****May 22, 2016**

**Promises Made & Promises Kept – Part 2**

*‘Why Covenant?’*

* **Our focus today:**

**Why** has God introduced His influence through a series of **covenants** or sacred arrangements, and **how** does that apply to me in my circumstances.

**Hosea 4:6**

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,*

**The Big Picture and where we fit in?**

*Connecting the dots as to ‘Why Covenant’?*

* God created the earth for man to have delegated authority and dominion over. **Genesis 1:26-28 / Psalm 115:16**
* **Adam** – the ‘son of God’ sinned, thus selling out his authority to satan who became the ‘illegal’ ruler or ‘god’ (one who has dominion) of this world system. **Luke 3:38 / 2 Corinthians 4:4**
* God set man in authority on earth by His unchanging word, and is ‘legally’ bound to this ‘lawful ‘set up of a moral universe. **Psalm 119:89**
* Authority on earth could therefore only be reestablished through **man**. **Romans 5:12,18**

* Since death was introduced by **man** (who had authority on the earth), only a perfect **man** – a ‘second Adam’ could save man and make him truly ‘alive’ again through resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:21**

* God was therefore obliged to begin the **practice of covenant** where His authority could be reestablished **through men** who were willing by faith to carry out His will.   **Genesis 6:8-9, 18**

**Genesis 9:13**

* The **progression of covenants** was not haphazard but planned to restore man to at least his former glory.

-Noah / Abraham / Moses / Jesus …to us!

* Covenants generally allowed for a mutually advantageous ‘**great exchange**’:

-What’s mine is yours, and what’s yours is mine.

**Today’s Key Take Aways**

* God’s love propelled Him to set in motion a **whole plan for the whole man**:
* So, **our part** is to know & operate under the covenant authority we now have in Christ.
* **Next time** we look more closely at what Jesus did for us on our behalf in the New Covenant and how that contrasts with the Old Covenant under Moses.

**Hebrews 8:6**

*But now He (Jesus, our federal covenant head and High priest) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a* ***better covenant****, which was established on* ***better promises****.*

**Notes**

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