with higher manipulations until their eventual death. Some who seek help from charismatic ministers of God that run true Pentecostal churches don't get solutions to their problems, because either they confess some of their sins, and hide some, or they destroy some of their occult materials and keep some. In some other cases, many who made money or attained some important positions in the society through their occult practices or manipulations, refuse to give up the money or their positions. And when they do such things, the devil will continue to have access because he believes you are still interested in him by keeping his money or his position, and his covenant with you is still binding. And he (the devil) with his agents will make you live a miserable life until they kill you. Many because of wrong counsels they received from some of these charismatic ministers of God, who are ignorant of the truth, keep those wealth or positions believing or quoting this scripture;

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Cor.5:17).

Such category of people believe that once they are born again, baptized in water and the Holy Ghost, the status of their ill gotten wealth or blood money and positions have also changed. It isn't and can never be, except you surrender all the ill gotten wealth or blood money or properties to God without keeping any, or you resign from that position you attained through those occult practices, and enter into a new and everlasting covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will protect you. Remember that the same Holy Ghost inspired Paul to write this letter to the Romans as what the church will observe,

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom.8:1).

Other versions which are not the Word of God, usually omit "í í who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit", but King James Version published in 1611, which is the only Holy Ghost authorized Word of God, included it to show many ignorant believers who have delight in unrighteousness, that if you continue to walk after the flesh claiming you are in Christ Jesus, you will still face judgment and condemnation. Paul also wrote by the leadership of the Holy Ghost to the Galatians as what the church should observe when he said,

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like: of the which I tell you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal.5:19-21).

Therefore if you keep those blood or ill gotten wealth and positions, etc, after your conversion, without giving them up, be rest assured that you have opened the door of attacks for yourself through uncleanness, lasciviousness and idolatry, and the same spirits you covenanted yourself with, before you got all those world ambitions, will continue to attack you until they pull you out from God or reduce your Christian life to nothing and finally strike you dead.

WHAT THEN WILL ONE DO TO ESCAPE THIS DEVILISH SNARE OR BONDAGE?

Apostle John gave the answer in his book when he said,

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jn. 3:18).

Again Paul and Silas gave a lovely answer to the keeper of the prison when he asked them this question,

"sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Then Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30-31).

If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, confess Him with your mouth, and obey His teachings, you will be saved. Another way of escaping the snare of the devil is not to enter into any covenant with the devil by joining any of his secret cult or societies, but if you have joined, you are already in his trap and you need an urgent and serious deliverance or you will perish. You don't just repent and start attending one of the Pentecostal churches, this will amount to the devil passing a sentence of death on you for breaking his covenant, or invoking the death sentence you have received spiritually when you shed blood so as to be initiated into his secret cults or so as to get your heart desire. And if he doesn't succeed in killing you, he will make life very uncomfortable for you so that you will lose your faith. What you do is to obey the exhortation of Solomon which says;

"Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler" (Prov.6:5).

The way you deliver yourself from the hand of this hunter or fowler who is the devil is this, after your repentance, open confession, surrendering of all your occult materials to be burnt by an anointed man of God, giving up of all blood or ill gotten wealth you received through those Satanic processes, resignation from all those occult promotions, total conversion to the Lord Jesus, which is breaking of the covenant you have with the devil, you then enter a new and everlasting covenant with the Lord Jesus and He will protect, guide, and deliver you by placing you under an anointed man of God who is also in covenant relationship with Him for proper guidance or training. I want to emphasize strongly that not all professed believers are in covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus,

if you want to enter this covenant with the Lord and saints who are in such covenant, see the chapter of this book that is talking about the "Covenant of our Lord Jesus with His church", for direction. If you break your covenant, vows or oaths of secrecy with the devil, without entering into a new and everlasting covenant with our Lord Jesus through the process I will explain in the later chapter of this book, about the Lord's covenant with the church, you will bring yourself into a direct battle with the devil, and if God doesn't intervene to redirect you, you are likely going to lose your life.

Why? It is simple. The law of the Spirit which controls the law of nature states that every covenant breaker will die. And Satan invokes this law against his victims when they break their covenants with him. The only answer or solution to the breaking of these covenants, vows or oaths of secrecy which you have with the devil and remaining alive, is to enter another covenant with the Father of Spirits (God), by becoming a dedicated disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, if you as a true Christian or disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, break your covenant with your Saviour (Jesus Christ), you are gone because it is the devil that God will mandate to destroy you. Many people do not know that the devil is a messenger of God that executes or avenges the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Look at what Isaiah said,

"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy" (Isa.54:16).

The smith and the waster mentioned here is the devil, and he cannot blow any coal in the fire or destroy anything or anybody both believer and unbeliever without God endorsing it. I know this may sound very strange to many people, but it is true. Like I said earlier, that if a true Christian or disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, breaks his covenant with the Lord, such a person is gone, let us look at how the Holy Spirit warned the church through Paul;

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an holy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb.10:26-31).

And Paul said again while admonishing the Hebrews and the entire church;

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost; and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb.6:4-6).

The standard of God is clear and understandable because He is an impartial God. If you received grace to be converted, and after you have followed the Lord, and have enjoyed the heavenly gift, the good word of God (i.e. walking in divine revelation knowledge of the Word) and other heavenly bliss, you start sinning wilfully or you fall away from faith, you will become a betrayer, a covenant breaker, and an enemy of God. And the good Lord will withdraw all His goodness and mercies that were following you, and hand you over to Satan for destruction. I will cite some examples that have happened in this Ministry, to buttress my points, and also to serve as a deterrent to those who play with, and do not have regard for the covenant of God.

There was a man who came into the Ministry with his family. His wife is a strong witch who locked the spirit of the man in a calabash, and deposited it in their spiritual court or maybe centre. The man in question had the mark of destruction placed on him by those witches. He and his family had attended many denominations but were never converted. And so when they came to see me because of the problem his first son who is blind witched had, I found out that they never had a true repentance. They had no foundation of Christianity because they were not baptized in water and the Holy Ghost, they never did restitution to those they trespassed against. In any case, I started with their foundation and after their water and Holy Ghost baptism, I went into deliverance to break yokes, cords, vows, covenants, etc, they had with the devil. In the cause of this, the wife confessed that she belongs to a witchcraft court that has only women as members. Infact she confessed to be the third in command in their witchcraft court or may be centre that she belongs to. She said she has been under serious torment for some years because she refused to sacrifice or kill the husband. She said that she rather gave them the man's name, finance and business he was doing, and it was locked there. Soon after that, the man who used to be a staff of Savannah Bank Plc, was sacked even before the Bank became distressed, and not only did he start living from hand to mouth, but he was also turned into a semi beggar. A spell was cast upon all the man's clothes and shoes by the wife, and with a matchstick that serves like a remote control which she normally uses to pick her hair, she controls the man in everything. Sometimes in their witchcraft court, they use to roast the man's legs as a punishment and physically he will be feeling great pains. She also confessed that she was forbidden since 1996 from taking part in the drinking of the blood of the husbands and sons of other members killed by their spouses and mothers until she brings her own husband. She revealed that the husband was also initiated into another wizardry court unknowingly by the spiritualist she took him to, as the pains in his legs worsened. Finally she confessed to have agreed on oath, to sacrifice the husband within six months from June-December 2002. How? She was going to afflict him with sickness and through that process start draining his blood and putting it in their blood bank until the man drops dead. However, they came to me towards the end of June 2002 and after these revelations, I prayed for the man and his family, broke the covenant and decree of death placed on him. In spite of all these confessions, the wife did not surrender her materials for destruction as she maintained that she wasn't using any other thing except the matchstick, and that she used to change to a big bird when she wants to go out to operate or attend their meetings. After seeking the face of the Lord for one week, I called the man and told him what he should do. I told him to seek the face of the Lord and change his name, change also the particulars of the bus he bought with a loan and other documents to his new name, go to his former boss and do restitution by confessing all the ways he defrauded him, stop taking any instruction or counsel from the wife until she

becomes truly converted and delivered. There were other counsel I gave him which would facilitate his deliverance and that of his family. The only thing he did was to change his name and that of his family, while the wife manipulated him and he refused to change the particulars of the bus he used for transport and other documents, he also refused to go to his former boss and do restitution, thereby taking the counsel of the wife who told him it is not necessary. I told him that if they refuse to obey God, then I will neither introduce them to the brethren in the Ministry nor allow them fellowship with other vessels under me. Rather I told them to be coming to me personally for fellowship and teaching. When the wife found out that I was not prepared to allow her come in and destroy the sheep of the Lord under me, she told the husband it is time to leave. I pleaded with the husband to go to Babylon (i.e. any of the Pentecostal denominations) instead of Egypt (the world), and fellowship there if he wants to leave us, but because of the wife's manipulations coupled with the man's stubbornness, he went back and dropped all the truth he heard. They dropped their new names courtesy of the wife's counsel, and started answering their old names. This happened around the middle of November 2002, and from that time his bus began to have constant problems while he took ill. It continued until he died around May 2003, exactly six months from the time they went back, but one significant thing is that three days before his death, he was rushed to hospital by his relations and it was discovered he had no blood in the body. The wife kept her word by draining the man's blood until he died. Many people are suffering the same fate even now but they do not know what to do, learn from this now and run to an anointed man of God who knows the truth, for help.

Another case is like this, a brother came into the Ministry around March 1997 with a girl who is a strong witch, whom he had proposed to marry. Both of them came in as born again Christians and after ministration, I in company of two other brothers under me then, went and baptized them in water and later ministered Holy Ghost baptism to them, and they began to speak with new tongues. After this, I started teaching them about the foundation of the Kingdom and taking them through the process of deliverance. I also started feeling spiritually weak and sleepy. I began to wake up for night prayers at about 3a.m.- 4a.m., instead of between 1a.m. ó 2a.m. which I used to get up before. I kept complaining that something was wrong and that there is the presence of evil spirits around. Within three weeks from the day they were baptized, my wife who was eight months pregnant, fell down in the compound at Maza-maza in Lagos where I was residing then after the girl's visit, hitting her tummy on the ground or floor and she became temporarily paralyzed. After praying for her, she began to walk, but was limping. However, the plans of the devil for her to die through miscarriage failed, as I quickly entered into fasting and prayers. The third night of my fasting, I was in silent adoration when the Spirit of the Lord spoke and told me that the girl in question, is a witch who has received instruction to destroy me and scatter the sheep of the Lord. I told my wife what the Lord said and she was in doubt, but I made up my mind to confront the girl and confirm what I had received. Two days after I had received the message, she came and I told her to declare who she is and her mission or I will spiritually bring her before the Judgment Seat of Christ in my night prayers, and decree or pronounce some punishments against her and it will manifest physically. She became very apprehensive and pleaded with me not to do it, that she was ready to open up and reveal to me her mission, and who she is.

She confessed truly to be a witch who prior to that time, had killed fifteen people. She said that their meeting place is at Bar Beach in Victoria Island, Lagos, and that the Brother whom she came into the Ministry with, had been marked for destruction after she must have achieved their main target. I asked her, "how did you know the Brother and who is the main target of your witchcraft group? She said they were in their meeting one night at Bar Beach, and their leader pointed a staff to the big screen on the wall and a Bungalow in a big compound appeared, and they were told that the pastor, who was living in that house, has been a torn in their flesh. That God has used him with his family to frustrate their plans, and all the efforts they have made to get him could not work because not only is God protecting him and his family, but he doesn't have any system of operation. She said they were told that somebody must go and join them, and operate from inside. She was at that instant commissioned to do the work. When she inquired of how to know the man (Pastor) in question, they brought the picture of the brother she came in with, who then was an unbeliever. She was told that the brother whom they were monitoring because of the report brought against him by another witch whom he maltreated, will soon be born again and will be led to the pastor by another brother who is a member of the Ministry. She was shown the shoe and wristwatch the brother will wear, and where they will meet, and this happened to be in a club at Festac Town, Lagos. Truly speaking, on the day she met the brother, it was in a club at Festac Town. She was discussing with somebody when the brother who was still an unbeliever then, beckoned on her to come. Normally she would have ignored him because they did not know each other, but at that instance, she saw the picture again and he was wearing the same wristwatch and shoe she was shown before, and a voice told her to go immediately. Without making much love advances, they became lovers and after two months of their relationship, the brother became born again courtesy of the gospel preached to him by his friend who was a member of the Ministry, and this girl also became born again. After one month of ministering to them, the brother who was a member of the Ministry, brought them to me, and from then, she began her operation. She first of all poured sleep waves upon me and my family to neutralize our prayer life. This like I mentioned, affected us for ten days, I was complaining and at the same time justifying myself that I work too much in the day. The last wave she poured against me could not get me as God protected me and I neither had any emotion for her nor any other woman, outside my wife. One night, she sought help from her mother who is a stronger witch with stronger powers than hers. Infact they were born seven in their family, and all are girls and witches too. The night in question according to her, the mother tried with all her magical powers to invoke my spirit and destroy me, but fire came from nowhere like a whirlwind and burnt part of her body which gave her a serious pain and mark physically. After this, the mother warned her to stop coming to us to avoid exposure and destruction, but she believed she could still succeed. Apparently, that was why she became afraid when I confronted her and warned her that if she failed to reveal her true identity and mission, I will decree judgment against her and it will manifest physically. Before the Lord revealed her true identity, she had told me she was two months pregnant for the brother prior to their coming to see me.

I called the brother and asked him, he said he wasn't aware but if it is proved to be true, he will love to marry her. However, by the inspiration of the Lord, I told them that they cannot be joined in immorality. I warned them to stay apart, forget about marriage for the meantime, seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and at the fullness of time, all other things including marriage, shall be added unto them. When therefore the girl began her confession, she told me that the pregnancy issue was a gimmick aimed at getting me to join them in fake marriage, and the spirit of seduction and immorality will be transferred to me because I will go contrary to this scripture,

"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (1 Tim.5:22).

Secondly, the brother would have been killed within seventy two (72) hours because she is a princess who cannot marry physically, since she was already married spiritually. The girl was then a student of the University of Ilorin and had killed another male student of the same University, who had almost concluded an arrangement to marry her. After some rituals by a spiritualist contacted by this male student who was a member of the Celestial Church to make their marriage work, the spirit husband of the girl brought a report against her for breaking their covenant. Her mother pleaded on her behalf and the male student who was then living with his parents in Festac Town, Lagos was sacrificed in the stead of the girl. And so within three days, the police patrol team that cannot be traced till date, shot him mysteriously and he died. I later conducted the girl's deliverance and it was horrible because more revelations came out. Though it is not something I will continue to disclose in writing, but part of her occult materials she submitted for destruction, included one mysterious black wedding gown. I have never in my life seen a wedding gown like that or that has a close resemblance. She said she used the wedding gown when she wedded with her spirit husband, and that each time she wore the gown, it is either she travels to the spirit world to sleep with the spirit husband or he will come to this world to sleep with her. After her deliverance, the mother vowed to destroy her if she did not stop fellowshiping with us. She threatened to render the girl's life useless like she (the mother) did to her husband (the girl's father). I encouraged the girl to ignore her mother's threat and continue following the Lord, because I know that the Lord will protect her like He is protecting us and other faithful believers, but she was bent on leaving. However, before she left, she called the brother (i.e. her former lover), my wife and I, and told the brother not to leave the Ministry because God according to her loves this pastor and his family, and gives them adequate protection. She also warned him not to go back to the world, because a sentence of death has been passed on him and that their agents will be monitoring him. If he ever drops from faith, they will kill him instantly, and with such sentence she said, they will not rest until they achieve their aim. She advised him to come up in the Spirit because he was spiritually weak. Finally, she gave him a very good gift and that is, "The Divine Revelation of Hell", a book written by Mary Baxter, and warned him not to go there. Armed with these revelations and warnings, I began to protect the brother like my son, like my younger brother, like a true friend, and I was watching over him with great diligence and tolerance. He was very weak spiritually but very active in carnal things. He hated night prayers and fasting and could not sit down long to study the Word of God. I and the brother who brought him to the Ministry, contributed money and rented a room apartment for him at Okokomaiko ó

Lagos because prior to that time, he was squatting with the brother. At times I would invite him to my house to join my family and I in fasting and prayers so that he could pick up, but when we were through, he would go back to square one. I and my family fed him for two years, I taught, counselled, prayed and suffered for this brother, each time bringing to his remembrance the advice and warnings of that his former lover before she left, but all to no avail. Instead he started delighting pleasure in going out with his former unbelieving friends who are living a dirty and dangerous life that some unbelievers who listen to the voice of their consciences, cannot do or live. He began to date girls and was taking them to hotels secretly. The Lord started revealing his activities but when I would confront him, he always denied them. The Ministry kept rebuking him, suspending and restoring him after he had suffered some punishments and repented. Finally, I succeeded in convincing him to pack out of Okokomaiko because the house he was living then, was previously used as a brothel and the house next to that, is still being used for the same business till date. Also his packing into Festac Town, will afford me an opportunity to keep an eye on him. In a Seminar on the 25th of December 2001, after he had moved over to Festac Town, the Lord gave my wife a message, "that there is an accursed thing in our midst". I asked all to examine themselves individually and open up what they were doing in secret. All the brethren including this particular brother maintained innocence, but I knew and still know that God cannot lie, so I asked the Lord to reveal who the accursed thing in our midst was. First of all, he had a fatal motor accident about the first week of February 2002, and because his seat belt was not fastened, he jumped from his seat, hitting his head on the windscreen. The windscreen shattered to pieces, but he had minor injuries on the head and his body. This happened after he was given a two-week suspension and punishment for an offence he committed. When I went to visit him in company of my wife and another brother, three of us warned him seriously to stop playing with his life, telling him that if such an incident happened again, he may not survive it. Then after fellowship on the 7th of April 2002, I decided to drive around with my wife, but on the way my wife suggested we pay an unscheduled visit to the brother. I was initially reluctant, but later yielded when I became convinced that God was speaking through her. When we got to his house, we saw him with a girl or lady who not only had come with her night dress, toothbrush, soap dish, etc, but was also preparing the food they will eat after they had finished sleeping together. He was so afraid and confessed that God had told him he was going to be caught that day. I and my wife left within two minutes, and I summoned him to come and explain to the church what he was doing with the girl, and he never came back. We waited for two weeks, and he didn't come, so we obeyed I Cor.5:3-13 and delivered him in prayers to the devil for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit will be saved on the last day. Meanwhile, he began to run amok sexually and went back fully to his old life. He was no more hiding his sins, rather he began to change girls as if they were his clothes. This continued and different girls began to visit him in his house, and they were fighting constantly because of his act of flirting. While praying for him and other backslidden brethren we know in December 2002 Seminar, so as to be restored, the Lord spoke to me in a clear voice to forget about him because he wasn't going to come back to the Lord. He said that he will enter into another covenant with the devil, and as soon as that is done, he will be sacrificed. I received this message on the 31st of December, 2003, and urged the brethren to intensify our prayers for him, if peradventure we may reverse such a sentence and save him. Then on the 16th of June 2003, his landlord called my number which he copied from one of my books which the brother gave him, when he moved into this house, and pleaded with me to

come, so that he could report to me the brother's activities. I told him the brother left the Ministry fourteen (14) months ago, and we have no business with him again. But he maintained that I am the only reliable person he had the unction to report the brother to. So I told him to allow me seek the face of the Lord and give him a feedback. When I sought the face of the Lord, He commanded me to go and do these three things:-

1. To exonerate myself and the Ministry from the brother's atrocities.
2. To glorify the name of the Lord that the brother had blasphemed
3. To give the brother a final warning that He (God) had numbered his days and finished it, and that he was going to be destroyed if he continued in that way.

