

Lesson 5

God's Three Covenants

Abram's Journey Begins

*And Terah, (Father of Abram), took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, (Abram's Brother), his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, (the city), and dwelt there. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran. **Genesis 11:31-32***

If you take a look at the map that I have input below you will see that the City of Ur sits in the southern area between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, not far from Babylon, just north of the Persian Gulf. From there Terah, the father of Abram journeys with his family north to the city of Haran, which sits in the northern part of the Euphrates River in what is modern day Syria, that in those days was a disputed part of the Hittites Empire, and that which the Babylonians laid claim to, prior to becoming an empire.

*Now the Lord had said unto Abram, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. **Genesis 12:1-3***

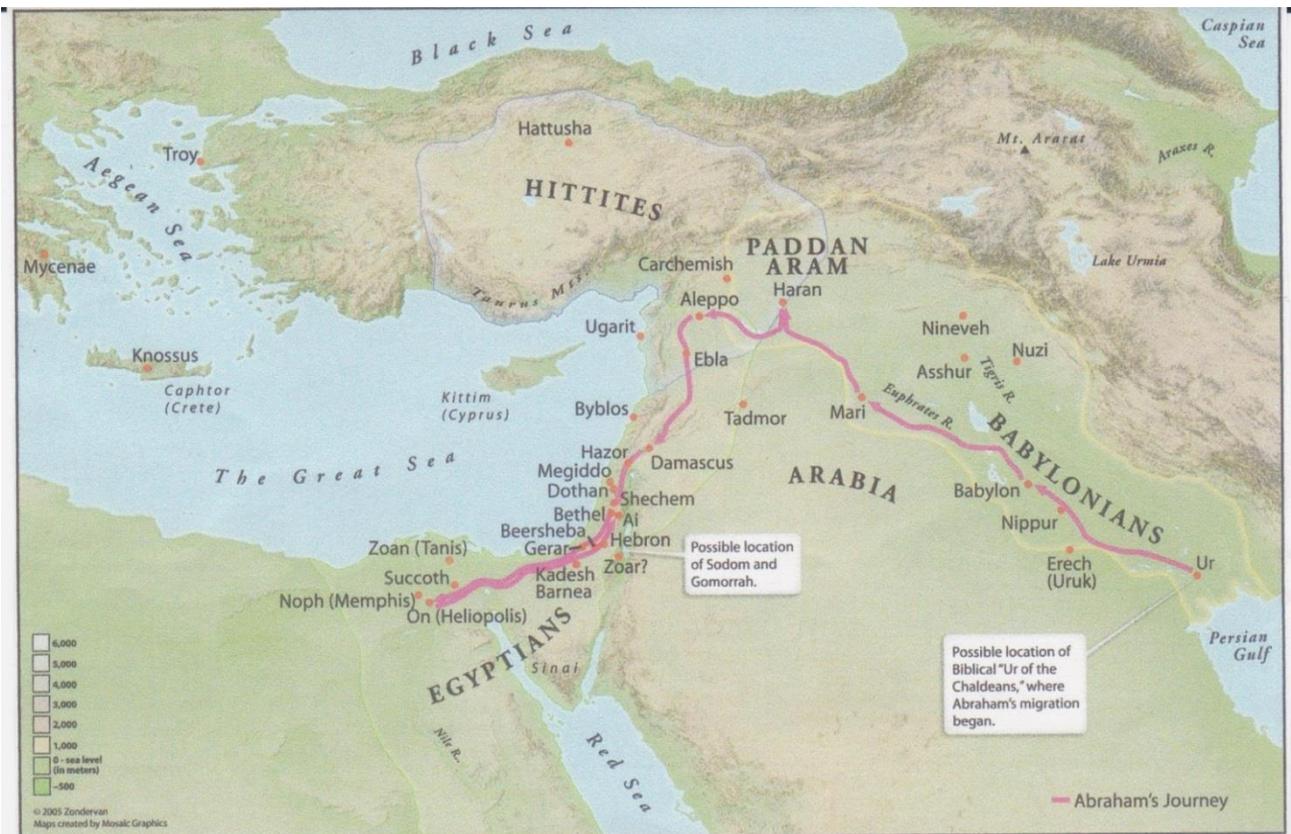
*So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. **Genesis 12:4***

It is unclear from these verses whether Abram's father has already died before Abram begins his journey or if Abram sets out separate from his father. I suggest that Terah had already passed, as that would be consistent with the customs of that point in time.

Take Note: Abram is 75 years old when he starts out on this journey, already an old man. Also take note that God has spoken to Abram, and Abram not only listens to the voice of God, but he obeys the word of God when Abram is told to leave his own country and set out on a trek into an unknown land. This is the first showing of Abram revealing his belief in the Word of God, and the promises that God makes to him,

specifically that God **will make Abram a great nation**. In this Abram has shown his faith that God is real and when God speaks, we as the children of God must obey as does Abram.

