

God's Everlasting Covenant

The first appearance of the word covenant is found at Genesis 6:18. God speaks to Noah saying, *"But I will establish my **covenant** with thee; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee."* A covenant is an agreement between two or more people that has the force of law. What law or agreement would God introduce and cause to be recognized and accepted through Noah? The scriptures are clear that God's covenant agreement had its roots in the day that Adam and Eve violated God's laws and thereby were subject to death (Gen. 3:1-8). God told the serpent that deceived Eve, *"Because thou hast done this, cursed art thou above all cattle, and above every beast of the fields... I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"* (Gen. 3:14-15). The seed of woman to bruise the head of Satan would ultimately be the Christ. When Jesus died on the cross for the remission of mankind's sins the devil's power over men's souls was lost (i.e., his head was bruised). Christ enabled sinful man to have their sins washed away in baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21). Furthermore, Christians who sin can receive the remission of their sins with repentance (II Cor. 7:10) and humbly asking for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9).

God's covenant is revealed as an *"everlasting covenant"* (Gen. 17:7; Psa. 105:10; Isa. 24:5; Ezek. 16:60). The eternal purpose of God was to separate the righteous from the wicked through the process known as redemption (cf. Eph. 1:3-7). The redemption of mankind, through Jesus Christ, was perpetuated in men like Noah (Gen. 6:18), Abraham (Gen. 12:1ff; 17:1ff), Isaac, Jacob (cf. I Chron. 16:16-17), and David (Psa. 89:3). The author of Hebrews said, *"Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus"* (Heb. 13:20). The blood of Jesus Christ shed for the remission of man's sins cannot be disconnected from God's promise of an everlasting covenant. Jesus said, *"For this is my blood of the **covenant**, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins"* (Matt. 26:28). By the sovereign choice of God He chose blood (cf. Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22) and water baptism (cf. Gen. 6-7; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:20-21; II Pet. 2:4-9) to save man of their sins. When people comply with God's ordinances He keeps His promise by forgiving them.

Sin and death was the power of Satan before Christ died on the cross; however, after the Lord rose He gave men the opportunity to be eternally saved (cf. Col. 2:15). Though Satan bruised the Lord's heel in the crucifixion, Jesus bruised Satan's head in the resurrection. Jesus said to Martha, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes on me shall never die"* (Jn. 11:25). Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham through whom the eternal covenant would be fulfilled (cf. Gen. 12:3 compared to Gal. 3:8, 16). Why not believe and confess His name today and receive the remission of your sins by repenting (Acts 17:30) and being baptized (Acts 2:38) for the remission of your sins. God's covenant of salvation can be everlasting for you too!