I obeyed the Lord and went in company of my Personal Assistant, and did exactly what the Lord had told me, after I had fixed an appointment with the landlord, the wife and the brother. However, there were some revelations which came up, as his landlord and the wife told us, that the brother had lived with two girls and sent them packing after some months. And the one he was presently living with, and who moved in around January 2003, should be about six months pregnant, and the girl together with her parents had vowed that he must marry her. I told the landlord and his wife that the brother had gone into spiritual madness, and had since left the Ministry. I told them everything about the brother and how he got himself into this mess, I also pleaded with them to exercise a little patience with him so as to get himself another accommodation and pack out. When we finished, I and my Personal Assistant called him by the side and began to warn him that he was heading for destruction if he failed to heed to our advice. He said nothing, while we left. His landlord called me again on Monday 7th of July, 2003, and told me he just received a call from a business friend of the brother, that he was shot dead by policemen in the Eastern part of Nigeria. Later that day, some other of the brother's friends who never visited me while he was living a reckless life, and sinning against God, started visiting me to tell me what happened and sympathize with me. The landlord told me he had travelled to the village on the 1st of July 2003, for the traditional marriage ceremony of the girl who was six months pregnant for him, and which also took place on Saturday the 5th of July, 2003. According to the law in occult societies, anybody who has this mark of destruction, if he falls into the trap of those that are looking for him, he should be killed within seventy-two (72) hours or three days, except there is a super miracle from God to deliver him. Therefore, for breaking his covenant with God, and marrying an unbeliever who is suspected to be a witch that possibly belongs to the witchcraft court or centre that continued to trail him for six years, he broke his covenant finally with God, and entered into another covenant with the devil, and he was shot right before his so called wife and his younger brother, for no justified reasons, two days or forty eight (48) hours after his traditional marriage. His so called wife who was present when this incident occurred, was unruffled, she came back to Lagos three days after the burial of this brother who is gnashing his teeth in hell, packed all the belongings of the brother and moved back to her parent's house. For her, this is mission accomplished, while she will be promoted by the devil to perpetrate more wicked acts, the brother has finally lost the opportunity of restoration or redemption.

Apparently, there are many cases like this today in the Christendom, stop playing with fire I warn you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is still ready to save you if you will truly repent, confess your sins and forsake them.

Chapter 6

The Covenant Of God With Israel, And With David As Their Second And Last King

Israelites are the descendants of Jacob, surnamed Israel by God, and the twin brother of Esau, the two sons of Isaac, the son of Abraham the Syrian, who God covenanted Himself with, to become the father of many nations. Their father Jacob was the last of the twin sons of Isaac, who conspired with his mother Rebekah to deceive his father Isaac and craftily received the blessings meant for his elder brother Esau. However, this was after Esau nonchalantly sold his birthright to Jacob because of a pot of red pottage (ref. Gen.25:29-34). By this foolish act of Esau, he not only despised his birthright, but also lost his inheritance as the first son and his eternal destiny was changed. And so when the time for Esau to receive blessings from his father before the demise of the old man, God allowed the plan of Rebekah and her younger son Jacob, which was to subtly take the blessings of Esau, to work. Therefore Jacob received this blessing from his father Isaac, which was meant for Esau as the firstborn of the parents, and the blessing says,

"Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee" (Gen.27:28-29).

With these pronouncements from Isaac, Jacob surnamed Israel by God, was made lord over both his brethren and other nations of the earth, and God began to protect him and his descendants from any curse, and also to bless any nation or people that bless him. God later confirmed this to Jacob in a dream, as he was fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau when He told him,

"...I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shall spread abroad to the west and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen.28:13-15).

God kept His word as He finally freed Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians through His servant Moses, so as to enter into a covenant with them as a peculiar treasure, a holy nation and a kingdom of priests, in what is commonly referred to as the Old Covenant or Old Testament. It could be recalled that the Israelites while in Egypt, were kept in Goshen at the request of Joseph and separate from the Egyptians, because they were shepherds (ref. Gen.46:33-35). The Egyptians regard shepherds as an abomination, and therefore kept them in isolation, just as true ministers of the gospel which is what the shepherds spiritually represent, are not only kept in isolation by those in the system of the world, but are also separated by God from the entire system. Do you see how searchable

the wisdom of God is, what is rejected by men, and esteemed as an abomination, He has chosen to covenant Himself with, but what is highly esteemed by men, God regards as an abomination, and wants His people who are in covenant with Him, to come out of such things or people. The establishment of the Covenant of God with Israel as a nation with ref. to Exod.19:3-25, its conditions stated in Exod. 20:1-17, the public display of God's power as clearly seen in Exod.20:18-26, and finally how it was confirmed in Exod.24:1-12, constituted the formal basis of the redemptive relationship between God and His chosen people until it was superseded by the New Covenant which is what Paul was explaining to the Jews when he said,

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, behold the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." (Heb.8:7-8,13).

Israel's pledge to obey the Lord as written in Exod.19:8 and Exod.24:3 & 7, which says, *"And all the people answered together and said, all that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord,"* on which basis Moses sprinkled "the blood of the covenant" on them (ref. Exod.24:8), was soon broken in Exodus 32:1-35.

Historically, what led God to enter into a covenant relationship with Israel, could be seen as the fulfilment of His promise to Abraham when He showed Abraham a vision of what his seed or descendants will go through.

"And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Gen.15:13-14,16).

God told Abraham here what will befall his seed after he (Abraham) had gone into a deep spiritual slumber. Some people may ask, why should God allow such pains to come upon the seed or descendants of a man He not only calls His friend, but also covenanted Himself with? The answer is simple, if the children of Israel were not being afflicted by the Egyptians, they wouldn't have listened to Moses and Aaron, talkless of believing their words (ref. Gen 4:29-31).

Again, according to Isaiah 48:10 which says, *"Behold I have refined thee, but not with silver, I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction (i.e. intense suffering)"*, God was indicating that those that are called are chosen through the furnace of affliction which is intense suffering. This is why Paul wrote in Heb.5:8, that Jesus in spite of being the Son of God, learnt obedience by the things He suffered, and also what Luke recorded in Acts 14:21-22, as Paul and Barnabas' exhortation to the saints in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. By all these explanations, it is clear that God had intended to introduce Himself to the Israelites after they had suffered and are willing to receive anybody who could put an end to their sufferings. And in delivering them, He would punish the nation that kept Israel in such

bondage, and cause Israel to be blessed with great substance through the same nation that afflicted them. This is exactly what God is doing today with His saints who are ready to suffer persecutions and trials so as to live a holy life in Christ Jesus. If they endure the trials and persecutions to the end, they are not only rewarded by God, but He turns round to punish severely those vessels the devil used to trouble or attack His people (ref. II Thess.1:6). Significantly, the children of Israel, the Egyptians and all the mixed multitude in the land of Egypt, with the exception of the priests were all sold to Pharaoh as slaves as contained in this scripture;

"Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them; so the land became Pharaoh's. Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. Then Joseph said unto the people, behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land" (Gen.47:19-20, 22-23).

With what transpired in this place, it is evidently clear that the Egyptians, the Israelites and other nations which lived in the land of Egypt at that time, were Pharaoh's slaves. It was wrong therefore from the human point of view, for Moses to approach Pharaoh and demand for the freedom of the Israelites, since he (Moses) grew up in Pharaoh's palace and knew this law, having been looked upon by all as the heir apparent to the throne, before he abandoned all these things and chose to suffer with his brethren. This was why Moses resisted the Lord many times when He told him to go and meet Pharaoh, and demand that the children of Israel should be released to go on a three-day journey into the wilderness, so as to sacrifice unto the Lord. If Pharaoh had kept to the request of Moses and Aaron for a three-day journey after long resistance, without pursuing the children of Israel before the expiration of the three days, God would have told Moses to take the children of Israel back to Egypt to avoid breaking His vow. But according to the scripture which says,

"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth" (Rom.9:15-17);

Pharaoh was therefore not made a vessel of honour and so could neither receive compassion, nor mercy from God as He (God) hardened Pharaoh's heart towards destruction, when he decided to pursue the children of Israel without waiting for the three days he agreed with Moses to expire. However, the scripture here, proved that this was an act of God who created Pharaoh as a vessel He (God) wanted to use to manifest His power.

"For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, they are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. and I will harden Pharaoh's heart that he shall follow after

them; and I will be honoured upon pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know I am the Lord” (Exod.14:3-4).

And true to this statement the Lord hardened pharaoh’s heart as he assembled his armies and began to pursue the children of Israel. Then on the night of 16th Abib or April, exactly two nights from the time they departed from Egypt, pharaoh and his host drew near to the camp of Israel, but the angel of God which went before the camp of Israel, went behind their camp and also the pillar of cloud was moved behind by the angel of God, to prevent pharaoh and his host from coming closer to the camp of Israel until they came to the Red sea. When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, at the instruction of the Lord, He caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night and there was a dry ground in the sea and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the sea upon dry ground and crossed over from the 16th night to the morning of the 17th of Abib or April. And the Egyptian host that included pharaoh, his horses, his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea to cross over as they continued to pursue the Israelites. But the angel of the God took off the chariot wheels and when pharaoh and his host began to drive heavily and uncontrollably, they wanted to turn away from pursuing the Israelites and flee, having noticed that God was fighting for them. But Moses at the command of God, stretched out his hand over the sea and the waters came upon the Egyptians, their chariots and their horsemen and they all died, while the children of Israel walked upon the dry land having been saved by God from the hand of the Egyptians in the sea. They also became afraid of God and believed God and Moses and His servant. With the death of pharaoh and his host on the morning of 17th Abib or April, the slavery of the children of Israel and the mixed multitudes from other countries who sold themselves to pharaoh in Egypt because of famine ended, just like the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is typified by the walking upon the dry land by the children of Israel having risen from the sea. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead put an end to the fear of death which the devil like pharaoh, has subjected humanity to (ref. Heb.2:14-15). It is very important to note here, that the children of Israel came over the sea at about the morning watch of 17th Abib the same time our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead. The children of Israel having been freed from bondage of pharaoh and the Egyptians were owned by nobody, they had no Lord as at that time, no husband because God was still unknown to them. And for God to be their Owner, their Husband and Saviour, it has to be through a bond or covenant between God and Israel, with a strong proof that He can fill these gaps for them. For this cause, God led them through the wilderness forty-seven days, providing all they needed inspite of their rebellion and murmurings, fighting all the battles for them until they came to the wilderness of Sinai, and God called Moses unto the mountain and gave him this message for the children of Israel and house of Jacob:

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle’s wings and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel” (Exod.19:4-6).

This message was direct and precise. Direct in the sense that God was talking to the house of Jacob which is represented by the physical Israelites, and their offspring that is the children of Israel, represented by the Lord Jesus and His Church which began on the Pentecost, and redeemed with the blood of Jesus, and not the mixed multitudes.

Precise in the sense that they should obey his words so as to keep His covenant with them, and His covenant is to make them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, so that they will be a peculiar treasure unto God above all the people of the world. What this means is that the true children of Israel (because not all Israel are Israel) and the members of the church of the firstborn which are written in heaven (note: some of them are still here on earth) are all called to be priests unto the Lord so as to live a holy life. And this is the only way they should obey God and keep His covenant, and God in turn will regard them as a peculiar treasure above all other people on earth. ðPeculiar is Cegullâh in Hebrew, and pronounced as seg-ool-law,ö meaning to shut up, wealth (as closely shut up):- jewel, peculiar (treasure), proper good, special. But according to Chambers Dictionary, peculiar means own, of one's own, belonging exclusively (to); privately owned, appropriated, preserved, characteristic, special (to), very particular, etc. While the word mentioned ötreasure in this place is mickenâh in Hebrew and pronounced as mis-ken-awö, meaning a magazine :- store (house), treasure. According to Chambers Dictionary, magazine means a storehouse, a place for military stores, etc. While Chambers Dictionary also describes treasure as wealth stored up, riches, anything much valued, a valued, indispensable servant, helper, etc. What God meant is that the nation of Israel through this covenant, will become a privately owned indispensable nation owned by God. And it is in the land He has given them (N.B. some of which the Arab nations are still occupying), that He stored up great wealth, riches and anything that the world valued. Likewise among the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, those who will agree to obey His words and keep His covenant by living a holy life and becoming priests unto God, have been chosen by God as His valued indispensable servants or priests where God will store His wisdom and knowledge, His wealth, riches and other valuable things or gifts. And they are the army God is preparing to take over the rulership of this world after overcoming Anti-christ and casting satan down from second heaven.

When God finished telling Moses what He would want the children of Israel to do, so as to enter into a covenant with them, he (Moses) came and gathered the elders of Israel and told them all the words which the Lord commanded him.

“And all the people answered together, and said, all that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord” (Exod. 19:8).

Therefore God instructed Moses to sanctify the people for two days and on the third day, He will come down to meet with them. He also ordered them to wash their clothes and not to touch or sleep with their wives. Then on the third day, God came down and spoke to them, giving them these laws that could be found in Exodus chapters 20, 21, 22, 23. After they confirmed that they were ready to obey all the words of the Lord in Exod. 24:3, Moses wrote all these words in a book and early in the morning, he built an altar under the hill with twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel, and sent young men among the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.

“And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people; and they said, All that the Lord hath said, we will do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words” (Exod.24:6-8).

This new covenant relationship which Moses, who stood in the place of God, led the children of Israel to, could be seen as the relationship which exists between husband and wife, father and son, the Lord and His servants. And by this, they were set apart as God’s special people, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation, not by an act of righteousness of their own, but by the power of the covenant God made with them. Let me point out here that holiness is the nature of God which He imparts in people or persons He has a covenant relationship with. That means it is the outcome of the covenant and not the reason of the covenant. What this is saying in essence is that God did not enter into a covenant with Israel because they were holy, rather, by entering into covenant with them, He made them holy so that they can work together as one or as Husband and wife. (ref. Amos 3:3). Like I said earlier, the basis for this covenant to succeed is, “ *if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant*”. However, Israel through the act of unfaithfulness and idolatry broke the covenant in Exod 32:1-35, and lost their right to this relationship with God as their Husband. In any case, because of the love God has for them, and in keeping with the covenant He made with Abraham, that his seed through the lineage of Isaac and Jacob will be set apart unto Him from all other members of the human race, He decided that at the end of this age, He will make a new covenant with Israel which will be eternal and they will again become a wife unto God.

This is what Jeremiah prophesied in chapter 31 of his book saying,

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord” (Jer.31:31-32).

Because Israel did not keep her covenant with God, and in view of the fact that God kept a clause of His promise to them, He has extended this promise to the entire human race. He is therefore looking for a special people, a kingdom that will live as priests unto Him, and He will make them a holy nation like He promised Israel, enter into a new covenant with them as He sets them apart to obey Him. They will become His bride, His kings and priests, and He will make them holy. This is exactly why He is raising the church.

Moreover, if you take a look at Exodus chapters 19 to 23, where God entered into the old covenant with Israel, you will discover that the same covenant which brought them into a unique relationship with God, also brought them into a unique relationship with one another. What I am saying in effect is that the covenant is both vertical (to God) and horizontal (to one another). In essence, chapters 21, 22, 23 of Exodus are meant to define the specific practical ways in which God required them from that moment to relate to one another. As members of one covenant people, they had special obligations to each other,

different from those which they had to members of other nations who had no covenant relationship with God or with Israel. This can be better explained that those who have a covenant relationship with God necessarily also have a covenant relationship with each other. As God's priests or bride, the covenant that brings us vertically into union with God must of necessity bring us into union horizontally with all who have entered into same covenant with God. You have no right to claim the benefits of covenant relationship with God, while at the same time refusing to accept your obligations towards those who share the same covenant with Him. The covenant which individually brings us into union with one another, as united people, specially owned by God, and set apart from all other collective units of humanity.

Finally, the symbol of God's covenant with Israel is the Sabbath which He told them to be observing as can be seen here:

"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbath ye shall keep, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever, for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed" (Exod.31:13, 16-17).

The Covenant of God With David As The Second And Last King of Israel

When the old man Jacob, surnamed Israel by God, laid his hand on his fourth son Judah, to bless him before his demise and, as their tradition demands, he said;

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise, thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies, thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp, from the prey, my son, thou art gone up, he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion, who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Gen.49:8-10).