*And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go unto the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. **Genesis 12:5***



Map

As you can see from the above map, Haran is about 300 miles north of modern day Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. The Red line on the map is an approximation of Abram's journey through the lands of the Eastern Mediterranean countries.

A Gift from God

*And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. **Genesis 12:6-7***

The land of Canaan was called that because the people that occupied the land were known as the Canaanite. In this land the Canaanite had cities, orchards, and fields of grain, all the things that can be associated with a healthy civilization.

After walking through this land, God tells Abram that this land was a gift from God to the seed of Abram. This is the second promise that God makes to Abram. You might ask, why would God promise a land to the seed of Abram, when the land was already possessed by another thriving people? This will become evident in time, for now just know that the Earth and all that is upon it was created by God, therefore it all belongs to God. God is in his right to give what he will to whom he will. God is merciful to those who show their love for him, and not so merciful to those that worship pagan gods, thereby showing their hatred for the God of Creation.

Once more Abram reveals his trust in God by believing that a promise made by God is as good as a promise already fulfilled. As a showing of his acceptance and belief in God's promise, Abram builds an altar to God. Even though the Bible does not elaborate in this verse what the altar consists of or looks like, it does elsewhere. Abram piled stones upon one another and besides one another until they were waist high and wide enough to place a lamb for sacrifice. This is all that is needed in an altar to God, unlike the elaborately decorated altars built by the pagan religions of antiquity and those mega religions of today.

God's Holy Mound?

*And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. **Genesis 12:8***

Looking at a map of the area that shows the journey of Abram, it looks to me that the mountain being spoken of here is in about the same place that the city of Jerusalem eventually gets built. This then gives reason why it is referred to as God's Holy Mound?

Abram builds another altar, this time on the mountain. This building of altars seems to hold two purposes to me. The first and obvious is to give prayer to God and to mark the spot as a Holy place, to be remembered by the altar. The other purpose I see as Abrams way of establishing the boundaries of the land that God has promised his seed.

*And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. **Genesis 12:9***

After building the second altar and giving prayer to God, Abram continues his journey to the south of where the mountain is.

*And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. **Genesis 12:10***

Pharaoh and Sarai

*And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, “Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, “This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.” Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. **Genesis 12:11-13***

Why God has chosen to tell us this aspect of Abram’s journey has always been confusing to me. Even though this story of Abraham hasn’t yet told us Sarai’s age, later on we are shown that Sarai is ten years younger than Abram. Abram was 75 years old when he began his journey. This would make Sarai at least 65 when they are at the borders of Egypt. How is it that a 65 year old woman, is so beautiful, that Abram would fear that others would want to kill him for her?

*And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. **Genesis 12:14-15***

The word “commended” is defined as: to endorse somebody or something as being worthy of approval. Therefore, the princes of Pharaoh, his children, saw Sarai, and speaking of her beauty to Pharaoh, he sent to have her brought before him.

*And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels. **Genesis 12:16***

Pharaoh attempted to buy Sarai from Abram, thinking that she was Abram's sister.

*And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, "What is this that thou hast done unto me? Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?" Why sadist thou, "She is my sister? So I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had. **Genesis 12:17-20***

In this, Pharaoh is attempting to barter with Abram, to make Sarai Pharaoh's wife, yet Abram keeps his secret that she is in fact Abram's wife. When Pharaoh finds out the truth, he is angry and expels Abram and all that is his, out of Egypt. I would think that Abram put himself in greater risk of being killed by Pharaoh's wrath, than if he had not lied about her.

God's Lesson to Us

I have always been confused why God would include this story for us to read. But know that I have taken the time to break it down; I can see a couple of reasons why. This story shows, how lying or giving false testimony brings about bad consequences, that had Abram been truthful from the start he would have avoided the wrath of Pharaoh.

This story also shows something that I have already spoken about in this Bible Study, and that is that other civilizations that do not worship the God of Creation still have a set of morals similar to that which God requires of his Saints. In this story, Pharaoh exhibits just such morality, which is that it is wrong to engage in Adultery, even though the Egyptians of that time are as pagan as you could get.

This follows through with my statement that though you achieve the same morality as God, you are not saved by your works alone; you still need to give worship to God as God commands. Perhaps this is the lesson that God is revealing to us in giving us this story.

Out of Egypt

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

Genesis 13:1

If you look at a map of the region, for Abram to come out of Egypt from the City of Memphis, which was the ancient capital of Egypt, he would have had to travel northeast, not south. I can only assume that in the translation of the original text someone got the direction wrong, or what is meant is that Abram came back into the southern area of the lands of Canaan, which is to say that the author of this story used the city of Jerusalem and the point of reference, and not the city of Memphis.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 13:2-4

From Egypt, Abram returns to the Mountain that I suggest to be the eventual site of Jerusalem, and while there gives prayer to God again. These next nine verses have no bearing on what I am giving discussion to, so I will jump ahead.

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever."

