

What Does a Covenant Keeping God Have To Do With A Covenant Breaking People?

Part 7:

Old and New Covenants

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By Thomas Jeffery Forney

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, ¹⁷ Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. ¹⁸ Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols *wherewith* they had polluted it: ¹⁹ And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. ²⁰ And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These *are* the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land.

²¹ But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. ²² Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake which ye have profaned

among the heathen, whither ye went. ²³ And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I *am* the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

²⁵ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. ²⁸ And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36: 16-28

Our topic or subject in this chapter or booklet will be: What are the differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant? Our explorations will include finding answers for these questions: Where is the covenant written; and where is the covenant kept? Upon whose promises are the covenants based? And upon what is the ratification of the covenant dependent?

As for the content of the covenant that God has made with His people, please review the previous chapters [booklets] of this book which have dealt with that topic. And for those new to this book, the content of the covenant that God has made with His people is the entire compiled holy book of Scriptures. This, know and always remember, “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.” Psalms 89:34. “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6.

The blessings of the covenant [the very special provisions for compliance with the covenant requirements]; and the curses of the covenant [the provisions for enforcement, and the consequences of non-compliance of covenant requirements] were also discussed in previous chapters or booklets.

Because some things are more readily discerned than other things, let us pray for godly discernment. ‘O Lord of heaven and earth, thou who hast made us and created us, reveal unto thy servants the things that your heart desireth thy children to know, and to do, that we may be a people approved of our God. We stand on your promise, “...When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” John 16:13. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you, O Lord, for the answers to the prayer of your people. Amen’

Fleshy Tablets Of The Heart In The Temples Of God; and Two Tablets Of Stone In The Ark Of The Covenant In The Most Holy Place

The first of our explorations will be into where the covenant is written and where it is kept. The Old Covenant was written on tablets of stone, and they were kept in the ark of the testimony [covenant] which was placed in the most holy place of the tabernacle [temple] of God [see Exodus 26:30-34; and Hebrews 9:1-5]. The first five verses of Deuteronomy chapter ten will give us a starting point for our investigation.

AT THAT time the Lord said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. ² And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. ³ And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of

stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. ⁴ And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day

of the assembly: and the Lord gave them unto me. ⁵ And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the Lord commanded me.

Deuteronomy 10:1-5

The New Covenant is written on the heart and mind of the believer and is kept in the 'temples' of God. We shall see this clearly in the 31st chapter of the book of Jeremiah.

³¹ 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: ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, al-

though I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: ³³ But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

These words found in Hebrews 8:7-10 echo those of the prophet, Jeremiah, in the passage of Scripture written just before saying:

⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. ⁸ For finding fault with them [the people had soon broken their promise to be obedient], 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: ⁹ Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to

lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. ¹⁰ For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 8:7-10

Clearly it may be seen in the verses of Deuteronomy 10:1-5 that the Old Covenant of God was written on two tablets of stone, and they were to be kept in the Ark of the Covenant. Pastor Hugo Gambetta of 'El Evangelio Eterno' readily illustrates through the words of Scripture that the original first two tablets of stone that Moses cast out of his hands and broke were of blue sapphire stone cut from the throne of God. We cannot now discern from which type of stone Moses carved out the replacement tablets. But we do know that they were kept inside the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place.

The New Covenant is now written on the heart and the mind of the believer and is kept in the 'temples' of God. The Scripture says,

¹⁹ 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?

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 sheds abundant light on our topic, especially verse sixteen which says: "...For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them..." So as the body [congregation] is many [members], now the temple of God is also become plural. As each one of us becomes a temple of the living God, the temples then are multiplied.

Let the reader consider that there is a temple in heaven built without hands; Y'shua Mashiyach [Jesus Christ Himself] is the Temple of God, Revelations 21:22; and that there were formerly three earthly temples: the sanctuary in the wilderness that Moses built; the temple built by Solomon; then Solomon's temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean host which Zerubbabel rebuilt; each individual believer is now a temple of the living God; and the church [congregation - the corporate body of Christ] is the temple of God; and of course the heavenly temple.. It may be shown that there are in reality seven tabernacles [some might dispute citing Herod's beautifying of the temple as a separate temple - but God did not anoint Herod nor commission Herod's work].