These are some of the blessings bestowed upon Judah by God through Jacob his father. But before this glorious blessings from the old man, satan had subtly put a dent in Judah's record. Having heard and seen that the covenant of God with Abraham which he (satan) wanted to stop through the birth of Ishmael could not work, because God had decreed that the covenant will be fulfilled through Jacob, satan decided to unleash his wickedness on the sons of Jacob so as to frustrate God's good intentions.

First of all, he took hold of Simeon and Levi, and caused them to break the covenant existing between Jacob and his sons with the Shechemites, when two of them killed all the circumcised males of Shechem. After this, he dealt another blow on Jacob when he manipulated Reuben and he slept with Bilhah his father's concubine. With this behaviour, these three were automatically disqualified from receiving the blessing or this anointing of leadership. When he (satan) saw that Jacob was very fond of Joseph, he caused his brethren to hate him, and they eventually sold him to the Ishmaelites who also sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. He saw that Judah was a proper child who may likely get the

blessings of God through the father Jacob, so he quickly entered his family and caused confusion. Judah had three sons namely, Er, Onan and Shelah. Er married Tamar but because of his wickedness, God killed him and Tamar was left without both a husband and any child. Onan was told to marry her and raise seed for his brother who died without any seed. He too was killed by God because, out of wickedness he was sleeping with the woman, but refused to impregnate her lest the seed will be his brother's. Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah, was sent home by her father-in-law to go and wait until Shelah became a grown up man, and she will be given to Shelah as a wife. But this was not to be as Judah out of fear that he might lose Shelah also, did not keep his promise. When therefore he went to shear the sheep at Timnath, Tamar the daughter-in-law disguised herself and pretended to be a harlot. Judah unknowingly laid with her and she conceived and bare twins Pharez and Zarah. With this dent, satan became satisfied and believed he had spoiled the show for Jacob and that it will be difficult to find a spotless person among the sons of Jacob, on whose shoulders the responsibility of governing Israel will be. But God who created satan knew too well how to deal with his accusations and subtlety, and so after He had caused Jacob to pronounce all these blessings on Judah inspite of the dent, He (God) then used Moses to make way for the cleansing of that dent when he said;

“A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord” (Deut.23:2).

A careful study of the book of Ruth chapter 4:18-22, will show that this curse was to end with Jesse who was of the 9th generation, and the 10th generation which started when David began a new course of being allowed to enter into the congregation of Israel. God could not give Israel a king in all these generations because of this curse, as He was waiting for the curse to end with Jesse. And so in the interim, He was giving them judges waiting for the end of the curse, the birth of David and his subsequent training as a Shepherd. However, satan said in his heart again, *“I will put hand in this business and spoil the show for God.”* Therefore he hired the elders of Israel and they came to Samuel to demand for a king who will judge them like all other nations and lead them to battles. Whenever the people of God start demanding for something so as to be like other people God had warned them not to be like, then satan is behind such a demand or request. And when they get that desire, they will suffer untold hardship because they are not in the perfect will of God. When Samuel sought the face of the Lord in prayer, He said,

“Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them” (1 Sam.8:7-9).

After all that Samuel told them from vs 11-18, as what will be the character of the king, they were demanding, they insisted on having their own king. And so they presented themselves according to their tribes and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. And after casting another lot for the families that make up the tribe of Benjamin, the family of Matri was chosen, and Saul the son of Kish was finally chosen as king. This was a total

deviation from what God ordained that the tribe of Judah should produce the king of Israel. Again, casting lots or votes to choose a leader, which the people of the world refer to as democracy is total rebellion against God's way of ordaining or appointing a leader. It is a total deviation from the will of God, and throws the people into serious problems and spiritual blindness. Israel's act of choosing their leader so as to be like other nations, made them to be running ahead of God. Why? This is because God was not in their plan for He must first of all, wait for the curse to end, secondly His chosen king must come from the tribe of Judah. In any case, these very important reasons did not stop Him from blessing Saul so as to succeed. But He knew Saul would not succeed because he was occupying the office meant for another tribe. When you find yourself in an office God has not ordained for you to occupy, or you operate in the ministry office God has not ordained for you, you are bound to fail. But if you succeed financially and materially, you won't succeed spiritually. Therefore, try to abide in your calling.

God began to train His chosen second and last king of Israel when it became clear that Saul would not succeed. The first hint about the plan of God came to Saul when he selfishly and impatiently offered a burnt offering which was supposed to be done by Samuel the prophet. When Samuel heard of it, look at what he told Saul;

"Thou hast done foolishly, thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee; for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue; the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee" (I Sam.13:13-14).

The first thing to learn here, is that God chooses a king after His own heart and not after the people's heart. In essence, democracy which is the process whereby the people choose a leader of their choice is not in God's program. After the rejection of Saul as the king of Israel was publicly pronounced before both the elders of Israel and the rest of the Israelites, God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse the Bethlehemite, of the tribe of Judah, to anoint his eighth and last son called David as the second and last king of Israel. The vision of choosing David as the last king of Israel, and the covenant of establishing his throne forever was revealed to Nathan the prophet when he was sent by God to stop David from building a house for God. Hear some of Nathan's message:

"Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be a ruler over my people, over Israel. And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shalt proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thine kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever" (II Sam.7:8,12-16).

This was the covenant God made with David, in which David and his descendants were established as the royal heirs to the throne of the nation of Israel, which later culminated

in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah, who as a descendant of the line of David, was born in Bethlehem about 1000 years after God had made this promise to David the king. Spiritually, the covenant God made here, saying that He (God) will establish the throne of the kingdom of the son of David forever, while David's son will build a house for the name of God, was being referred to, our Lord Jesus Christ as contained in Luke's gospel:

"And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there shall be no end" (Lk.1:31-33).

Solomon the son of David who was the seed after David, and who fulfilled II Sam.7:12-13 physically, never had his kingdom established forever. Why? It was because on account of death, his own kingdom ended and many other descendants of David continued to hold the kingdom in brief for David, who through this everlasting covenant will continue to be the king of Israel both in the millennium and in eternity, while the Lord Jesus from the lineage of David, will be crowned King of Kings and Lord of lords (refs. Ezek.34:23-24, 37:24-25, Jer.30:9). This is why I always refer to David as the second and last king of Israel, just as our Lord is referred to as the second and last Adam. It could be noted that David did not fail of God's expectation about him, after God had told Samuel the prophet that this time around, He (God) will not allow the people to choose, rather He will give them a man after His heart whom He hath commanded to be captain over them. When he finally took over as the king of Israel, he immediately sought for the presence of God by bringing back the Ark of the Covenant captured by the Philistines, and abandoned at Jabesh-Gilead during the time of Eli. This move, Saul did not make during his reign. Even when David had a mishap following the death of Uzzah while trying to bring back the ark (which was a test of his faith), he was never deterred, as he persevered until the Ark was finally brought to Zion (II Sam.6:1-23). It was after bringing back the Ark that he designed a place to build the house of God. In this God stopped him, telling him that he had shed much blood upon the earth and fought many wars, and that his son Solomon will rather build it (I Chron.22:7-9). Therefore the total commitment of David and his submission to God and His word, made God to keep His promises to David, as the seed of David continued to sit on that throne till the Lord Jesus is enthroned the King of kings, and David himself is brought back to the earth in the second coming of the Lord to take back his covenant position. The sign or symbol of this covenant of God with David is that Jerusalem will always be preserved for the Lord so that David will have a light before God (refs. I Kings 11:31-32, 34-36, I Kings 15:4-5). Therefore Jerusalem is till date referred to as a beloved city of God in fulfilment of His covenant with David.

Chapter 7

Covenant Of Marriage Between Husband and Wife With God As The Testator.

Often people especially unbelievers see marriage only horizontally (i.e. on the physical realm as between husband and wife only). Some will extend marriage to include relations thereby giving more power to them, and allowing them to put asunder in this revered institution called marriage. All these have been a great stumbling to marriage because God who created this institution, never intended it to go that way. First of all, marriage is the greatest institution on earth, and the most revered covenant ordained by God which includes Himself as the Testator, man and woman or husband and wife as the beneficiaries. It is so because just like the gospel of John 1:1 that says; *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"*, which shows that in the beginning, the Word of God (i.e. Christ Jesus), and God the Father are one Entity that has two functions, this is also how in Gen.1:27, God declared that He created the male and female man as one entity that has dual functions. According to this scripture in Gen. 1:26-27 which says,

"And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them".

God had clearly declared through the underlined portion, that He created man as one entity who through this dual function of male and female, will have dominion over all other creatures. By stating that He created them (i.e. male and female) in His image, it is evidently clear that He had a different view from what man understands marriage to mean. Why did I say so? It is simple, because in answering this question so that everyone will have a vivid picture of what God meant by creating us in His image, let us see what image stands for. "Image is a Hebrew word Tselem, and pronounced as tseh'-lem, meaning to shade, a phantom, i.e. (fig.) illusion, resemblance; hence a representative figure, etc. But Chambers Dictionary describes "image" as a likeness of representation of a person or thing, a statue, an idol, a person or thing that closely resembles another, a representation in the mind, an idea, a mental picture or representation from thought or memory rather than sensory perception, etc. What this is saying in effect, is that the joining together of a man and woman in marriage as husband and wife, by the Holy Spirit who ordained it, so as to form the male and female man which God created in the beginning, is the representation or close resemblance in the mind, or an idea or a mental picture of the Personality of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, or the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. This is why Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit took time to study this institution called marriage, and after studying and comparing it with the relationship that exists between Christ and the church, he concluded that it is a "great mystery". Look at what he said,

"This is s great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph.5:32).

What is this great mystery one may ask? It is the joining together of husband and wife in marriage which can be compared with the joining together in marriage of Christ and His body, the church. Now in order to unveil the divine truth in this institution called marriage, let us look at what mystery stands for, since the Holy Spirit allowed Paul to use this word to qualify it. The word mystery is "mustérion" in Greek, and pronounced as moos-tay/-ree-on, meaning a secret or mystery (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites). But Chambers Dictionary describes mystery as a secret doctrine in ancient religious rites, etc, known only to the initiated, circumstance or happening that cannot be explained, someone or something inscrutable (i.e. that cannot be scrutinized or searched into and understood), an enigma (i.e. statement with a hidden meaning to be guessed), something obscure (i.e. dark, not easily understood, not clear, unknown, hidden), a truth divinely imparted, etc. What Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit was trying to say, is that the word "mystery", has a religious association which denotes a form of knowledge that conferred a valuable benefit, but this was strictly restricted to a special group bound together by their religious practices. For anybody to have access to this knowledge, you must be initiated into this group. And that secret initiation into this group is called covenant. To expound this, for Paul to associate marriage with mystery means that there is a hidden form of knowledge which makes the marriage successful, and one can only acquire this knowledge by understanding certain tests and meeting certain conditions. This is why God ordained marriage as a covenant of three, thus indicating that you must be initiated into this group of three and pass their tests so as to meet those certain conditions which can be summed up as a covenant. After the creation of Adam, God watched him every night as he went to sleep alone while other creatures slept with their partners, and He became touched, and moved with compassion, He decided to make a helpmeet not mate as many versions termed it, for Adam (Gen.2:18). "Helpmeet" means an aide, a helper, a qualified or suitable assistant. Therefore when God caused Adam to sleep, taking from him one out of his twelve ribs to create the woman, Adam said as he woke up from sleep,

"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of the man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh" (Gen.2:23-24).

"Leave is a Hebrew word âzab, and pronounced as aw-zab", meaning to loosen, i.e. relinquish, permit, etc:- commit self, fail, forsake, fortify, help, leave (destitute, off), refuse.

Chambers Dictionary defines leave as to abandon or resign, to quit or depart from, to bequeath, to refer for decision, action, etc, to allow, or cause, to remain, to desist, to cease, to depart. While the word "cleave is dâbaq in Hebrew meaning to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere, (figuratively): to catch by pursuit:- abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close, be joined together, stick, etc. However, "cleave in Greek is pr sk lla ", meaning to glue to (i.e. fig.), to adhere, cleave, join, to unite. One who carefully studies the meanings of this word "cleave unto" as explained in both Hebrew and Greek, will see that it is just talking about covenant.

HOW WILL THE COVENANT BE POSSIBLE?

By a man totally separating himself, loosening, quitting, abandoning, resigning, forsaking or departing from his parents and relations house, dominance, influence or control, and then joining or sticking himself in a covenant relationship with his wife so that they two, will be one flesh. This is the symbol or sign upon which the covenant of marriage is based. The Lord did not mention the wife's separation because the moment the marriage is consummated, the wife becomes the property of the man only and she will have nothing to do with her people. She only visits them (her people) as a stranger with permission from the husband, and she goes as one who has no part or inheritance in the possession of her people. However, this does not stop the wife from rendering help where she can which the scripture commands, again with permission from the husband. Hear it loud and clear from the mouth of the two daughters of Laban who were actually the mothers of the children of Israel when their husband Jacob, had a quarrel with their father right in their father's house.

"And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do" (Gen.31:14-16).

One of the greatest problems a man who has covenanted himself with God and the wife in order to obey God's principles in marriage will have, is to have a wife who does not understand this part of the scripture. Nowadays it is an abomination if a wife is told to observe this part of the scripture. They believe it is absolute wickedness, but the truth is that any marriage which is built on the foundation of Christ must observe it so as to be in the will of God, and have a peaceful home. In the book of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, the Lord through the mouth of Solomon the preacher, gave a clear insight into what marriage should be. He said,

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow, but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up. Again if two (husband and wife) lie together (wait upon the Lord together), then they have heat (the anointing), but how can one be warm alone? And if one (Satan) prevail against him, two (husband and wife) shall withstand him (the devil) and a threefold cord (the covenant of God, husband and wife) is not quickly broken".

God was using Solomon to unveil His original plan for man when He said, *"it is not good for man to be alone"*. Why? This is because if he is alone, he will not have a good reward for his labour, and when he is attacked, there will not be any assistance from anywhere. If he is alone, the anointing will not flow easily (note: this is why we talk about corporate anointing). He can easily be overcome by the devil if he is alone, but with his suitable assistance (the wife), he can withstand the devil as God being the Testator, and the Energizing Power in that "threefold cord", and because of His new covenant with the woman, is drawn to the battle. And when He comes, He does not lose a battle. The only saving grace for the man if the wife or the woman refuses to keep her own part of the covenant, is for the man to get himself glued, or stuck to the Lord and His word, and He will deal ruthlessly with the woman. Therefore through Solomon, we understand that

Comment [hrm1]: ask Bro. John if I can use :stuck instead.

marriage is not only horizontal (i.e. between husband and wife), but vertical as a binding of three persons ó God, husband and wife. Israel had left this law of the Lord and began to treat this sacred institution with contempt, as they continued to marry and send packing their spouses, believing that marriage is a temporary business that you can enter and come out tomorrow. But God had used Malachi the prophet to show the children of Israel that what they were doing is an act of unfaithfulness to their spouses. He told them that they were only interested in using their religious activities to cover their act of violence or unfaithfulness towards their wives, by shedding crocodile tears in that God is neither interested in those tears anymore, nor will receive it from them with goodwill. When the children of Israel sought to know why, Malachi told them, you have treated this marriage institution with contempt in that you have dealt treacherously (deceitfully) with your wife, not remembering that she is your companion and your covenant partner. He said further, that your wife is the remainder or the missing part of your spirit that has been found, and that He (God) made both of you as one so as to seek a godly seed. This shows that the coming together of a man and a woman who are in covenant relationship as husband and wife, produces a godly seed that will throw Satan and his principalities out of second heaven. The Lord finally said that He hates putting away (i.e. divorce) because man according to Malachi, likes covereth violence with his garment". This simply means using salvation as a license to divorce their wives (Mal.2:13-16). This area is a very sensitive place which I will later like to unveil to see the perfect will of God concerning it. Why there is this failure in marriage is that just like Israel, people see marriage as a relationship for which they might set their own standards, and that they are free to initiate or terminate it on their terms. However, God reminded them like he is reminding us today, that marriage is a covenant He instituted. This is why after God had warned Israel through many prophets, with the final warning coming from Malachi to change their attitudes or wrong belief towards marriage, Jesus Christ refused to settle for any other thing outside His original plan of what marriage should be. And look at what He intends marriage to be;

Comment [hrm2]: should it be -coveringó

"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder. They say unto him, why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matt. 19:3-9).

This is the standard God set from the beginning, and the Lord Jesus is not prepared to reduce the standard, even when the Pharisees reminded Him of what Moses commanded them in the law to do. He first of all defended Moses because, not only did He send Moses, but He was, and still is in covenant with Moses. Rather He blamed them that it was due to their act of rebellion and stiffness of heart, that made Moses to allow them walk away with wickedness, but it was not what He ordained from the beginning. He however, warned that what He (God) had joined together, let no man (this includes the

husband, the wife, relations of the couple, friends or any law court) put asunder. Therefore only death brings to an end the union between husband and wife. Covenant like I earlier mentioned, requires a sacrifice, otherwise it is not valid, and sacrifice requires the shedding of blood so that it will be acceptable before God. The sacrifice upon which the covenant of Christian marriage is based, is the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. He is the sacrifice through which a man and a woman can pass into the relationship of marriage as ordained by God. The covenant of Christian marriage is made at the cross as the man and woman drop the traditions of men, the rudiments of the world, human philosophy and vain deceit, at the feet of our Lord Jesus, and pass through His death on their behalf into a totally new life and a totally new relationship which would not have been possible without His death. Basically there are three stages to make this marriage relationship successful. To first stage is for the couple to lay down their lives for each other. The husband will regard the death of Christ on the cross as his death thereby telling the wife, "I gave up my life (will) when I surrendered it at the cross. Now I am no longer living for myself but for the Lord Jesus who died for me, and for my wife who is my covenant partner." The wife on the other hand will regard the death of Christ on the cross as her death thereby telling the husband, "I gave up my life (will) when I surrendered it at the cross. Now I am no longer living for myself but for the Lord Jesus who died for me, and for my husband who is my covenant partner." From that moment, each holds nothing back from the other. Everything the husband has, belongs to the wife and everything the wife has, belongs to the husband. There should be no reservations, and nothing should be held back. Their relationship should not be on the basis of partnership, but a total merger (i.e. to cause to be swallowed up or absorbed in something greater or superior, to amalgamate, to lose identity in something else, to be lost, to dip or plunge, etc). What this is saying, is that the husband loses his will, his identity is swallowed up in the Word of God, his authority is plunged into the Spirit of God and he will become a robot (i.e. a mechanical man, a machine, now especially computer controlled, able to perform complex physical task) in the hand of God. Computer controlled means that he is now controlled by the Spirit of God. The wife likewise loses her own will, her identity is swallowed up in the husband, her authority is plunged into the spirit of the man or the authority of the husband, and she will become a robot in the hand of the husband. This is what the threefold cord or the covenant of husband and wife with the Lord Jesus as the Testator, is talking about. It is because of this covenant of marriage which is a great mystery concerning the relationship between Christ and the church that made Paul to say:

"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head (lord) of the wife, even as Christ is the head (Lord) of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in everything" (Eph.5:22-24).

