Jehovah implored to avenge his People

People

Jehovah knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. Blessed is the man whom thou chasten, O Lord, and teach out of thy law; that thou may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

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God's Covenant and Man's Integrity

God does not force Himself on anyone. God's divine expectations, however, are that man would be perfect as he is perfect (see Matthew 5:48 and 1 John 4:17). No man is excused from obeying the covenant God made with us all (Romans 1:20). The Lord's desire is that all men would voluntarily enter into covenant agreement with him (Matthew 11:28; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 John 2:25). Those who hear the gospel preached and believe it are moved to higher expectations than what is seen in the here and now (see Romans 10:17). Those willing to confess that Jesus

Jeremiah 34 and God's Covenant

Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem in the days of Zedekiah, king of Judah. Zedekiah determined to follow the law of God regarding releasing servants in the seventh year of their service while in the second year of the siege (see Jeremiah 34:8-10). At first all of Judah agree to the covenant of God. After a while, however, the people of Judah broke God's covenant and took their slaves back rather than releasing them as they originally determined to do (Jeremiah 34:11). There are great lessons here regarding how God's covenants work and what man's responsibilities are.

Too many times people treat God's covenant laws as though they do not hold equal accountability as do the laws of our land. The Bible reveals that there is no difference between breaking God's laws or breaking the civil law we are under. Punishment is due all who violate God's laws. God’s people are citizens of a kingdom that has laws that must be followed (Ephesians 2:19-22). The apostle Paul wrote, "shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid" (Romans 6:1-2). The very existence of sin proves that law exist (Romans 4:15; 7:8). John writes, "Everyone that does sin does lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4).

God's Covenant is a Law

A covenant is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified (Websters New Universal Unabridged Dictionary page 495). God made a covenant with the house of Israel after He had brought them up out of Egyptian bondage. Moses wrote, "keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do" (Deuteronomy 29:9). Again the Psalmist wrote, "keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do" (Deuteronomy 29:9). The prophet Jeremiah revealed that the NT is a covenant law that God expects His people to follow as well (see Jeremiah 31:31ff compared to Hebrews 8:7ff). To violate God’s NT covenant law is to sin (1 John 3:4-5). God does not approve any sin man commits. Law is given and man has the responsibility to adhere to every principle (see 1 Peter 1:15-16).

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is the Christ and with a spirit of meekness repent of sins committed express an understanding of eternal matters (Romans 10:9; Luke 13:3). Those who are moved by God's covenant law to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins are manifesting their faith in God through their obedience (Acts 2:38; Hebrews 11:10). Those who remain faithful to the Lord until death will be given a crown of eternal life in heaven (Revelation 2:10).

Some people like the idea of loving Jesus and being in a covenant with him, however, they do not follow the actual words of the covenant. Too many people have a blind love of Christ. Preconceived ideas about a savior leads to faulty conclusions of once one is saved they are always saved. Some erroneously conclude that all one has to do is "accept Jesus into your heart" and you will be saved. Let us look at some OT examples that prove that God's covenant with man demands dedicated obedience to divine laws.

First, Jeremiah spoke of God's people entering a covenant with Jehovah regarding Hebrew slaves serving 6 years and then being released on the seventh year (Jeremiah 34:10ff from Exodus 21:1-4 and Deuteronomy 15:12). When the people reneged and kept their Hebrew slaves beyond the allowed six years, God termed it a "profaning of My name" (Jeremiah 34:16) and a "transgression of my covenant" (Jeremiah 34:18). The consequence of said action was punishment by "sword, pestilence, famine, and captivity" (Jeremiah 34:17).

Note that there were consequences to be suffered when the agreement was broken.

Secondly, when Asa (King of Judah) made religious reforms in Judah, the people renewed their covenant with Jehovah and determined to serve him with all their being in obedience (see 2 Chronicles 15:11-15).

Thirdly, Ezekiel recorded the Lord's words regarding His covenant with His people. God had entered a covenant agreement with His people and had taken care of them by providing all their needs (Ezekiel 16:8ff). Judah responded with unfaithfulness as a wife committing adultery against her husband (Ezekiel 16:38). Such disobedience provoked God to "anger" (Ezekiel 16:26) and defined their hearts as "wicked" (Ezekiel 16:30).

Practical Application for Today

When one obeys the gospel and becomes a Christian he begins his journey to heaven. To say that "once we have been saved we are always saved" is surely a doctrine of the devil. Such an idea never entered into the mind of God. The Christian has made an agreement with God. That agreement entails following God's laws faithfully till death (Colossians 1:21-23; Revelation 2:10).

Unfortunately, we all break God's covenant laws from time to time (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8). Thanks be to God that He has given us the remedy for the forgiveness of our sins and a way to maintain our fellowship with him through the blood of his dear Son Jesus (Matthew 26:26). Through a spirit of humility, God's sinning saints may ask the Lord for forgiveness and be confident that He surely does just that (see Isaiah 55:15; Acts 8:18-24; 1 John 1:9). God's covenant stands firm no matter the circumstances of life (see 2 Timothy 2:19).

John C Robertson

Introduction

"No one really knows how many copies of the Bible have been printed, sold, or distributed. The Bible Society's attempt to calculate the number printed between 1816 and 1975 produced a figure of 2,458,000,000. A more recent survey, for years up to 1992, put it closer to 6 billion. Whatever the precise figure, the Bible is by far the bestselling book of all time" (googleanswers.com). One would think that a book that is bought year by year more than any other book would have more serious followers. The fact of the matter is people read the Bible like they would read an adventure book, think it has exciting content, and then move on to something else. Others hold to the Bible as a mysterious book that offers hope. Still, too many just do not know enough about the contents of the book to draw any serious conclusions. Let us consider the Bible this morning!

I. Authenticity of Bible

   A. Inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16)
   B. External Evidences

II. A Book to be Studied!

   A. Eternity is too long to guess at meanings and instructions
   B. God commands our interest (2 Timothy 2:15)
   C. How to study the Bible

III. What is in the Book?

   A. Laws
   B. A Book that explains man's beginnings and ending
   C. A Book that defines man's life
   D. A Book that directs man's paths
   E. A Book that reveals doctrine
   F. A Book that reveals a "walk" of life

Conclusion:

Throughout history man has invented things that have improved all of our lives. Inventions such as the telephone, computers, television, the automobile, cotton gin, camera, steam engine, sewing machine, light bulbs and electricity, and penicillin are items that we cannot image doing without. Why has the general public not figured out the Bible? Man's eternal existence is dependant upon the information found in the Bible yet so many treat the book as though it were wishful thinking. Have you studied the Bible lately?