

# Faith

- *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1-2*  
NKJV
- Same Words – A difference in perspective:
- *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. NASB*
- Both are good and accurate translations
- NKJV – The beginning of the journey
- NASB – As one draws near the destination.

# The Substance / Evidence a Covenant

- *Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is **only a man's covenant**, yet **if it is confirmed**, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the **promises made**. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that **the law**, which was four hundred and thirty years later, **cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God, that it should make the promise of no effect**. Gal 3:15-18*
- A very important point of substance and evidence in the Scriptures. God made a covenant with Abraham ...
- No one can add or annul it. This covenant must be kept!
- The promise cannot be made of no effect.

# The Nature of a Covenant

- *in the manner of men*: A Covenant between men
- Contract with Bank for Home, Car, etc.
- One side offers the money: interest/conditions
- The other side agrees to the conditions given before the money is loaned.
- Contract is signed.
- *Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.*
- Once Signed and confirmed ... Fixed
- Each side is obligated to keep original conditions
- Any changes results in a breach of Contract.

# This Covenant Ratified with an Oath

- *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, Heb 6:13-18*
- This is the substance and evidence.
- It is given to give us assurance and conviction
- If we don't feel full conviction, we do not yet understand.

# This Covenant Ratified with an Oath

- *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ...16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, Heb 6:13-20*
- God made a covenant of promise to Abraham ... when he fulfilled the conditions God confirmed it by an oath
- He wanted to show the heirs of the promise (us) more abundantly the immutability of He counsel.
- The substance/evidence to bring assurance/conviction.

# Basis of Substance

- *18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, Heb 6:13-20*
- 2 immutable things.
- 1. The promise to Abraham
- 2. The oath in His own name
- Impossible for God to Lie.
- *Strong Encouragement = Assurance & Conviction*
- *An Anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast*
- Will your anchor hold?

# Description of the Covenant

- *Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." Gen 22:15-18*
- God had already made the promise.
- God now confirmed it with an oath.
- God can't lie ... This must happen. We do our part to be an heir of this promise we enter this binding covenant

# The Nature of This Covenant

- Ratified in the Presence of Abraham.
- Concerning Him and the multiplied descendants!
- A Promise / Covenant Ratified with an Oath.
- This is the foundation of the New Covenant we now have with God.



# The Nature of This Covenant

- *Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar — 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ... 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. Gal. 4:21-27*

# Entrance into that Covenant

- *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal 3:26-29*
- In obedience to the gospel, we enter that covenant ... brings strong assurance and an anchor of the soul.

# The Covenant in Prophecy

- *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Heb 8:10-13*
- When we obey the gospel, God fulfills this part of the covenant.

# God's Side of This Covenant

- *For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Mt 26:28-29*
- Jesus died and shed His blood to pay for and give power to the New Covenant.
- *by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Heb 7:22*
- *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. Heb 8:6*

# What If I am not Good Enough?

- Condition is immaterial!
- We can't be any worse than others:
- *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph 2:1-3*
- God has factored in our sins and weaknesses.

# Covenant is with all Sinners

- *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:14-16*
- Our boldness (assurance and conviction) is based on God's promises and covenant, not on our perfection.
- Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses.
- This is all part of the covenant that God promised and swore with an oath and cannot lie.

# The Results of the Covenant

- *9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 1 John 1:9-2:2*
- Faithful and Just to forgive – Keeps His covenant.
- If we do sin ... we have an advocate

# Part of God's Name and Character

- *Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Ex 34:5-7*