Let the reader of this book pause a little while and compare the underlined portions, you will discover that what Jesus is to the church which is His body, is what the husband is to the wife, children and househelps, which are his body. For example; Jesus is the Head or Lord or Owner of the Church, the husband is the same to the wife. Jesus is the Saviour of the Church, the husband is same to the wife, children and house helps. Jesus is feeding the Church spiritually and physically, the husband is doing the same to the wife. Therefore the scripture commands that you the wife should submit and obey your husband in everything, just like the church is doing to the Lord Jesus. The church calls

Jesus, ömy Lordö and reverences Him too, by fearing Him, revering Him, worshipping Him and bowing down or kneeling down before Him. The scripture commands you wives to do the same to your own husband:

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”.

Again Peter the head apostle of circumcision had this to tell the wives;

“For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands. Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement” (I Pet.3:5-6).

The scripture is very clear for both those who want to obey God, and those who will conclude that I am a heretic. If you are a holy woman or striving to be, if you have any trust in God, you must be in total subjection to your own husband in everything. You must reverence him as if he is the Lord Jesus, and you must call him ömy lordö without being ashamed.

The second stage towards having a successful relationship in marriage, is that having dropped their will on the cross or at the feet of our Lord Jesus, the couple will begin a new life which each, will live through the other. What this means is that the husband and the wife will say to each other, ömy life is in you, just as it is in the Lord. I live out my life by the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and through youö (Gal.2:20). The husband will know that just as he is living for the Lord (i.e to please the Lord), he is also living for the wife. Likewise the wife will know that she is just living her life to please both her husband and the Lord Jesus.

The third stage of this successful relationship in marriage is the consummation of the marriage by a physical union, which in turn opens the door for the fruit of the womb which will continue a new life that each has been willing to share with the other. Covenant leads to a sharing of life and procreation, because life that is not shared remains barren and unfruitful. But the attitude of the marriage in the world today, has shifted from the covenant of God to the present day culture or traditions of men. Young men of today enter into marriage with the notion of what can I and my people get from this relationship? What is there for us (I and my people) to inherit in this relationship that will make me to drop my own family, and go into another family to seek for their welfare? This type of relationship will collapse because it is not based on the covenant of threefold cord. If you approach marriage as a covenant of threefold cord, your question will be, öwhat can I give to the parties involved in this relationship so as to make it work?ö. And the parties are God, husband and wife. The answer to this question is simple, the husband will say to the wife, öas I give and surrender my life to the Lord Jesus, I also lay it down for you my wife, to love you, please you, nourish and cherish you, and also provide for all your needsö (refs.ICor.7:33, Eph.5:25-30, I Pet..3:7, Col.3:19, Prov.5:15-19). The wife on her own side will say to the husband, öas I give or surrender my life to the Lord Jesus, I also lay it down for you my husband, to submit and obey you in everything, to serve you, reverence you, love you and will continue to do you good all the days of my lifeö

(refs. Eph.5:22-24, vs 33, Col.3:18, I Pet.3:1-6, Prov.14:1, Prov.12:4, Prov.31:10-12). This is nonsense or madness to carnal or worldly marriages, not built on the foundation of God or the covenant of threefold cord. Even some charismatic ministers of God or many psychedelic women who see marriage as a temporary way of taking away their reproach, like prophet Isaiah prophesied in ch. 4:1 of his book about the state of the church in the last day, will say that this writer must be crazy. To such people I say,

“And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, by hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you shall see, and shall not perceive. For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they (demons and their agents) have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matt.13:14-15).

Chapter 8

The Duties Of Husband And Wife To Each Other In Covenant Of Marriage

It is worthy to note that in all passages of the New Testament which deals with the covenant duties of husband and wife to each other, the writer will always begin with the special duties of the wife first. This is because she is the pillar upon which the success of this relationship stands. Unless she plays her own part very well, there is no way the husband can make the relationship work because, not only is she the ship of the husband, but as the one under and who also is the one now in covenant relationship with God as contained in Jer.31:22, and who God has bestowed the authority to accomplish or achieve or obtain or bring changes in the husband; if she fails to play her part, the marriage will collapse. As the man's ship, it means that all the husband's goods, money, knowledge, wisdom, etc, are inside her. She is the one who through her submission and obedience, manages and takes care of the man's wealth, because her husband is the merchant. If she has problems being the ship that is carrying the husband's merchandize, the husband will suffer untold hardship. Therefore she must always be very careful with the way she lives her life, and with her tongue. She has the power to build the marriage, and also has the power to destroy it.

The Covenant Duties Of The Wife To The Husband

The covenant part the wife is expected to play to the husband can be summed up in Prov.31:10-31:-

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies (red jewelleries, deep red; spiritually the blood). The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil (attack). She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, (i.e. symbolically meaning that she seeks holiness) and flax (this is used for linen and which represents walking in righteousness), and worketh willingly with her hands (she submits and obeys willingly). She is like the merchant's (the husband's) ships; she bringeth her food from afar (God's storehouse in Heaven). She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat (both spiritual and physical food) to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field and buyeth it (she has the vision of the kingdom and pursues it): with the fruit of her hands she planted a vineyard (with her love and submission, she establishes the Ministry of her husband). She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms (truth is her strength and she strengthens her children and house helps with truth). She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her cattle goeth not out by night (she makes sure that the goods she is carrying inside for her husband is good, and she is a prayerful woman who spends time with the Lord at night). She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff (she is like the spindle that turns everything around, including turning her relations to the Lord and causing them to prosper). She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy (she is a blessing to the poor and also helps the needy). She is not afraid of the snow (spiritual attack) for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet (the blood). She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; (she works out her salvation with fear and trembling) her clothing is silk and purple (Garment of royalty). Her husband is

known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land (the husband is known or recognised as a man of authority both in the body of Christ and when he sits among ministers of God). *She maketh fine linen, and selleth it;* (she causes everyone around her to walk in righteousness) *and delivereth girdles (truth) unto the merchant* (the husband). *Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness* (she is very compassionate). *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness* (she does not believe in being idle or lazy). *Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works* (through submission and love) *praise her in the gates* (body of Christ).

This is exactly what God expects from a woman or wife who understands what His covenant is all about. As we begin to take them verse by verse, readers of this book will see the extent of deception the Christendom has gone into. The scripture says that God is looking for a virtuous woman, and that her price is far above rubies (symbolically meaning the Blood). Some ignorant believers will ask, "how can this man say that the price of a virtuous woman is far above the blood?" Well, God said so in His word, but if you are in doubt, call or write me and I will explain it in details. For now let me explain extensively the meaning of virtuous to the readers of this book.

The word "Virtuous is Chayil" in Hebrew, and pronounced as Khah-yil, meaning a force, whether of men, means or other resources, an army (i.e. army of God if she is in submission, and army of Satan if she is in rebellion), wealth, virtue, valour, strength, valiant, etc. Chambers Dictionary describes "virtuous" as an adjective of virtue meaning having virtue, morally good, blameless, righteous, chaste, etc. But virtue, the noun that this word is derived from, means excellence, worth, moral excellence, inherent power (i.e. sticking or inseparable power), efficacy (i.e. the power of producing an effect), a good quality, etc. Valour or valiant means actively courageous, heroic, bravery, strong. An army means a large body of people armed for war and under military command, a body of people banded together in a special cause, a host, multitude, a great number. Looking at all the meanings of virtuous, one will see that the power God invested in the woman is frightening. A careful study of this Prov.31:10-end will show that the ultimate achievement of a virtuous wife is her husband. All other thing she achieves apart from her husband is of secondary value. She should measure her achievement on how successful the husband is because her life is now hid in the husband. Her husband's success is the manifestation of her success. If the husband succeeds, she has succeeded, if the husband fails, she has failed.

In verse 11, Solomon said, *"the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so he shall have no need of spoil"*. The word "safely is betach" in Hebrew, and pronounced as beh-'takh, meaning a place of refuge, safety:- both the fact (security) and the feeling (trust), safety, assurance, boldly, confidence, hope, safe, secure, surely. What other assurance or confidence or security does a man need if his wife is playing this role in his life? His wife's approval is all that he needs. Often men stretch themselves beyond their limit to succeed in business, some engage in fraudulent or criminal acts or deals or even enter secret societies, to prove themselves. But the problem great number of them have is that they never had the assurance of approval from their wives. In order to please their wives or get their approval, these men can do anything they wouldn't have done under

normal circumstances. A man who truly has a virtuous woman as a wife, does not depend on anyone else's approval or assurance. Every other person may misunderstand him and even betray him but he knows there's one person on whom he can totally rely. And that is his wife. Why does the man absolutely depend on his wife? The answer can be found in verse 12, "she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life". She will never think or plan evil against the husband all the days of her life. There may be some period of disagreement and each may have different views over certain issues, but this does not last as what God who is Head of this covenant relationship decides through the man, will eventually stand (Prov.19:21). The woman's character is publicly seen in Prov.31:23, and it says, *"her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land"*. This means that the husband is known as a man of authority or is a recognised leader among his people or the people of God, who sits in the place of honour, and he is highly respected, successful and confident. But a greater part of this exalted position of the husband is the manifestation of the wife's success. Without her support, he wouldn't have been able to hold any position of honour or authority. The wife's major achievement can be seen in the reaction of her family in verses 28-29, which says, *"her children arise up, and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her"*. Part of the praises of her husband goes like this, *"many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all"*. One of the greatest rewards a virtuous wife can get from the husband is praise. If your wife is the kind of woman described here, or she's striving to be, there's no salary you can pay her like praising her continually. Shower praises on her food, how it tastes and how much you are enjoying it, tell her how happy you feel whenever you see her keeping the house clean, tell her how beautiful she is, tell her how much love you have for her, etc.

How Can These Covenant Duties Of The Wife Be Possible?

1. First of all is by submitting to the husband in everything. There is no area of your life (i.e. the wife) that you should not submit to him. Do not argue with him over any decision he takes, so as not to let the door open for the devil. Remember you are the fence of the man and if the fence is down, the house will face a barrage of attacks. Where you have complain, go to God in prayers and exercise a little patience for God to act, because it may be that there is something God is teaching you or wants to remove from you, and therefore allowed your husband to temporarily behave like that. In the alternative, you may humbly report him to his pastor/shepherd who is sitting in the office of God to him. And if such a pastor/shepherd understands what marriage is from God's own covenant point, he will know how to counsel both parties. This standard is very very difficult, but you will see that when your obedience is fulfilled, or when God has tested and proved your patience and humility through the man or your husband, he will begin to relax some of those stringent measures or harsh decisions and you will begin to flow (Ref. I Pet.3:1-6, I Pet.2:19-25, I Tim.2:11-15, Prov.14:1). You will even see how he will delegate most of those his authorities to you, because he is now confident.
2. Secondly, as a wife you have to uphold him. The scripture says in I Cor.11:3; *"But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."* Naturally, the final decision or direction is taken by the head (husband), but the head cannot uphold itself. The head will always depend upon the rest of the body especially the neck to do this. Without the support from the body, the head alone cannot fulfil its function. The wife is the neck that upholds the head (husband). She is the closest person to the husband, whose support he must

continually depend on. If she fails to support or uphold him in whatever he's doing, there's no way he can function as he should. Remember it is said, "that behind every successful man is a woman", but I want to add that it is not just a woman, but a virtuous woman.

3. The third solution is to encourage him. Men look unto their wives for encouragement at all times. I underlined "at all times", because the type of encouragement I am talking of is not to be done only when things are going on smoothly or when he is doing what you as the wife wants. To encourage somebody especially in times of pressure or difficulty is one of the most difficult things for anybody to do, talkless of the wife who will feel the pains and disappointment more than anyone else. It is easier to criticize and condemn or complain than to encourage. If women know the power God has given them, they will understand that an unsuccessful marriage can be made successful through the wife if only she can agree to encourage the husband. But the wife must deny herself a lot to do this, which is all that covenant is talking about. You are now living for him, and not for yourself.

The Covenant Duties Of The Husband To The Wife

In studying and teaching about the covenant duties of the husband to the wife, one portion of the scripture is very important to remember as it opens the door to many other areas. Paul after his study on this institution called marriage, had this to say,

"for a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man (1 Cor.11:7).

The word "glory is d xa" in Greek, and pronounced as dox-ah meaning dignity (i.e. elevation of character), honour, praise, worship. But according to Chambers Dictionary, glory means renown or fame, exalted or triumphant honour, widespread praise (i.e. the wife attracts praise everywhere she goes. People want to identify with or know her because she is reflecting the husband's image), an object of supreme pride, beauty, splendour, resplendent brightness (brilliant-as the moon), summit of attainment (highest point), prosperity or gratification (i.e. in religious symbolism), a ring or glow of light around the moon, boastful or self congratulatory spirit (obsolete); the presence of God, the manifestation of the blessed in heaven, a representation of the heavens opened, to exult proudly, (i.e. to rejoice exceedingly or triumph over), to rejoice, etc.

What this is pointing at, is the same as it is in the success of a wife, which is the husband. The Holy Spirit is pointing out here through Paul that the success of the husband is manifested in the wife. The wife reflects the fame, the elevated rank, widespread praise, honour, prosperity, the presence of God, brilliant brightness, etc, of the husband. To sum up all these definitions, the wife is the greatest achievement of the husband. The relationship of the husband and wife can best be described as that of "the moon and the sun". The moon is the glory of the sun, what this is saying is that the moon has no glory of its own. Its beauty comes from reflecting the radiance of the sun. As long as nothing comes between the sun and the moon, the moon will continue to reflect the radiance of the sun. In like manner, the wife is the moon, while the husband is the sun. Therefore, whenever anybody comes between the husband and wife, the reflection the wife is supposed to get from the husband if he is really in the spirit, will be dim and she will lose that light. Your wife is your perfect picture because she is reflecting what you are in the spirit. Husbands will do very well to check from time to time the area of weakness in

their wives because in most cases, they are a reflection of a corresponding problem in you which has crept in without your knowledge.

What Evidence Should A Husband See In The Wife To Prove That He Is Performing His Covenant Duties?

The answer can be found in one word of eight (8) letters, that is "security". When a wife is truly secure:- emotionally (i.e. a moving of the feelings, agitation of the mind such as anger, joy, fear or sorrow, etc), financially (i.e. relating to finance, provision or support with money), socially (this relates to life in an organized community, relating to welfare in such community, etc), spiritually (i.e. one who has a true vision of the kingdom and is pursuing it with his family), that is enough evidence that her relationship with her husband is good and the man is performing his covenant duties. But if a wife is often insecure, then there may be two reasons; either that the husband is not fulfilling his obligations to her, or something or somebody has come in between them which hinders the wife from receiving what her husband has to give her. The practical way for a man to perform his covenant duty is "to protect and to provide" for the wife. The wife feels happy and more secured to know that her husband is standing between her and every attack or pressure no matter where it is coming from. She needs a man she can always rely on to carry her through any problem or danger. She wants to see you face challenges and come out successful. She wants you to be a man of authority, and exercise it even at home. She wants you to protect her and the children from any external attack (the same way men need their wife's protection in the spirit, is the same way wives need their husband's protection in the physical). Another area of the man's duty is to provide for his wife:- In this, Paul said,

"But if any provide not for his own especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (unbeliever)" (I Tim.5:8).

This is part of Paul's admonition to the saints on how to take care of a widow indeed. This shows that a widow indeed who is up to sixty years old with other conditions mentioned in I Timothy 5:3-16, is part of your own house, and if any saint has such which falls in line with God's standard, it is your duty to provide for her needs. This is why Jesus Charged John to take care of Mary when He was on the cross, ready to die. The word "provide" as mentioned here by Paul is *Prōn* in Greek, and pronounced as pron- -eh-o, meaning to consider in advance, i.e. to look out for beforehand (actually by way of maintenance for others, by way of circumspection or watchfulness, or caution, or examining oneself). Chambers Dictionary describes provide as to supply, to afford or yield, to appoint or give a right to a benefice, especially before it is actually vacant, to stipulate, to make ready beforehand (obsolete), to prepare for future use, to make provision, to procure supplies, means or whatever may be desirable or necessary, to take measures (for or against), etc. What this is saying, is that you make provisions for her needs and that of the entire house even before the ones she presently has will finish. If she is the extravagant type that will lavish or waste money on other things that are not important, and leave those important ones that the family needs unbought, then you should supervise the buying of the things you have given her money for, and then give her extra money to buy her own personal things. A man who does not know when and

how to meet the needs of the wife, even the entire household, will automatically lose his authority in the house. You should make sure that there is no area of your wife's need which you don't make provision for, whether it is physical, emotional, social (i.e. according to the Word), spiritual or financial, you must cover all because you are "the covering of her eyes". She is not supposed to look elsewhere for the provision of these needs. If you are doing all these things, you will earn great respect from your wife, even her friends and relations, and many people will always say, "your husband is taking good care of you". Why? It is because the pride or respect a woman should earn or get anywhere is not education, money or beauty, but her husband. To sum up their duties to each other in the covenant relationship of marriage, the husband is to protect and provide for the wife, while the wife is to uphold and encourage the husband. They need the grace of God to be able to do this, and they can only get this grace as both of them commit themselves in solemn covenant relationship.