What is important to keep in mind is that every child of God is a temple of God. And that God's holy laws are written on their hearts and minds. Therefore God's covenant is now also preserved and kept in the individual 'temples' of God; the law of God is written on the fleshy tablets of our hearts.

The Promises Of God versus The Promises Of The People

As we continue our exploration of God's Word, let us consider our second area of discovery. Upon whose promises was the covenant based? The Old Covenant was based upon the promises of the people.

AND HE said unto Moses, Come up unto the Lord, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. ² And Moses alone shall come near the Lord: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.

³ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do."

Exodus 24:1-3

All of one accord the people promised, "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do." They promised to be obedient to perform all the words, and the judgment of the Lord their God that were given to Moses that day on the mount when the mount burned with fire and thick smoke, and when darkness covered the mount, even mount Sinai. And these words echo down through the centuries as a witness against the people: "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do." Hebrews 8:9.

The New Covenant is based entirely on the promises of God, and not the promises of the people 'which promises they brake'. Hebrews 8:1-6 speaks to us of better promises:

NOW OF all the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. ³ For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of that this man have somewhat also to offer. ⁴ For if he were on earth, he

should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: ⁵ Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for See, saith he, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. ⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator

of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 8:1-6

The New Covenant is not dependent on the promises of the people, which promises 'they brake'. But it is founded on the better promises of God:

¹⁰ For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: ¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every

man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, for the least to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 8:10-12

God's promise is so much better than the promise of the people: as is 'everlasting life' so much better than 'eternal separation' from God's glory. God's promises are all sufficient! "For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen.... 2 Corinthians 1:20. Further Scripture confirms:

¹⁸ 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: ¹⁹ Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,

and which entereth into that within the veil; ²⁰ Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 6:18-20

Ratified With The Blood Of God versus Ratified With The Blood Of Bulls And Goats

Let us continue our exploration for truth. The third area we wish to explore is, Upon what is the ratification of Old Covenant dependant; and upon what is the ratification of the New Covenant dependant? A covenant is dedicated by the shedding of blood [a sacrifice]. The New Covenant is ratified with the blood of Y'shua Christ. The Old Covenant was ratified by the blood of bulls and goats.

³ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. ⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the

Lord. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ 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 will we do, and be obedient. ⁸ 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.

Exodus 24:3-8

The New Covenant is ratified with the blood of Jesus Christ [Y'shua Mashiyach] of Nazareth, the blood of God! "For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Hebrews 10:4. Furthermore, Hebrews 9:11-28 speaks to us of the 'blood' of the New Testament [covenant]. Let us read those words here:

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without from dead works to serve the living

God? ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. ¹⁸ Whereupon neither the first *testament* was dedicated [ratified] without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to

all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, ²⁰ Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. ²¹ Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. ²³ *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these: but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the fig-

ures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: ²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; ²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation

Hebrews 9:11-28

If we shall compare Matthew 26:27-28 with the previous passage of Scripture from Hebrews 9:11-28 [especially Hebrews 9:12; 14; 18; 20; 22-23; 26] we will see that the blood that the Messiah speaks of in Matthew [His own blood] is the 'blood of the new testament'. Y'shua was continually pointing [turning] the people back to the Scriptures [Old Testament]. Here Y'shua Mashiyach [Jesus Christ] is comparing the drinking of the cup of His blood [communion] to the sprinkling abroad of the blood of bulls and goats by Moses when the covenant was ratified [dedicated] at mount Sinai.