Chapter 9

Covenant Opens The Door To Knowledge

To deal with this chapter, we need to understand the meaning of marriage and knowledge, because when a man and a woman through their commitment to each other covenant themselves in marriage, it will result in both knowing themselves intimately which cannot be possible in any other way. Marriage according to Chambers Dictionary, means the ceremony, act or contract by which a man and woman become husband and wife, the union of a man and woman as husband and wife; While knowledge is the noun of the verb know. The word ðknow therefore is yâda- in Hebrew, and pronounced as yaw-dah meaning observation, care, recognition, acknowledge, acquainted with, perceive, privy to, understand. But Chambers Dictionary describes ðknowö as to be informed or assured of, to be acquainted with, to be familiar with from having learned or experienced, to recognize, to take notice of, approve, to possess knowledge, (spiritually to have sexual intercourse with). But knowledge itself means that which is known, information, instruction, enlightenment, learning, practical skill, assured belief, acquaintance, cognizance (law), sexual intimacy. Having seen the meanings of marriage, know and knowledge, it is evidently clear that a lot do not know what marriage is all about. Know or knowledge from the scriptural point of view is described as having sexual intercourse or intimacy with each other. It is important to note that Old Testament authors distinguished between moral or lawful sexual intercourse that involves a man and woman, who have covenanted themselves in marriage relationship with God as husband and wife, and immoral or unlawful sexual intercourse by persons who are not in marriage covenant. Therefore when it is an illicit or unlawful or immoral sexual relationship, not approved by God the scripture concludes that ðhe lay with her, but when it is a moral or lawful sexual relationship between husband and wife who are in covenant with God, the scripture says ðand he knew herö. Some of the examples are:-

"And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived....." (Gen.4:1).

"And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived, and bare Enoch.... " (Gen.4:17).

"And Adam knew his wife again, and she bare a son and called his name Seth..... " (Gen.4:25).

"..... and Elkanah knew Hanah his wife, and the Lord remembered her" (1 Sam.1:19).

"And they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father..... " (Gen.19:33).

"And they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose, and lay with him..... " (Gen.19:35).

"And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her" (Gen.34:2).

"And David sent messengers, and took her, and she came in unto him, and he lay with her..... "(II Sam.11:4).

This shows that a man can have an unlawful or immoral sexual intercourse with a woman, without knowing her. What the scripture describes this kind of sexual intercourse or relationship is fornication or adultery which is punishable by death. See how Paul by the inspiration of the Lord described it;

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:9-10)

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's". (I Cor.6:18-20).

The sexual intercourse or relationship between a man and a woman who have covenanted themselves with God as husband and wife, is the physical manifestation of their union. It is in this lawful or moral intimate relationship that they truly become one flesh, just as Christ becomes one Spirit with covenant Christians who sacrifice their will unto God, when they enter into true or intimate worship of God. This is because apart from the emotional and physical satisfaction they get from each other, they are exchanging their blood which has been sanctified with the Blood of Jesus or the Blood of the covenant. This is why God attaches great importance to it. And that's why AIDS and many other diseases are contracted through blood because the exchange is immoral. The Old Testament description of immoral sexual relationship, shows that you can lie with many women without knowing them. Why? It is because knowledge comes out of covenant. Having explained how the scripture relates marriage with knowledge, it is expedient that I look at knowledge and marriage from the human point of view, or from the Dictionary definition of the two, and warn people who have been treating this sacred covenant with contempt.

Firstly, marriage is described by Chambers Dictionary as ceremony, act or contract that unites a man and a woman as husband and wife. Paul while admonishing the Hebrews said,

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb.13:4).

The word *ō*honourable is *Timi s* in Greek, and pronounced as *tīm'-ee-osō*, meaning valuable, i.e. (obj.) costly, or (subj.) honoured, esteemed, or (fig.) beloved :- dear, honourable, respectable (more, most) precious, had in reputation. Chambers Dictionary describes honourable as worthy of honour, illustrious, governed by principles of honour, good, honest, etc, conferring honour, befitting people of exalted rank. But *ō*undefiled is *amiant s* in Greek, and pronounced as *am-es'-an-tosō*, meaning unsoiled i.e. (fig.) pure, undefiled, unpolluted, not violated, uncorrupted. Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles, had

watched the discriminatory attitude of the Jews towards the Gentiles in everything including marriage, that unless it is done according to the custom of the Jews, it is not marriage, or that those who were married before their conversion should remarry in the Lord, if their spouses refuse to repent; just like that of circumcision, in which they said that unless the Gentile believers are circumcised, their salvation is incomplete. The Holy Spirit therefore led him to admonish not only the Jews, but the entire world, that any custom, law, ceremony, contract, act in which a man not a boy, and a woman not a girl, agree to use in binding or covenanting themselves together as husband and wife, with two or three witnesses certifying it, is honourable or acceptable before God. And such people should not start having extra marital affairs believing they are not married. Even if your spouse refuses to repent and be converted, you should not remarry because only death can free any of the parties from such bond or covenant. If you want to stay apart because you feel you may lose your faith, you may do so, but don't remarry or start committing adultery (ref. Rom.7:1-3, I Cor.7:10-15).

Let me explain in details what Paul meant as it relates to what is done in the Christendom and the entire world today. Many nations of the world believe that for a man and woman to live as husband and wife, the traditional marriage customs of both the man's and the woman's villages, or towns, or nations as the case may be, must be observed. And if it is not done, they will not be regarded as husband and wife. My stand and God's stand on this, is that they are right if only some scriptural laws are kept, because the customs of all nations of the world, are subject to the Word of God. For example, for a man to be ripe for marriage, he has to observe this scripture:

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen.2:24).

I have explained this scripture many times in this book from different angles; and I will explain it again. Leaving father and mother is not packing out of their house to go and rent or buy or build your own house, but rather loosening yourself in everything from their control or influence, relinquishing, forsaking, quitting, departing, abandoning or resigning from all their customs and traditions, if you wish to do so (i.e. spiritual, marital, material, financial, social, cultural, etc). If you don't leave them you will not find your perfect rib, and you will not be able to cleave unto her if you do find, because they will always influence your decisions. To back up this explanation, look at this;

"If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth" (Num. 30:2).

What this is saying, is that a man does not need his father's approval to start taking decisions that affect him. This is why you are expected to leave them so that there will not be a clash of interest. In effect, a man may decide to leave his State or Country of nativity and naturalize in another State or Country without going for consultations or approval from his parents. If he chooses to marry in his naturalized State or Country, whether he is marrying a citizen of that State or Country or not, he will follow the custom of his naturalized State or Country and not that of his native State or Country. But this has not gone down well with many parents who will maintain that their children are not yet married. Why? It is because they believe those children neither followed the custom

of their fathers, nor did they allow their people to play a part in their marriages. In this, they ignorantly continue to attack the Word of God which governs all traditions and customs, and which also permits male children from twenty years and above, to separate or be redeemed from their parents if they wish to do so. For example, look at God's commandment to Moses on this issue:-

"Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls; from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies" (Num.1:2-3).

This is the biblical age for a young man to be freed or separated from his father's control or influence. Infact, the whole of Numbers Chapter 1 and Exodus 30:11-16, talked about this age of separation or redemption. Again in this age, many young men may decide to marry in a Court of Law, and this is also acceptable as marriage. What of if the young man is a disciple of our Lord Jesus, and is separated from traditions, customs, and the entire system of the world? This is more acceptable or more honourable before God than all other conditions I have mentioned. Why? It is simple, if he understands what separation means to God and keeps it as Abraham did, or as contained in this Scripture;

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that Country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better Country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:13-16);

and God leads him to a young lady who not only has the knowledge of separation, but is also separated like himself, they could be joined together in the church or in their fellowship by an anointed man of God who is also in separation, as witnessed by two or three witnesses who also understand the meaning of separation. This has been made clear by Paul through what we read in this scripture. Separated vessels or disciples of our Lord Jesus are citizens of another Country which is heavenly, and therefore are not bound by any other earthly tradition and custom. This is the price that the Blood of Jesus paid, and that is why it is called the Blood of Redemption (Separation). It redeems or separates you from all these traditions and customs, and also from the entire system of the world, to do only the will of God. How can a woman be separated from her father's house or control or influence so as to go into this kind of marriage without sinning against God or walking against the tradition or custom of her people? To answer this question correctly, it is very important to note that some of the things that were not possible in the Old Testament, the Blood of Jesus has made them possible in the New Testament. For example, this epistle written by Paul says;

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal.3:27-28).

I want to explain this scripture because, some Ministers of God have used it to cover their rebellion against God, as they go on ordaining women as Pastors, Evangelists, Teachers, Prophets, Apostles, Bishops, etc., believing that there should not be any distinction again, between the male and female. This is a great spiritual error because, in the New Testament God only permits women who are aged or mature in the Lord, to be servants of the Church (not of God) or deaconesses as some have christened it. What Paul meant here is that, in the Old Testament, a non-Israelite, he that is bond, and no female can enrol in the army (which is the same thing as being a disciple today) or be allowed to work in the Tabernacle. But now, once you are born again, baptized in water and Holy Spirit, you have put on Christ no matter where you come from, and therefore you are qualified to enrol as a disciple or work in the Lord's Vineyard. This indicates that when a young lady is up to twenty years old, she like men, has reached the age of redemption or separation, and therefore could decide to forsake her people, or State, or Country of nativity, to seek for greener pastures in another State, or Country, or she may decide to separate herself unto God. Moses had this clearly spelt out to him by God in Numbers as God said,

"If a woman vow a vow unto the Lord, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; and her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the Lord shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her" (Num.30:3-5).

If she was living with her parents and at twenty years old, she decides to break away from her father's control, influence or dominance, and her father heard her decision and fails to stop her, then she has freed herself from all their traditions and customs if she desires to do so. And in this her new condition of freedom, if she decides to naturalize in the State or Country where she lives, and possibly decides also to marry a young man she likes or God may lead to her, she is not bound by any law to keep to the tradition of her father's in that marriage. This standard is also applicable for unmarried young women who are true disciples of our Lord Jesus, and who have separated themselves from their father's house, control, influence or dominance. If they prayerfully find their covenant partners, they should not be bound by traditions and customs of their fathers. This should serve as a lesson to parents who in their quest to have their daughters get better jobs or business so that they can take care of those parents, lose their God given authority over their daughters, and when it finally gets to marriage, they try to reclaim it. But the scripture has proved that once you lose such authority, you have automatically established all her bonds and you cannot reclaim it at anytime. Having dealt with the biblical age for both male and female to be regarded as a man and a woman respectively, and in which according to Chambers Dictionary, they could have a marriage act, ceremony or contract that will unite them as husband and wife, let me now explain knowledge from the human point of view, or from the Dictionary definition, and relate it to marriage. Knowledge shows a close observation of something or somebody, to take notice of, recognise, understand or to be acquainted with somebody or something, to be familiar with somebody or something from having learned or experienced him/her or it. What this is saying in effect is that, a young man approaches a young woman to ask for her hand in

marriage after having a close observation of, taking notice of, understanding or becoming acquainted with the lady's character or lifestyle, and the young woman will agree to the man's proposal only if she has become familiar with the young man's behaviour from having learned or experienced him. Most marriages have collapsed or are at the point of collapsing, because the spouses did not know each other, or take time to study themselves and become familiar or acquainted with each other's character before getting married. I am not soliciting for any form of immoral or illicit act, or this kind of dating or courtship which many charismatic ministers of God preach and which gives room to a lot of immorality, as many licentious young men capitalize on the ignorance of these preachers to defile many sisters all in the name of marriage, and without marrying those girls. Any form of having a carnal knowledge of a young woman by her fiancé before the marriage is consummated, is fornication which is punishable by death. This is very clear in the Bible because if the marriage fails to work, who will the man leave the lady for? Today many parents have sold their children into slavery and perpetual regret or sorrow, either because of financial and material gain, or because of age long tradition or custom that does not profit them anything. Some parents force their daughters to marry early when they can still control them or choose their husbands for them. Such marriages are usually unsuccessful because when those girls become matured, they will find out that they never loved those men or they never took notice of their behaviour from the beginning. But the truth is that she was not allowed to choose who her life partner will be. When the Lord through the mouth of Solomon the king said in Prov.18:22, *"whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord"*, He meant business. He had tried what many parents are doing now without success. He created Adam who was filled with joy to have had Eve brought to him, sinned against God, he blamed God for giving him that woman he never asked for. Therefore God has left this issue of finding in the hands of the parties concerned. Let the young men find those missing ribs which they know that will perfectly fit them, and let the young woman quietly pray to know whether they are making the right choice, or let them patiently study themselves to know whether they are the right match. Parents should stay clear of choosing wives or husbands for their children or stop laying a stumbling for them with your traditions and customs. Or what can one say of two classmates (a boy and a girl) who went to the same Secondary or High School, and later attended the same University and for over 9 to 10 years, they have been able to study and understand themselves, and finally decided to seal this long time relationship with marriage. Suddenly the parents of either the young man or the young woman will become a stumbling by insisting that their son or daughter will not marry the fiancée or fiancé, and in the stead, they will go and arrange for somebody whom their son or daughter neither knew, nor is ready to spend a lifetime with. This is the beginning of the young man's or the young woman's sorrow or catastrophe if the person gives heed to such manipulation. And those who were truly or legally married in Overseas or abroad, not arranged marriages or contract marriage (i.e. between both couple) which is only for the purposes of getting citizenship cards and later come back here or to their various Countries, to remarry possibly the citizens of their countries, are committing adultery. And if they fail to repent, they will perish in hell fire (ref. Matt.19:3-11). I will cite one example of what I am saying here so that those adulterers and adulteresses will learn from this and repent.

There was a man who had spent many years in the United States of America before coming back to Nigeria. He was married to a lady from one of the European Countries whom he met in the United States, and both of them had two kids (a boy and a girl). The

wife and the kids were still in U.S., but the man had planned to settle down here in Nigeria. And so when the man came back to Nigeria, he found the Lord and this was around 1989. He sought counsel from the Head Pastor of the fellowship I was attending then, on what to do since his wife and kids were not yet ready to join him in Nigeria. The Pastor brought the matter before us because I was one of the deliverance ministers, to seek our opinion. All the brethren including the Head Pastor ignorantly endorsed that the man could remarry if the wife refuses to join him in Nigeria. They gave some reasons to buttress their points: (a) That the man married her when he was an unbeliever and having found the Lord, he has entered a new covenant with the Lord, and may decide to now marry in the Lord. (b) That the scripture says in I Cor.7:15; *"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace"*.

I told them that the little I know then about the Word of God, shows that only death can part a husband and wife. I mentioned that neither adultery from the wife, nor the man's new faith in the Lord Jesus can cause them to divorce or make the man to remarry. I also said that the man could stay alone and follow the Lord and when the Lord is pleased, He can cause the wife to rejoin him. My colleagues then asked me, "how can the man contain or avoid adultery since the wife is not ready to join him?" I told them that if the man cannot continue to fast and pray for God's grace, let him go back to U.S. and rejoin the wife and kids, but let him not drop from faith, and God will be merciful unto him and redirect his life at the appointed time. But this opinion of mine then was baseless to my colleagues as the man was directed to remarry. I wouldn't know what later happened because God brought me out of that Ministry and separated me unto Himself to train me. There are millions of cases like this, not only in the world, but also in the Christendom, and many pastors or ministers of God, have contributed to the destruction of this revered covenant institution. This is why Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit maintained that whatever tradition, custom, ceremony, act, contract from any part of the world, which is observed in joining a man and not a boy or an adulterer, or a woman and not a girl or an adulteress as husband and wife is acceptable, honourable, respectable, highly esteemed before God. And the parties concerned should not have extra marital affairs because it is adultery.

Finally, it behoves on me to warn people on behalf of the Lord, that a woman should never look at another man romantically the way she looks at the husband, likewise the husband should neither receive such looks from any of the opposite sex, nor look at them in that way, because this is an act of seduction (Gen.20:1-16).

Chapter 10

The Covenant Of Our Lord Jesus Christ With His Church

God's covenant with the church was conceived when Adam broke his covenant with God courtesy of an advice from Eve his wife, which made him to eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In this God came down and cursed all the vessels that took part in the breaking of the covenant. He told the woman that her seed will be the one to bruise the head of Satan, while Satan will bruise the heel of the woman's seed (Gen.3:15). God began to unfold this mystery when He chose a man whose name was Abraham, and told him to depart or to get out of his country, out of his kindred, and from his father's house, to a strange land He will later show him. God said that He will make of Abraham a great nation and make his name great. He promised to make him a blessing in such a way that all the families of the earth shall be blessed through Abraham (Gen.12:1-3). When Abraham who had taken Lot his nephew with him, separated from Lot, after the quarrel between Abraham's herd men and Lot's herd men in Canaan, God then spoke to Abraham and told him that from northward, southward, eastward and westward of the land he was dwelling, shall He (God) give him (Abraham) and his seed after him. Significantly, God never showed Abraham the vision of his inheritance until he became separated from Lot. This should serve as a lesson to many believers especially separated vessels whose attachment to families, is gradually making them to lose their vision for the Kingdom (ref. Gen.13:14-17). After God had finished making a covenant with Abraham, He later caused Sarah to bear a son called Isaac, in whom God had promised to establish His covenant with Abraham (Gen.17:16-21). Abraham having been instructed by God to send away Hagar and her son Ishmael, was left with Isaac as his only son. When therefore Isaac became a grown man, God then tested Abraham's faith. He did not test Abraham's faith when he still had Ishmael around, otherwise it would have been that he (Abraham) obeyed God because he had Ishmael as reserve. This is to show the severity of what God demanded from Abraham as a way of proving Abraham's love for Him. According to Gen.22:1-14, it was after Abraham had passed this great test of faith that God unveiled in a much clearer way, what His promises to Abraham covered. And God said,

"by myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying, I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore, and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in thy seed shall all nations be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Gen.22:176-18).

By saying that, *"in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven"*, God meant Abraham's spiritual children (i.e. the children of God) that will be called through the covenant He was going to make with them in Christ Jesus. This shows that Abraham apart from being the father of the physical or natural Israel and many of the Arab nations, which is what *"the sand which is upon the seashore, means"*, he will also be the father of the saints or believers in Christ Jesus throughout the world. This therefore has made the picture clearer, that what God passed Abraham through when He called him, both before and after He made a covenant with him, which He also required the Israelites as the descendants of Jacob the grandson of Abraham, to go through both before and after His

covenant with them at Mount Sinai (ref. Exodus 24:1-8), is what He requires Abraham's descendants through the Lord Jesus (i.e. believers in Christ Jesus), to go through so as to be blessed as Abraham was blessed in everything (refs. Gen13:2, Gen 24:34-36), and inherit the spiritual land of Canaan. Even as Abraham and his descendants inherited the physical land of Canaan after they had been humbled by God to obey Him (Deut.8:1-5).

By the way, the word "Canaan, is K^ena^ean in Hebrew, which is derived from Kana and pronounced as Kaw-nah" meaning, to bend the knee, hence to humiliate, vanquish:- bring down (low), into subjection, under, humble (self) subdue. In this, God meant that those who will inherit the spiritual land of Canaan (i.e. the New Jerusalem above), are those who have been subdued or humbled through submission and obedience to His word. For this cause, God in the books of Isaiah chapters 9 and 11, and Jeremiah 33, which says,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the time of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isa.9:6-7).

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears. But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isa.11:1-5).

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness. For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually" (Jer. 33:14-18).

The Lord Jesus as the Branch that came out of David, and the seed of Abraham, is the forty-second (42nd) generation from Abraham (Matt.1:1-17), whom the Father had sent to come and continue with this everlasting covenant He made with Abraham. Therefore anyone who rejects the first covenant He made with the church through the early apostles, has also rejected Christ because He has no new covenant to make with the church again. The only covenant that Jesus will make again, is with the natural Israel. Why? This is because what Moses did in Mount Sinai as he represented God in His covenant with Israel, was a symbol of the new and everlasting covenant God will make with them when Jesus returns. Interestingly, it is because God made this covenant with

Abraham and wants to fulfil it in the Lord Jesus, that made Him to warn through Isaiah the prophet saying;

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord; look unto the rock (Christ Jesus) whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit (hell or the world and its system) whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you; for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (Isa. 51:1-3).

Why did God want us to hearken to Him? It is because this is the only way to keep the covenant and walk in righteousness. He wants us to look unto Jesus who in His days in the flesh, was only listening and doing the will of His Father (God). Jesus overcame the gates (or authorities) of hell and powers that operate the system of the world, by separating Himself from the world and its system, consecrating Himself unto the service of God, and then obeying Him (God) even unto death. If you take a close look at the statements made by the Lord Jesus in the following scriptures, you will see that He already dropped His will in heaven before He came to this earth. Therefore His death on the cross is a manifestation of the will He already dropped.

"I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (Jn.5:30).

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him, that sent me" (Jn.6:38).

"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me" (Jn.14:30).

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (Jn.17:16).

These scriptures and many more in the Word of God, are evidence to prove that Jesus having dropped His will in heaven, came down with only one purpose, and that is to do the will of the Father. It is not surprising why He said, "*... for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me*". The word "hath" in this context is *ch* in Greek and pronounced as *ekh'-o*", meaning to hold (literally or figuratively), possession, ability, contiguity, relation. But Chambers Dictionary describes hold as to keep, to have, to grasp, to have in one's possession, keeping or power, to sustain, to defend successfully, to maintain, to assert authoritatively, to think, believe, to occupy, to pass on a title to, to bind, to contain, etc. The Lord could confidently say this because He had in Him nothing that belonged to the prince of this world. He was not part of the Education in the system. He never possessed the Wisdom of the world. He had no business in marriage according to the system, though He will marry His bride (the Church) in Heaven. He neither belonged to the religion of the Jews, nor any other religion in the system of the world. He did not have any part in the day to day business of this world, but His business was to preach the gospel of God and announce to the world the coming Kingdom of God. He had nothing to do with both the culture and social life of the system of this world. From the time He answered the call of God, He never listened to any advice or instruction that

came from anybody including Mary the mother. In fact He was spotless and blameless. This is exactly what He expects from the saints who have agreed not only to enter into a covenant with Him, but to keep it. Then Abraham our father whom He again told us to look unto, left his father's house, his kindred and his Country, and consecrated himself unto the service of God and obeyed God till he died. God on His side did not fail him (Abraham), as He blessed him mightily in all things. For example in the world, before anyone contests an election, he must first of all resign his present government appointment, the same way a disciple must resign and come out of the system to contest for an election in New Jerusalem. Like I earlier said that Jesus is the (forty-second) 42nd generation from Abraham, on whom God's new covenant with human race should rest upon. And for this cause, God waited until that generation, because forty-two (42) in God's Arithmetic of Numbers, is the second coming of our Lord Jesus.

In this, God was indicating that Jesus will come to this earth two times. First, to gather Abraham's spiritual children scattered throughout the world, who through the covenant He made with the early apostles on behalf of the entire Christendom, will be His bride, while He becomes their bridegroom. **Then His second** coming will be to gather the natural Israel from all the Countries God scattered them and to make a new covenant with them on behalf of God, as God's own wife and as He had earlier promised (refs. Jer.31:31-34, Jer.32:37-42, Heb.8:8-13). It was for this reason that God sent Angel Gabriel to a virgin woman called Mary, betrothed to Joseph, in fulfilment of His curse to Satan in Gen.3:15 which says, *"And I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"*. Mary having accepted to be used to fulfil that plan of God, conceived the Word spoken to her by Angel Gabriel and later gave birth to that Word, in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore at the fullness of time (i.e. when He became a matured man), Jesus left His foster father's house, his kindred and Country of nativity like Abraham our father did to answer the call of God. It is important to note that Jesus answered God's call at the age of thirty (30) which is the number for Blood, and the Blood speaks of redemption or separation. Many may say, but He didn't physically leave His foster father's house and His Country. These ignorant believers and the world fail to realize that when Jesus was young, He was not only subject to Joseph His foster father and Mary His mother, but was also keeping the traditions of His people as can be seen here;

"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions..... And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. But his mother kept all these sayings in her heart (Lk.2:41-51).

But from the moment He answered the call of God, He separated Himself from all these customs and traditions, and began to preach against those customs, as He started propagating the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Jesus in His new status of separation

from parents, brothers, sisters, relations, the entire world and its system, consecrated Himself to the service of God, and started calling out those who will agree to do the same thing He did. When He finally chose His twelve (12) disciples whom He called Apostles, He took them separately to the mountain and gave them the laws or the principles of the Kingdom which can be found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. For Him to choose His disciples on the Mountain means that only those who are able to prayerfully seek the face of God in Zion so as to know and do His will, are those He has chosen as disciples, for many are called but few are chosen. And these people are chosen in the furnace of affliction (which means intense suffering they will go through for the sake of Christ and the gospel. ref. Isa.48:10). As I said earlier, in Matthew Chapters 5, 6 and 7 were not only how to relate or obey God, but also how to relate with one another, as Moses did on behalf of God in Mount Sinai when he gave the Israelites which were a replica of the church, Exodus chapters 20, 21, 22, and 23, which was a package of not only the law of God, but how they were to relate with one another. After this, the Lord Jesus started to test the obedience of His disciples to these laws of the kingdom as He began to work with them, teaching them how to obey Him so as to be able to withstand the enemy. He continued with them for 3 years and few months, teaching them what sanctification and holiness mean, and showing an example through His own conduct until the night before His death, He and His disciples carefully planned the last supper (refs. Matt.25:20-29, Lk.22:1-22, Jn.13:1-13). It was in this last supper that He made a covenant with them (His Apostles) to represent the entire human race, who will hear the gospel through them, agree to separate from the entire system of the world like Jesus did, consecrate themselves unto the service of God, and obey Him by living like His disciples indeed. After the covenant, Judas left and betrayed Him.

The word "Betray" is *Paradid mi* in Greek, and pronounce as *par-ad-id-o-mee*, meaning to surrender i.e. yield up, intrust, transmit:- betray, bring forth, cast, commit, deliver (up), give (over, up), hazard, put in prison, recommend. Chambers Dictionary describes betray as to give information about treacherously or deceitfully (to an enemy), to disclose in breach of trust, to deceive (someone innocent or trustful), to seduce, to disappoint the hopes of, to reveal or show unintentionally, to show signs of. While transmit means to send on, to pass on, to hand on, to communicate, to hand down to posterity, to send out or broadcast (radio, signals, programmes, etc.), to transfer, to allow the passage of, act as a medium for, to send out a radio signal. With this definition, Judas therefore gave out a treacherous information about His Master to the enemies of our Saviour Jesus Christ. He disappointed the hopes reposed on him as Jesus' closest kindred because he alone came from the same tribe with Jesus. When you as a believer, begin to act as a medium for unbelievers to attack and speak evil of our Lord Jesus, together with His true disciples, probably because you could not stand the test of fire (faith), you are operating with the spirit of Judas and also inviting disaster for yourself. For you disciples, your greatest upset or battle this end time, will come from close Christian friends and relations who have sold out, but they still pretend to be in support of your faith. You are warned to be very, very careful. When Judas therefore left, Jesus revealed to the rest of the disciples how to be able to obey what He had taught them in what He called a new commandment. Hear the Lord's new commandment again to His disciples;

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (Jn.13:34-35).

It is this new commandment of "love" that can fulfil the law. Therefore in fulfilment of Heb.9:15-17, which says, *:and for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb.9:15-17).*

Biblically, testament and covenant mean the same thing, that is why the Old Covenant and New Covenant which procedures of how they were made are contained in the Holy Bible, are popularly referred to as the Old and New Testament. And what this place is saying, is that anytime a covenant is made, the testator or testatrix must likely die for the covenant to be effective. This is why whenever a covenant is made by two groups or two parties, there is likely going to be the death of the principal actors or substitutes God may allow to pay the price for them (e.g. in God's covenant with Abraham where Isaac would have died but the ram of substitution was used in the stead of Isaac), so that the people who will be left behind will begin to work out the covenant in reality. Therefore since the covenant was between the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom and His Apostles which represented all the disciples worldwide who are His bride, someone had to die from both sides for the covenant to be effective. From God's side Jesus died and from the disciples' side, the son of perdition gave way for other disciples to be able to keep the covenant. Therefore, this cup of wine which He shared with His disciples, not only brought them into a vertical relationship with Jesus, but also horizontally with each other. This is why the Holy Spirit while admonishing the Church through Paul about the significance of the Lord's supper, laid more emphasis on this relationship of brotherhood that should be existing among all who partake of the same one loaf and one cup. Hear what he said,

"the cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The Bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (I Cor.10:16-17).

What Paul meant was that the Holy Communion is supposed to be a symbol of unity that should be in existence where there is a covenant of brotherhood. In essence, all partakers of that one loaf of bread which are normally serious minded covenant people, are one body in Christ Jesus. Therefore they should tread cautiously to avoid damnation, for on account of this, the Holy Spirit said further through Paul,

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (die) " (I Cor.11:26-30).

Holy Communion is not meant for those in the Outer Court but rather for those in both the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies who understand the covenant of brotherhood. For once you are united in covenant relationship with some dedicated brethren, you cannot think or say or do anything that will bring reproach to any of your covenant brethren. This is why the scripture says that anyone who eats and drinks the bread and wine of the Lord, after speaking evil of your fellow brother or sister who partakes of the same thing with you or doing him or her evil, then you will be guilty of that Holy Communion (i.e. the body and blood of the Lord), and invoke the judgment of God upon yourself. Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit said that it is because of the wickedness of believers who eat and drink this bread and wine of the Lord unworthily (i.e. with malice or sin), that many people among the Christian family are spiritually weak, and many are suffering serious sicknesses that are almost incurable as a result of God's affliction. While many have died both spiritually and physically or at the point of death because of this judgment. The moment covenant is made, it calls for extreme carefulness, because at that time the spirit of death is hovering to destroy the covenant breakers like no other time. This is why those who have existing covenant relationship with their fellow brethren, or those who fellowship together with other dedicated or serious minded Christians, and are opportune to take this Holy Communion as a mark of unity among themselves, or to show forth the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, should tread very cautiously with their faith so as not to betray one another or the Lord. For whenever you start yielding up your faith, you will eventually betray your fellow brethren, and once a man gives up his faith, he moves straight to betrayal and blasphemy.

According to the epistle of Peter which says, *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy"* (1 Pet.2:9-10); he (Peter) was trying to show that the new covenant in Christ Jesus has the same effect as God's previous covenant with Israel. He said further, that the covenant establishes all who enter into it as a collective "people of God" whom he described as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a peculiar people. It therefore shows that through the covenant the Lord made with His church, He has chosen us to be priests unto Him, and also to live a holy life so as to be peculiar to Him. After Jesus had entered into a new covenant with His disciples, He went on to give them a long and intimate teaching recorded in John chapters 14, 15, 16. It was in this teaching that He revealed whom He is. And when He finally finished, He performed the function of a High Priest as He prayed for them in John Chapter 17, not for the world, but for His disciples and all throughout the world who will enter into this covenant by agreeing to separate from the entire system of the world through the gospel of His apostles, consecrate themselves unto the service of God and live a holy life, by obeying Him to the end. What was His request from them all? That they all may be one with Him (Jesus) and the Father, and also that they will be with the Lord where He is so as to behold His glory. This shows that the end of covenant is for us to be truly united with Him in the same nature and quality as that which exists between Father and son. An insight into the Lord's prayer in John chapter 17 as we go through them, proved both what the covenant is all about, and the function of our Lord Jesus as God's High Priest. Verse 3 says,

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent".

This is coming from the lips of our Lord Jesus what eternal life means and according to the Author and Finisher of our faith, eternal life means having an intimate knowledge of God the Father and our Lord Jesus. Which can be explained as to be acquainted with, from having learned or experienced Him. This experience is what the wisdom and knowledge of God are talking about, and you only get them after a long but intimate relationship with the Lord, in which you suffer so much persecutions, tribulations, reproaches, famines, distresses, watchings, fastings, etc, for the sake of the Lord. In verse 6, 14, 16, the Lord said,

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world".

A careful study of this place shows that it is the Father that gave Jesus the men He (Jesus) trained for Him. Secondly, those men were separated from the system of the world like Jesus our Saviour and they were able to hear and obey God. Thirdly, they were hated by the world and its system because they like Jesus were not part of the system of the world. A lesson to learn here, is that those God has given to the Lord Jesus as His covenant brethren, must be separated or called out of the entire system of the world and those in the system will hate them because they are not part of the evil in the world. The Lord sounded it loud and clear in verse 9 and 20 to all saying,

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me, for they are thine. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word".

What the Lord is saying is that, He only prays for His disciples who are keeping His covenant by separating themselves from the system of the world, hearing His word and doing it. He also prays for those who have heard or are hearing His word through His disciples, and are willing to obey. As for those who are neither willing to hear His word nor come out of the system, He does not bother about them for in the time of visitation, they will be destroyed with the system. The Lord in His prayer also said,

"sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth" (Jn.17:17-19).

This word "sanctification" has caused a lot of controversy in Christendom. The reason for this controversy is that many people do not know what it stands divinely, and the very few ministers who understand what it means, are afraid of preaching or teaching it so as not to lose their members, who may decide to take this bold step and yield themselves to the Holy Spirit so as to sanctify them. Now sanctification is a willing separation from the world and its system, consecration or dedication to the service of God who through His

Holy Spirit will place you under an anointed man of God so that you will be under God's mighty hand or in the sight of God, and finally you will be living a daily holy life unto the Lord. Remember, the day you stop living for the Lord or you go back to the system of the world, you will lose your sanctification. If you go back to what Jesus said in those verses, you will see that He (Jesus) was sanctified and sent to the world by God, so that His words and His lifestyle will make it possible for those that hear Him to yield to the Holy Spirit and become sanctified. A lesson that the readers of this book will learn here, is that God does not send anyone He has not sanctified into the world to preach His word. And for those who have gone or are going without this sanctification, they don't have the truth. The request that the Lord made in His prayer unto the Father is for all His disciples to be one (that is united in word, thought and action), how can it be achieved? The answer can only be found in this fourteen (14) letter word called "sanctification". If all the disciples of our Lord Jesus are sanctified like He requested irrespective of language, tribe, nationality, colour, we can truly be united. That is how humanity was before they were scattered at Babel by God. And if we are truly united, we can be where He is so as to behold His glory and share it with Him as He said in verse 22-24. It is for this request of being with Him where He is, that made the Lord to keep on giving His apostles and intending disciples who want to enter into covenant with Him to be one, these standards found in Lk.14:26-33, Matt.10:32-42, Mk.10:17-31, Lk.12:49-53, Heb.13:11-14, II Tim.2:3-4, etc.

A look at what the Lord said in the gospel of Luke as an eye opener to other standards which He demands is,

"if any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and com after me, cannot be my disciple. So likewise whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk.14:26-27,33).

Large majority of people in the Christendom including ministers of God, have tried to change the word "hate" so as to suit the hearers and make people believe that God does not mean what He said. But the truth is that these ignorant believers do not understand that God is not a sentimental Being. What He says in His word, He means it and has ordered His Spirit to implement all of them no matter the way humanity feels. That's why the scripture says,

"why dost thou strive against Him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters". (Job.33:13).

The Lord also said through Paul,

"thou wilt say then unto me, why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus?"