²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸ For this is my blood of the new testament [cove-

nant], which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:27-28

In Summary

Because the New Covenant is now also written in the heart and mind of the believer [rather than only on the two tablets of stone as in the days of Moses], we do partake of the cup of communion – the pure unfermented ‘blood’ of the grape. And in the drinking of the cup, the cup of ‘unfermented wine’, the pure blood of the grape symbolically representing the blood of God is sprinkled [shed abroad] on our hearts and minds. And that ‘sprinkling’ enjoins the partaker to the covenant, or renews his first enjoyment [formal acceptance and ratification of the treaty or covenant].

Hear the author of Hebrews speaking of the dedication of the New Covenant: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled [the covenant ratified] and our bodies washed with pure water [baptism].” See Hebrews 10:22.

The covenant is now based on the better promises of God; rather than the promises of the people – ‘which promises they brake’. This, therefore, is the exceedingly great and precious promise of God: “For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.” Hebrews 8:10.

And the covenant is now dedicated [ratified, or accepted and approved by all the parties to the covenant] by the better blood of Jesus; rather than the blood of bulls and goats. Just as Moses dedicated [ratified] the Old Covenant with the blood of bulls and goats and the people were enjoined to the covenant; now we are enjoined to the covenant [that is the covenant is ratified or dedicated] by the better blood of the Son of God in the drinking of the cup of communion.

“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.” Hebrews 7:22. “...But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” Hebrews 9:26. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:28.

Scriptures Selected From The Holy Book of God For Meditation

NOW THEREFORE hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. ² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. ³ Your eyes have seen what the Lord did because of Baal-peor: for all the men that followed Baal-peor, the Lord thy God hath destroyed them from among you. ⁴ But ye that did cleave unto the Lord your God *are* alive every one of you this day. ⁵ Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. ⁶ Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people. ⁷ For what nation *is there so* great, who *hath* God *so* nigh unto them, as the Lord our God *is* in all *things that* we call upon him *for*? ⁸ And what nation *is there so* great, that hath statutes and judgments *so* righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? ⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently,

lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy son's sons; ¹⁰ *Specially* the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and *that* they may teach their children. ¹¹ And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. ¹² And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only *ye heard* a voice. ¹³ And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, *even* ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

¹⁴ And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it. ¹⁵ Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day *that* the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire. ¹⁶ Lest ye corrupt *yourselves*, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the

likeness of male or female,¹⁷ The likeness of any beast that *is* on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,¹⁸ The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that *is* in the waters beneath the earth:¹⁹ And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.²⁰ But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, *even* out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as *ye are* this day.²¹ Furthermore the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, and sware that I should not go over Jordan, and that I should not go in unto that good land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.²² But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land.²³ Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image *or* the likeness of any *thing*, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.²⁴ For the Lord thy God *is* a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.

²⁵ When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye

shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt *yourselves*, and make a graven image, *or* the likeness of any *thing*, and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger.²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.²⁷ And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you.²⁸ And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.²⁹ But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.³⁰ When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, *even* in the latter days, if your turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;³¹ [For the Lord thy God *is* a merciful God;] he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.³² For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and *ask* from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been *any*

such thing as this great thing *is*, or hath been heard like it? ³³ Did *ever* people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? ³⁴ Or hath God assayed to go *and* take him a nation from the midst of *another* nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightiest know that the Lord he is God; *there is* none else beside him. ³⁶ Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire. ³⁷ And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed

after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; ³⁸ To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou *art*, to bring thee in, to give thee their land *for* an inheritance as *it is* this day. ³⁹ Know therefore this day, and consider *it* in thine heart, that the Lord he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else. ⁴⁰ Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong *thy* days upon the earth. Which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Deuteronomy 4:1-40

²¹ This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

²² But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou has been weary of me O Israel. ²³ Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, not wearied thee with incense. ²⁴ Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou

has made me to serve with sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. ²⁵ I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. ²⁶ Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. ²⁷ Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me. ²⁸ Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.

Isaiah 43:21-28

¹⁴ And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation. ¹⁵ And the Lord appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

¹⁶ And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go *to be* among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I

²² Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel. ³⁰ And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.