People should be told the truth as it is in the scripture so as to make a right decision on time. Jesus is neither begging nor persuading anyone to follow Him. He said "if", which means it is your own business to decide whether you want to be His disciple and if you want, the standards must be kept. That word "hate" is simply extreme dislike or violent dislike of their traditions, customs (e.g. like social, spiritual, cultural, marital, funerals, etc.), and every other thing either these your parents or siblings, or wife or children, or even yourself are doing which is likely going to hinder your Christian race. This is why the Lord said you must forsake or hate them so as to live a holy life by obeying His word. Your forsaking is not an act of wickedness, but rather for God to use you as a point of contact to deliver them. If you do not forsake them, you cannot be His disciple, and whoever enters into a covenant with the Lord, or believes he/she is in covenant with our Lord and refuses to sacrifice cannot be His disciple. This is because until you are ready to give up the world and its pleasures, consecrate yourself unto the service of God, and live a holy life unto God by obeying Him, you are not yet offering an acceptable sacrifice unto Him. It is very important to note that divine prosperity must be mixed with persecution, if it's not, then it is not from God. The covenant Jesus came to make with the church is to bring them out of the system of the world and not to keep them in the system so as to change the system, as some stubborn believers say, that's why His blood was shed as a ransom and that is why it is called "the Blood of Redemption (Separation)".

Paul in his letter to the Romans said,

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God". (Rom.12:1-2).

The word "Conform is susch matiz ", and pronounced as soos-khay-mat-id-zo, meaning to fashion alike, i.e. conform to the same pattern, figuratively; conform to, fashion self according to. Chambers Dictionary describes conform as to make like or of the same form or type, to adopt, to comply (with), to obey. While "transform" according to Chambers Dictionary means to change the shape of, to change especially; radically or thoroughly to another form, appearance, substance or character, to change the form of, etc. Paul after working long with the Lord, and having been corrected by the Lord from imposing some of his human will or frailty, on those he watched over for the Lord, part of which was to command those under him to go and work in the system so as to be able to eat, later in chapter seven (7) of the book of Romans, warned the disciples of our Lord Jesus in his testimony, to keep their separation intact and be not defiled with the system. He cited an example in Romans 7:1-4 of how a married woman is bound by law to the husband so long as the husband is alive, but if the man is dead, she is loosed from that law. The apostle used this example to buttress his point when he said that since we are dead to carnal laws by being born into the Body of Christ, we should also be married to Christ who is raised from the dead and live our lives for Him, so that He too will raise us from the dead. Paul continued in chapter 12:1-2 by saying, that for you to offer a living sacrifice (i.e. a life put on the altar, with no more will or desire, than a dead animal, to be consumed in the service of God, a heart attitude of absolute or unquantified surrender to God) which is holy and acceptable unto God, you must not adapt or be fashioned like, or

conform to the same pattern, or comply or obey the system of the world. But you have to radically and thoroughly change your mind, your appearance, your character, etc., to the form of Christ Jesus, whom you are in covenant relationship with, and who has nothing to do with this world and its system. This is why David in his prayer said,

*"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will shew them His covenant".
(Psalms 25:14).*

This means that contrary to the claim by large majority of believers world wide who say they are in covenant with the Lord, they are not, because the Psalmist said that only those who fear Him by obeying all His words, can know or have His secret, and they will be the people He can show His covenant and work with too. And again in verse 10 of the same chapter David said,

"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies".

Further explanation to these two scriptures, proved that God reveals His secrets which can be found in that secret document called covenant, only to those who fear and obey Him, and such people see the ways of the Lord as mercy and truth. It is this set of people that the Lord said, should be gathered unto Him by His angels led by the Holy Spirit as contained in Ps.50:5, in the much talked about rapture of the saints, not the universal believers.

Finally, the symbol of the covenant the Lord Jesus made with the church is for His Bride to be in rest or grace which is the Holy Sabbath His Spirit is talking about through Paul in Heb.4:1-11. If you are not in rest now, or striving to be in rest, you are not keeping His covenant, and therefore not prepared to be gathered unto Him.

Chapter 11

Responsibilities Of Disciples Or Saints In Covenant Relationship With Our Lord Jesus Christ To One Another

I had earlier in chapter six of this book mentioned that the same covenant God made with Israel at Mount Sinai, also brought them into unity with each other as one people. In effect, God outlined in Exodus 21, 22, 23, their responsibilities to one another. As a nation in covenant with God, they had special responsibilities to each other, different from those which they had to members of other nations who had no covenant relationship with God. Likewise, the New Testament outlines for all from any part of the world, who enter into this new covenant with Christ Jesus, the practical ways in which they are supposed to relate to their fellow covenant brethren. Some of these responsibilities are as follows:-

a. To wash one another's feet, which means to serve one another. The Lord clearly spelt this out many times when He was admonishing His disciples, but I will cite two examples; *"And He said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth" (Lk.22:25-27).*

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you". (Jn.13:14-15).

According to the people of the world, those that serve are esteemed to be the least in the society, but biblically the simplest way to be the greatest or chief among others, is to serve. This is why the Lord taught and gave us an example by washing the feet of His disciples, and has instructed us to do the same.

Paul the great apostle of the Gentiles had this to say, *"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Gal.5:13).* Washing one another's feet or serving one another is highly esteemed by the Lord as one of the ways of exaltation and also a way to prove the seriousness of a saint. Paul not only pointed it out here but gave it as an instruction to Timothy as one of the conditions of knowing a widow indeed whose burden will rest on the shoulders of the church (ref. I Tim.5:10).

b. We should love one another, and this is simply an embodiment of all other responsibilities. This is because "love" is like the root or the tree itself, while other responsibilities are like the branches. It is actually love that opens the door for others to be possible. This is why the Lord Jesus gave it as the only commandment in the New Testament, thus showing its importance: *"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (Jn.13:34-35).*
"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (Jn.15:12).

What actually is the meaning of love? Love according to the Lord's statement is obedience to the Word of God, and when the Lord said you should love one another, He meant that you should obey the Word of God to one another. That is, you should relate to or treat one another the way the scripture commands at each point in time. This shows that, apart from the areas like helping one another, bearing one another's burden, if a brother or sister commits fornication or adultery or walks disorderly, and the Lord leads the rest of the Brethren to excommunicate or to suspend the person as the case may be, it is still the love of God that they are showing to the person, because such action according to the scripture is a corrective measure so that the person will not go back to the same sin when he or she is eventually restored.

c. To edify one another simply means to improve the mind of, to strengthen spiritually towards faith and holiness, to build up the faith of, to build, to establish one another. Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit said in these two scriptures; *"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another"* (Rom.14:19).

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thess.5:11).

What Paul was trying to point out is that, all the saints of our Lord Jesus should carry themselves along making sure that they do things which will build up the faith of others or establish one another towards faith and holiness. By this act, they should avoid being selfish or self-centred.

d. The saints should receive or accept or admit or take into the body, or accept as authority or as truth one another. Paul bridged the gap between the Jews and Gentiles, and also between the circumcision and uncircumcision. How? He was a Jew, but was sent to preach to the Gentiles, and also he was of the circumcision, but was sent to bring the uncircumcision into both the commonwealth of Israel and to become fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. After his long apostolic work in Gentile nations, and having been born a Jew, Paul wrote to one of the churches he was overseeing saying, *"wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God"* (Rom.15:7). Why did Paul make this statement? this is because a lot of believers both from the Gentile and Jewish nations, were discriminating in their relationship with one another and this is as a result of circumcision and uncircumcision. And this act of the early saints has crept in and eaten deep into the Christian family of today. There is a group of Christians who believe and preach that even if you are born again, baptized in water and the Holy Ghost, they will neither associate with you nor pray with you, and by doing so, they will not receive you, except you have to go for another water baptism which will be in the name of Jesus. They cite an example that when Jesus instructed the apostles in Matt. 28:19-20 after His death and resurrection, to baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. He was still on earth and therefore has not ascended to heaven. They continue by saying that when Jesus therefore ascended to heaven, His disciples discovered that He too is the Father and decided to start baptizing in the name of Jesus. For this cause, they say that if you were baptized in the name of the

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost after your repentance and conversion, not in the orthodox churches or white garment churches, you have to go for another baptism which will now be in the name of Jesus. This is heresy and deception. Water baptism (immersion) not infant baptism, whether done in the name of Jesus or in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, God accepts it.

Secondly, the disciples knew that Jesus is God the Father before His death as contained in this place,

"if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Phillip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father: and how sayest thou then, shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn. 14:7-10).

The only thing is that some of the things they did not understand while the Lord was on earth, He opened their understanding after His resurrection to be able to understand those things when He breathed into them the Holy Spirit. People should try to judge whatever revelation or message they receive with the word of God before writing or preaching to help stop this deception that is prevalent in the Christendom. And because of this lie and so many other lies Satan has told some ministers of God and other believers worldwide, they have refused to receive or accept their fellow Christian brethren who are born again, baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, and in most cases sanctified by the Lord. And this set of believers who have made themselves judges, are in great deception.

e. We are commanded to please one another and this means to give pleasure to, delight, to satisfy, to be the will or choice of (to do something), to give pleasure, to like, think fit, to choose. Paul gave this advice to the church when he admonished the Romans; *"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself, but as it is written, the reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me" (Rom. 15:1-3).* The word bear simply means to carry, to have, to convey, to sustain or support, to endure, tolerate, to admit of, to purport, etc. What this place is saying, is that those who are strong in faith should try to tolerate or support or endure the weakness or frailty of the weak brethren (i.e. those that are weak in faith) in their midst, by doing things that will help their faith to grow or to be established in the things of the Lord. This is simply one of the most important ways of carrying the saints along so that those who are weak in faith will not backslide or fall away.

f. God wants us to admonish one another which means to warn, to reprove mildly, to caution, to counsel, to advice, etc. Paul had this to say to the church; *"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another" (Rom.15:14).* By saying this, Paul meant that God expects us to be full of goodness and filled with all knowledge of Him, so that we can warn, reprove or counsel one another. For example, if you are not obeying the word of God or if you do not have the knowledge of spiritual things, there is no way you can counsel or advice a fellow brother or sister who is in error.

g. We should bear one another's burden. Burden means a load, something grievous, oppressive, or difficult to bear, an obligation, any restriction, limitation or encumbrance affecting person or property, etc. The Holy Ghost through Paul the apostle, urged us to help in bearing one another's obligation as he said in Galatians 6:2, "*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*". I underlined here, to show that through bearing one another's burden, one can start walking towards the fulfilment of the law, which is summed up in loving one another.

h. We are called to forbear one another. Forbear means to keep one's self in check, to abstain from, to exercise patience or restraint from, to avoid voluntarily, to spare or withhold. Paul through the grace given to him as an apostle of the Gentiles advised the church when he said; "*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Eph. 4:1-3). The Holy Spirit through Paul, made a particular mention of forbearing one another in love because, there is no way anyone can keep the unity of the Spirit if we are unable to forbear ourselves, and we cannot be talking of the bond of peace if there's no unity.

i. It is our duty to forgive one another. Forgive according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, means to send, to send forth, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up. But Chambers Dictionary defines it as to pardon, to overlook, to pardon a debt or offence, to give up, to show mercy or compassion, etc. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians said; "*And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*". (Eph.4:32). Unforgiveness is one major problem or sin God cannot easily overlook. And because of the great importance God attached to it, the Lord Jesus took time to teach His disciples about forgiveness. Through His teachings, it became clear that in forgiveness, one is not supposed to have or keep a record of how many times he/she has been offended. This is because, when you have really forgiven which is to let go, lay aside, leave, put or send away, etc., you restore the favour or your relationship with the person as it was before the problem started, except the person refuses to continue to associate with you. This is exactly how the Lord Jesus relates with us. When He forgives you of any sin, He restores all the favour you used to find before Him and begins to relate with you as though nothing happened.

j. We are to submit to one another, and this means to surrender your will to one another. Peter and Paul who were apostles of circumcision and uncircumcision respectively, had this to tell the church; "*Likewise ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble*" (1 Pet. 5:5).
"*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God*" (Eph.5:21).

This act of submitting one to another, will not only cause us to be humble, but also to fear God because, just like in a democratic government where there are checks and balances among the three arms of government (i.e. Executive, Legislative and Judiciary), all the ministers or rather brethren will be conscious that apart from the Lord Jesus our Saviour, somebody is monitoring their activities so as to use the Word of God to check and correct any error. For example in Galatians 1:11-14, Paul was used by the Holy Spirit to check and correct Peter's discriminatory act towards the Gentiles. Peter had gone to Antioch with some Jews to see how the brethren there fared, and they were served some dishes. But when some brethren (Jews) who were sent by James the apostle came visiting, Peter withdrew himself or started avoiding the Gentiles, and other Jewish brethren who came with him joined him in the same act. This act of dissemblance of a great apostle like Peter affected Barnabas who had been a worker not only in Antioch, but in many other Gentile nations with Paul. On seeing this behaviour, Paul got up and rebuked Peter in front of all so as to stop this their wicked act. For those rebellists in the church who will try to use what transpired here to attack God's channel of authority, I have this to tell you as why Paul had this boldness and spiritual authority to confront Peter. First of all, both of them were spiritual elders because they were apostles; secondly, Paul had territorial jurisdiction to stop Peter's act of dissimulation which would have spread in Paul's apostolic enclave. Peter was aware that what he did was wrong and received the correction joyfully as can be seen in his admonishing to the church. He told the younger ministers like the Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, to submit to elders like the Apostles and Prophets, but especially the Apostles for they are the pillars of the church, and to the elders like the Apostles and Prophets he said, that they should submit one to another so that all of them will be humble.

k. We are expected not only to be apt to teach as servants of God, but to have a humble and teachable spirit so that we can teach one another in the areas you know better than others, just like Paul said it here: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16)*. If the walking revelation of the word of God dwells in you abundantly, you can teach other saints.

l. Contrary to the belief of some ministers that we should not be telling about times and seasons of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to avoid deception, Apostle Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit not only gave a teaching on that in I Thess. 4:15-17, but in verse 18 said, *"Wherefore comfort one another with these words"*. What words? He meant all he said from verses 15-17 concerning the second coming of our Lord Jesus, and the translation of the saints to heaven. He was trying to show that when the saints are always reminded that their hope of waiting on the Lord which is to be caught up to heaven so as to be with the Lord is not in vain, they will be comforted. Therefore the saints are urged to do or say things that will comfort one another.

m. We are to exhort one another. This word exhort according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance means to call near, i.e. to invite, invoke, beseech, call for, entreat, etc, but Chambers Dictionary defines it as to urge strongly and earnestly, to counsel or advice one another. The scripture says, *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*, and for this cause, Paul said, *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil*

heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb.3:13-14). All the saints need daily exhortation of one another so that nobody will be hardened through sin or unbelief and fall away.

n. We are urged to provoke one another to love and good works. *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (Heb. 10:24-25). Provoke simply means to call up or evoke (feelings, desires, etc.), to summon, to call out or challenge, to excite or call into action, to stimulate, to incite or bring about, etc. What this place is saying is that through good works or good service which you render to God, you will cause others to be challenged or to emulate such good works. You must also assemble together from time to time, and as the Lord directs, with true and dedicated saints in fellowship so as to counsel, teach, comfort, edify, etc., one another.

o. There must be a continuous confession of our faults or sins to one another, and we have to pray for one another. James the apostle and a brother in the flesh to the Lord Jesus, took time to study the lifestyle of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and towards the end of his ministerial work, he wrote to the church this book of James which is full of mysteries of the kingdom and practical holiness as he said, *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (Jas.5:16). This message from Apostle James is of great importance for the corporate existence of the body of Christ. And many people who have ignorantly or stubbornly ignored it, have either been destroyed and are in hell now, or in great deception waiting for their doom. If people think or believe that those sins they commit secretly can only be confessed to the Lord without confessing them to your fellow brethren so that you could be prayed for, they are wasting their time. Why? It is because the full standard of the Word of God must be met for you to be forgiven by God and overcome the spirits causing you to commit those secret sins. And the standards are; you must confess your sins or faults to fellow covenant brethren, and you have to be prayed for after you have been made to suffer if they are sins that need punishment from the Church on behalf of the Lord Jesus. But if it is the one that does not deserve punishment from the Church, the rest of the brethren will see your problem or fault as a prayer point and begin to pray for you not only collectively, but individually in their prayer closets until you are able to overcome the spirits behind those attacks. These processes according to the scripture, are to expose the demons behind your problems and they will be attacked by all the brethren in what is called corporate anointing. Secondly, it is also a process of humbling you so as to remove pride and self will from you. Thirdly, Paul by the leadership of the Holy Spirit told the Romans and the church while admonishing them, *"know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness?"* (Rom. 7:16). With this admonition from the Holy Spirit through Paul, it is evidently clear that when you yield yourself to the devil to commit any secret sin, and you fail to repent of it by confessing it so that you could be prayed for, you will be a servant to those spirits. Why? It is because keeping silent and not confessing the sins is like direct obedience to those demonic spirits who want you to keep your acts or deeds

secret so as not to expose them, and thereby disobeying God who has instructed you to confess that sin to your fellow brethren, because you are already enslaved and cannot fight your new master, the devil. Those who have bluntly refused to obey this commandment of the Lord, can attest to the fact that they still find themselves in the same sins over and over again, and many have lost their faith while some are at the point of losing their faith because the devil made them believe that either God cannot save them, or He does not want to save them. If you are in such secret sins or you were in it before, go and confess such sins to the brethren in either the fellowship or church you attend. And whatever punishment they deem fit to give you, accept it and do it and after, they will pray for you and restore you. But if you fail to do so, you have made yourself an enemy of God and a servant of the devil. Ministers of God who have found themselves in some of these secret sins should also confess their sins to the elders, deacons, church workers and maybe the entire church if the authority he is under, demands that he should do so.

o. We should be hospitable one to another. Hospitable means to be kind, welcoming and generous towards one another. Peter wrote to the church and said, *“use hospitality one to another without grudging”* (1 Pet. 4:9). Why did Peter make this statement especially using these words *“without grudging”*? It is because Peter by writing this letter as an old man both spiritually and physically, had watched a total decline in the love which the Lord Jesus taught and commanded them to walk in, as it is the *“motto”* which people will see so as to recognise them as His disciples. It is this decline in obeying the commandment of God that made Paul in most of his epistles, to keep warning about feigned love which simply means pretended, simulated, imagined, fictitious, hypocritical love. When people in the Christian circle have turned the agape love of God from unfeigned to feigned, then the wickedness of the world will continue to multiply because the unbelievers depend on believers to show them the true light. A lot of people of which ministers of God are in the majority, are so hospitable when some rich people or important personalities visit them, even to the extent of running helter-skelter to attend to them. Some may even spend their last available finance to host such people, but when poor men or poor brethren visit them, they reluctantly or grudgingly open the door for them. Some don’t even open their doors for those poor brethren talkless of rendering any assistance financial, material, etc, to them. Many show their kindness or generosity to only friends, family members and those who are emotionally attached to them. But this is opposite what the Lord commands His covenant brethren to do to one another, even to other strangers.

p. The saints are commanded to be humble toward one another. Humble according to Chambers Dictionary means low, lowly, modest, unpretentious, having a low opinion of oneself or of one’s claims, abased, to bring down to the ground, to lower, to abase, to mortify, to degrade, etc. But according to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, humble means depressed, i.e. (fig.) humiliated (in circumstances or disposition) :- base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly. Many believers who come from reputable or rich families or who themselves are rich or more literate, or who had better

orientation than others, often come into the Lord with this worldliness, and tend to look down on other brethren. Many of them neither refuse to abase themselves, nor are they ready to allow the Word of God have any place in them. And large majority of them, do not like to identify with those brethren who through obeying the Word of God, have been humiliated or humbled or brought low or are cast down. But the scripture makes it clear that those humble brethren are the ones going to be exalted by God, while the proud ones or those who have a high opinion of themselves will be abased. Here it from the mouth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, *"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted"* (Matt. 23:12). Therefore yield to the Lord Jesus who wants to humble you like He did to Himself so as to use you and condescend to brethren of low estate and walk with them so as to be exalted at the appointed time. Finally, as long as we the saints or disciples of our Lord Jesus are discharging these responsibilities and many more that are not written down here, but are in the scriptures, we are fulfilling the conditions of the new covenant we have with Christ Jesus and His Church or one another. Significantly, all these responsibilities are possible only if we are truly dead with Christ by dropping all human will, to do not only the Will of our Lord Jesus, but also to lay down our lives for those in that covenant relationship. This is why Paul said in Heb. 9:16-17, *"for where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament (covenant) is of force after men are dead, otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."* This shows that those in covenant relationship with Christ Jesus, will not only be dead through their identification with the death of Christ by baptism, but will also be dead to their human will in their relationship with one another, so that the covenant will be effective. This is part of the price or sacrifice they are supposed to pay or make, for if they still seek their human will, then the covenant will have no power. When your human will is dropped at the feet of our Lord Jesus, and also for your fellow brethren, it means you have laid down your life for both the Lord and your fellow brethren. Once a covenant is made with God, one person among those who have entered into such covenant will die, either spiritually or physically for the covenant to be effective. This is why you should drop your human will as a sign of death for your covenant with God and brethren to work.

Chapter 12

Kōinōnia, The Benefits Of Walking In The Light Among The Covenant Partners

It will be wrong for me to start talking about koinonia without explaining the meaning to the interested readers of this book. This Greek word *koinonia* pronounced as *koy-nokn-ee'-ah*, is a noun derived from another Greek adjective called *koinos* in *sō*, and it means partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse, (pecuniary i.e. relating or consisting of money) benefaction :- (to) communicate, communion, distribution, fellowship. On the other hand, *koinos* the Greek word which is pronounced as *koy-nos*, means common, i.e. (lit.) shared by all or several. This simply means sharing things in common. Wherever two or more persons have things in common, they have Koinonia, that is why Luke in Acts of Apostles, gave a true account of how the early disciples walked in Koinonia. But this cannot be possible except there is a genuine laying down of our lives for one another. It is this genuine laying down of your life for your brother/sister that Apostle John outlined here,

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:16-18).

For the apostle to say *we ought to*, he was clearly saying it as a responsibility covenant brethren must not neglect. This therefore means it is not merely physical death, or sharing in the suffering or persecution that befalls a brother/sister, but he made it clear that *laying down our lives* means being ready to share with our covenant brothers and sisters both what we are and what we have. This is why the apostle made particular mention of this *world’s goods*, thus indicating material, financial, etc, goods. If you are not ready to make your worldly goods available to your covenant brother/sister where there is a genuine need for such, then your commitment in that covenant is not real. Was it not true that the early disciples shared all they had in common as can be seen in this scripture,

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32).

Why was this possible? It is simply because they all had one vision, one faith and one Lord, for they were all separated from the system, both in their minds and physically. Everybody gave up or surrendered what he/she has and it was shared accordingly as one had need and there was no lack. Luke’s account of the early disciples act of Koinonia could be seen here, *“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:44-46).*

“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold. And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” (Acts 4:34-35).

They had all things in common because they all believed in the same thing. There was an unbelievable unity among them and they never lacked. Everybody’s need was taken care of because God was in control. They were obeying this scripture,

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garment; As the dew of Hermon (i.e. Mount of Palestine or Mount Zion), and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore” (Ps. 133:1-3).

King David the Psalmist who wrote this, must have experienced this blessing when he was dwelling inside the hold with some faithful mighty men of war and the Gadites who separated themselves unto David in the wilderness to help him overcome the rampaging attacks of Saul and his faithfuls. Apart from giving examples of what it is like for brethren to dwell together in unity, he said it is there (i.e. in the dwelling together of brethren in unity) that God has commanded both His blessings to flow, and eternal life for those who can obey it. I am not soliciting for the dwelling together of some proud, selfish, visionless, rebellious, bunch of lazy and undedicated brethren, who are not and can never dwell together in unity with anybody because of their act of un-yieldedness to the moves of the Holy Spirit, and their inability to drop their idols at the feet of our Lord Jesus. I am talking about those who truly believe in Heb.11:13-16, and confess that they are strangers and pilgrims on earth. I am talking about those who are not mindful of where they came from (i.e. those who have truly forsaken home and the world, and are seeking for a better Country which is heavenly). I am talking about those who have been tested by God, and are truly ready to share what they are or have with their fellow covenant brethren, for such people, God is not ashamed to answer their God because He has prepared for them a city. This is a realm, the domain, the territory God has been waiting for His people to attain. And He is clearing the stage to move those that are not only in covenant with Him, but have been tested and proved by God to be faithful, and are ready to sacrifice their final will at the feet of our Lord Jesus, and lay down their lives for their fellow brethren. This set of covenant keeping brethren, who are ready to dwell together in unity in obedience to Ps. 133:1-3, will tap their resources and all that they need, directly from God’s storehouse in heaven. And they will never, never lack, because Koinonia is the outworking of true unity.

Koinonia is the exact and precise life of God and the highest realm in Christianity.

That was why the moment Ananias and Sapphira tried to bring in another spirit, the Holy Ghost struck them dead because the life of God had just been brought down to men, and they were trying to stop it. The perfect examples of Koinonia can be found in these scriptures, *“I and my Father are one” (Jn.10:30).*

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (Jn. 16:14-15).

"And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them" (Jn. 17:10).

In these scriptures and many more mentioned in the Bible, the Lord Jesus stated that not only is He one with the Father, but all the Father has belongs to Him, by virtue of His unity or Koinonia with Him. Why? It is because He did exactly what the Father asked Him to do. He did everything that will please the Father and glorified Him. Apostle Paul after an in-depth study on this word called Koinonia had this to tell the Corinthian church;

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:4-10).

Paul in admonishing the Corinthians said that not only had God enriched them in everything, in all utterance, in all knowledge, but that He (God) had confirmed the testimony of Jesus Christ in them, so that they are not lacking in any gift. He therefore urged them that as they continue to wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall finally confirm them unto the end so that they may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus, they should try to speak the same thing, so that there will be no divisions among them, but rather to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. The word "end is t l s in Greek, and pronounced as tel'-os", meaning to set out for a definite point or goal, the point aimed at as a limit, i.e. the conclusion of an act or state (termination), etc. But "end" according to Chambers Dictionary is the last point or portion, termination or close, death, consequence, conclusion, to bring to an end, to cease, to destroy, to come to an end, etc. What Paul actually meant is that after they had been enriched in everything, they should wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus who shall confirm whether they have started walking in Koinonia, because this is what is going to make them blameless.

Koinonia therefore is the supreme end, or last point, or conclusion, or termination of all your worthwhile Christian activity.

Once you move into Koinonia and walk in it perfectly, you have brought heaven and the hierarchy of heaven down to this earth. It is for this reason that Apostle John in his first letter to the church said,

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1 Jn.1:3-4).

What John declared that they have seen and heard is that they were not only eye witnesses to how Christ and His apostles operated in Koinonia when they lived and worked together, but how they (the apostles) also lived and worked with one another in Koinonia. Jesus was moving about with His disciples, they lived, ate together and worked together, and His true disciples did the same. They moved together, lived, ate and worked together, and John was encouraging them to walk in the light so that they could have fellowship (Koinonia) with both the Father and with one another. If you hear or read this and strive to do it, your joy will be full and you can have fellowship with the saints who are doing it, because it is the lifestyle of heaven.

Steps To Adopt So As To Walk In Koinonia

There are two major steps one can adopt so as to walk in Koinonia:-

1. A total commitment to the Covenant you are into with other dedicated brethren.
2. An eternal way of life which the scripture calls "walking in the light".

For you to walk in Koinonia, you must pay a great price, which is not just to be in covenant relationship, but to make a total covenant commitment without reservation. What I mean is the type of unreserved commitment which you can find between God and the Lord Jesus, husband and wife, the Lord Jesus and His church, for this is the only way to come into true unity. And then as Apostle John said in 1 Jn.1:6-7,

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin".

This is the only standard God will accept, He can uplift you to His level of walking in the light if you are willing to obey Him, but He is not ready to lower His standard for any sinful man or woman or for any ungodly believer who is not ready to keep His standard. This statement made by the apostle which is, "walking in the light", shows that there are things which cannot be shared among the brethren who are walking in Koinonia. Anything or any law that is morally contrary to the Word of God, is not in the light, but in darkness. For example, sexual intercourse or relationship between husband and wife is a moral law permitted by God, and also an act of "walking in the light". But such intercourse that involves an unmarried brother/sister, or married man/woman who are not husband and wife is both immoral and contrary to the word of God. It is also an act of walking in darkness which will lead to death if not repented of, and forsaken. Therefore "walking in the light" is a covenant relationship of absolute or total, continuing openness and honesty among all who are in Koinonia, as guided by the Word of God. Nothing among those walking in Koinonia may be hidden or misrepresented or withheld. Their relationship should be like the relationship which exists between husband and wife, in which there is a total and unreserved opening up of each personality to others. Once you are not ready to let others know you intimately (i.e. open up your personality to others who are in covenant relationship with you), you are not walking in the light, and therefore not having any Koinonia with other brethren and the Lord Jesus. As long as you are in this state of secrecy, dishonesty or insincerity and selfish reservations, your light will continue to dim until you start to walk in total darkness (ref. Eph. 5:1-13). And you will begin to walk in hatred or avoid those that walk in the light or tell you the truth or rebuke you.

Therefore you must realise that Koinonia is governed by present truth (which is sound doctrine) and total honesty. The light must be shining very well without any interruption or restriction, otherwise Koinonia is no longer based on the Word of God. If there is any hindrance or darkness through the vessels walking in Koinonia, once the hindrance or the darkness in the vessel is removed, or the vessel is either suspended or excommunicated the blessings of God will be multiplied. Why? It is because darkness is always a hindrance to the blessings of God as God manifests His blessings only in the light. Solomon the king had this to say,

"Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness" (Prov. 25:4-5).

Therefore once any or those walking in darkness are taken away from the midst of those that walk in the light, everything they do will be full of light. Those so called Christians who desire to fellowship or be in Koinonia one with another, but are not willing to meet these requirements, are into spiritual fornication. Why? This is because it is like a man and woman who want a sexual relationship, but are not willing to meet the requirements of marriage. Such wrong and uncommitted relationships which many Christians involve themselves in, and which I had earlier said, is similar to such that develop between a man and a woman who involve themselves in a wrong sexual relationship. And it normally ends up in bitterness, hurt, hatred, broken relationship, unsatisfied desires and unfulfilled promises. This is why in all the denominations or groups that are in system of the world today, there is total lack of Koinonia, and unimaginable evidence of spiritual fornication.

How To Solve This Tragic Condition Of Not Walking In The Light

A lot of people have sought for a solution to this tragic condition but to no avail. Many have prayed, fasted, gone for deliverance or sought for counsel from many ministers of God, but either that the problem remains the same or has worsened. Why this problem seemed to be unsolved, is because many who are looking for the solution do not accept God's principles when they are told. They believe there should be a way out of it or a short-cut to the standard of God. However, the answer lies in this scripture, *"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers (demons) under every green tree (i.e. under the guise of being ministers of God or believers) and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:12-15).* Many ignorant people may ask, what has this to do with both the church and walking in the light? And I will answer that it has a lot to do with both. Israel in the Old Testament is a replica of the church in the New Testament. Just as God was in covenant with them, and expected them

to walk in Koinonia so that He could confirm them unto the end, this is how God expects the church to walk in Koinonia, having been in covenant with her so that her whole Christian activity could be confirmed unto the end. The connection it has with walking in the light, is that the standards given to Israel by God as a way of returning back to Him in fellowship, is the same which He (God) has given to the church as a way of returning back to Him or returning back to walking in the light so as to have koinonia with Him, and His true saints who are walking in it. Having said this, it is evidently clear that this scripture is pointing to a return to God's standards, acknowledgment and confession of your sins, repentance of those sins acknowledged and confessed, total conversion from those sins and unreserved openness of yourself, your faults, your frailties, to one another so that you may be prayed for, in order to be healed or delivered. And finally meeting up with the covenant commitment which can be done by öwalking in the lightö. This is what James meant when he said,

“confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jas. 5:16, 19-20).

If there shouldn't be any confession of your sins or faults to your fellow brethren, you cannot be prayed for. Note: I am not talking about the type Roman Catholics confess to their priests, no, that one is not from God, but a system adopted by the heathenish Babylonian priests which later settled in Rome and adopted by the papacy when they took over leadership of the Universal church. Again, when you are in sin, you are no more a righteous man/woman, but a servant of sin, and you need prayers which God can hear, from a righteous man so as to be healed or delivered. If you fail to confess your sins or you fail to receive prayers from a righteous man so as to be converted, you may not be saved from your error, and you could even die in such sin. If all these steps have been taken, you must then be prepared to share you life with God's people who are living like a family or walking in the light or in covenant relationship with you. The word ölifeö according to Chambers Dictionary, means the period between birth and death, career, current state of existence, manner of living, moral conduct, animation, liveliness, vivacity, the appearance of being alive, a living being especially human, social state, social vitality, human affairs, a narrative of a life, a biography, eternal happiness, a quickening principle, that on which continued existence depends, etc. I decided to write out the deep meanings of the word life, so that you can have an idea about what the Lord wants you to share with your covenant brethren. Those who will try to go solo in the race, will see that they can never get true spiritual fulfilment which they need, and in most cases, they end up in deception. You must need to enter into a committed relationship with some other vessels who are separated from the system of the world, consecrated unto the service of God and together you all will daily live your lives in holiness as a single body, even as Paul explained in 1 Cor. 12:12-27, that no part of the body can function effectively on its own. Each needs others, whether in suffering or labouring, in rejoicing or honouring. This act of fellowshiping together is not optional, but a must because in 1 Jn.1:7, Apostle John has this to say,

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin”:

thus the *ōifō* here indicates that as long as we are walking in the light, we must be fellowshiping or having communion with one another. It also shows that if you do not fellowship with one another, you cannot walk in the light, this is because it is when you fellowship with one another that your dark spots could be spotted so as to be corrected. And if we do not walk in the light of this Koinonia, we will stop experiencing the continuous cleansing of the blood of Jesus which can make us to live a holy life.

Finally, the only obstacles that can keep you from finding the kind of fellowship or Koinonia which God approves, is your own inner act of pride or selfishness or stubbornness, or evil surmising, etc. You should try and break down those walls or barriers and join the saints who are truly enjoying the benefits of Koinonia as they wait for the last trump.

FOR CONTACTS

Apostle/Pastor John A. Daniel,
P.O. Box 537,
Satellite Town,
Lagos-Nigeria.
Tel/fax: 01 7943450, 0803 3476693, 08035719805, 08034430659

Apostle/Pastor John A. Daniel,
House 2, D Close,
4th Avenue,
Festac Town,
Lagos-Nigeria.
www.harmabitrac.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Having received an apostolic calling, John A. Daniel was separated from the camp (i.e. the world organized religious system), his job, relations and friends in 1989 by the Lord Holy Ghost who placed him under His channel of authority (submission). Just like Paul the Apostle was moved into the Arabian Desert, where he conferred not with flesh and blood, the author was also led into the wilderness or Arabian Desert type farm settlement, in Akpuoga-Emene, Enugu, Nigeria, by the Lord Holy Spirit after covenanting himself with the Lord Jesus on the 22nd of April 1989 (ref. Isa. 59:21).

Thereafter he was made to pass through a rigorous training, as the Lord grinded the unadulterated Word of God in him, by burning his flesh with fire through much tribulations, famines, afflictions, necessities, distresses, stripes, imprisonments, watchings, fastings, perils, etc., which he suffered for the sake of Christ. He came out of the training in 1992, and as a man anointed with authority to minister end-time truth to the disciples of our Lord Jesus irrespective of tongue, tribe or race, the Holy Spirit still uses him to bring this truth to the hearts of the holy seekers of the word. He is presently the Overseer and Dean of Help and Reconciliation Ministry and Bible Training College Festac Town, Lagos, Nigeria. An institution that trains men and women free of charge, and distributes free Christian books round the world.

The author is happily married to the Lord's precious gift, Mary Blessings, who as his covenant partner has really been the secret of the great favour he finds with the Lord. And the marriage is blessed with three lovely and submissive sons namely, Timothy John (Jnr.), Benjamin Samuel, David Joseph.