GIVE EAR, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. ² My Doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: ³ Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

have made with them. ¹⁷ Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God *is* not among us? ¹⁸ And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods. ¹⁹ Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:14-19

⁴ *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he. ⁵ They have corrupted themselves, their spot *is* not *the spot* of his children: *they are* a perverse and crooked generation. ⁶ Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? *is* not he thy father *that* hath bought thee? Hath he not made thee, and established thee?

⁷ Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

⁸ When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. ⁹ For the Lord's portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance. ¹⁰ He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹ As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: ¹² *So* the Lord alone did lead him, and *there was* no strange god with him. ¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹⁴ Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

¹⁵ But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou are covered with *fatness*; then he forsook God *which* made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. ¹⁶ They provoked him to jealousy with strange *gods*, with abominations provoked they him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed unto devils,

not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new *gods that* came newly up, whom you fathers feared not. ¹⁸ Of the Rock *that* begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. ¹⁹ And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred *them*, because of the provoking of his sons and of his daughters. ²⁰ And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end *shall be*. for they are a very froward generation, children in whom *is* no faith. ²¹ They have moved me to jealousy with *that which is* not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with *those which are* not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. ²² For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. ²³ I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them. ²⁴ *They shall be* burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. ²⁵ The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling *also* with the man of gray hairs. ²⁶ I said, I would scatter them into corners I make the

remembrance of them to cease from among men: ²⁷ Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, *and* lest they should say, Our hand *is* high, and the Lord hath not done all this. ²⁸ For they *are* a nation void of counsel, neither *is there any* understanding in them. ²⁹ O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, *that* they would consider their latter end! ³⁰ How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up? ³¹ For their rock *is* not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves *being* judges. ³² For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes *are* grapes of gall, their clusters *are* bitter: ³³ Their wine *is* the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps. ³⁴ *Is* not this laid up in store with me, *and* sealed up among my treasures? ³⁵ To me *belongeth* vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. ³⁶ For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when

he seeth that *their* power is gone, and *there is* none shut up, or left. ³⁷ And he shall say, Where *are* their gods, *their* rock in whom they trusted, ³⁸ Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, *and* drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up and help you *and* be your protection. ³⁹ See now that I, *even* I, *am* he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither *is there any* that can deliver out of my hand. ⁴⁰ For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever. ⁴¹ If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. ⁴² I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; *and that* with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy. ⁴³ Rejoice, O ye nations, *with* his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, *and* to his people.

⁴⁴ And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun.

¹⁸ For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest. ¹⁹ And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more. ²⁰ [For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: ²¹ And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:] ²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God,

the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. ²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven and to God the Judge of all and to the spirits of just men made perfect. ²⁴ And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. ²⁵ See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not* we *escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:

Hebrews 12:18-25

Heavenly Father hear thy servants' prayer: 'O Lord let not our hearts be hardened as we read and study thy holy Word; and meditate upon all thy laws. Let not our hearts be hardened as in the day of provocation. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into your rest, any of us should seem to come short of it. For thou hast spoken of the holy seventh day Sabbath in this manner, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

For if you had changed the Sabbath day, then, would you not have so told thy servants? There remaineth therefore the holy seventh day Sabbath of rest to the people of God. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Cause us, thy servants, to put away all these things: all our abominations; our own traditions; and all the commandments of our own devising; and all our images and idols: that we may do thy good will and pleasure, and keep thy statutes, thy precepts, thy counsels, thy judgments, and thy commandments with

a willing and a joyful heart. Come quickly Father, and save us from all these things that defile us! Amen.'

The preceding prayer was adapted from Hebrews, chapters three and four.

Remember these promises:

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all our idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away	the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do <i>them</i> . Ezekiel 36:25-27
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Let us learn to stand [to trust; to depend; and have a firm expectation of] on the exceedingly great and precious promises of God, rather than to rely on our own understanding, and/or the strength of our might.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this <i>is</i> the whole <i>duty</i> of man.	Ecclesiastes 12:13
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