Genesis 13:14-15

Once more God promises land to Abram. From the verses that I did not include, it is my understanding that Abram is still at the Mountain when God makes this promise. I have never been to Israel, so I have no idea how high this mountain sits above the rest of the surrounding land, but I see Abram as standing atop the mountain looking in all directions from it and seeing all that which God has promised him.

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Genesis 13:16

Once more God promises Abram that his seed will be numbered as are the dust of the earth, yet, at this point, Abram still has no children, Sarai being barren. For me, this, gives support to my understanding that it is not the blood descendants of Abraham or Jacob, that God is referring to as their seed, but to those who like Abram believes the word and the promises of God.

Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Genesis 13:17

*Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord. **Genesis 13:18***

Once more Abram builds an altar to God, and thus places yet another boundary to the lands promised him by God.

Rescuing Lot

The next several verses are not required to get to the point I am writing about, so I will just give a summarization of what they are about, though I advise you to go to your Bible and read them in their entirety yourself.

Abram has established himself in the area of Hebron, which is in the same general area of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A war breaks out between the two cities, which at the time were very rich in the salt trade, and other local kings. At first, Abram is neutral to the combatants. The end result of the war Sodom and Gomorrah are defeated, and the other kings take as ransom much of the wealth of the two cities as well as Abram's Nephew Lot and all that belongs to him. When Abram heard that Lot and his possessions had been taken as part of the spoils of war, he built a small army of his own servants and went to free Lot from his captors.

*And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. **Genesis 14:16-17***

As these verses suggest, Abram and his small army, did not just defeat the other kings, but slaughtered them. These kings had defeated the combined armies of Sodom and Gomorrah, yet Abram, with only 318 in his army was able to slaughter them. This is testament to the power of God with those who God gives his promises to and who have faith in those promises.

Priest of the Most High God

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. **Genesis 14:18***

This verse once more surprises me. Until reading this verse I thought that Abram was the first patriarch of the true worship of God, but this verse is telling us that the true worship of God has already been established and that the king of Salem was a priest in service to the God of Creation.

Abram did not come from the land of Canaan; he grew up in the city of Ur, which is in the southeast of the Mesopotamia. Later in life his father moved the family to the city of Haran which is in the northwest of the Mesopotamia. What I am trying to point out, is that he had no contact with the already established worship of the God of Creation that evidently existed in the lands of Canaan before coming there.

I then have to ask the question, “Why did God chose Abram, when there no doubt were others in the land of Canaan that already gave worship to him.” I can think of a possible answer. Even though those of the Canaan knew of God and gave worship to him, they were not pure in that worship, whereas Abram revealed that he was pure, even without a life time of tradition and knowledge.

Why God Chose Abram

Abram came from a family of artisans, who made their income from carving and sculpturing figurines depicting the many pagan gods of the lands of the Mesopotamia. As the story goes, Abram had just finished such an Icon, and was placing it on the shelf in the store front where his family worked. As he was placing it on the shelf, someone saw the Icon, and immediately purchased it. A sudden flash of knowledge came to Abram. This man was going to take the Icon home, and place it on a shelf in an honored spot and he would then kneel and pray to it. Abram realized that he had crafted that Icon from a piece of stone, so how could it be a god, then alone how could it be worthy of being worshiped? With this realization, Abram began to search for the true God. One night while looking up in the night sky, Abram saw all the wonder of the heavens, and knew that it would be up there where the true God would be, so he began to talk to the sky, asking God to reveal himself to him.

Abram was by his own nature a moral individual, which was not uncommon in the people of the region, so God took notice of him for that, but when Abram began to seek out God directly, and then to give prayer to God, the Lord was moved with love for Abram.

I can see how God finding someone pure in faith in a land not given to worshipping him, that he decided to send Abram on his journey to the Canaan. In this way, he would give Abram a connection to an established worship, but more to reveal to those of the Canaan, the purity of Abram's faith. In this way God is using Abram as an example to all who seek out God.

*And he (the king of Salem, Melchizedek) blessed him, and said, "Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand." And he gave him tithes of all. **Genesis 14:19-20***

The king of Salem at least recognizes the hand that God had in the defeat of the other kings, and how God has singled out Abram in God's Grace.

The word "tithe" is defined by the Encarta Dictionary as: one tenth of somebody's income or produce paid voluntarily for the support of a church or its clergy. This above verse therefore is telling me, that Abram gave to the King of Salem, priest of the most high God, one tenth of his income. The question is what income? As you will see in the following, Abram profited nothing from his conflict with the other kings.

An alternate meaning of the above is that Abram received a tithe from the Kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and those other kings of that same general area. I see this as a possible interpretation because of those kings gratitude for Abram's destruction of their enemies.

*And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. **Genesis 14:21***

Even though the king of Sodom had been defeated by the other kings, and therefore gave not assistance to Abram when Abram did battle with the other kings, the king of Sodom still expected that Abram would give a portion of his spoils to him.

*And Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion." **Genesis 14:22-24***

Abram responds by informing the king of Sodom that there are no spoils, which Abram took nothing that did not already belong to him, namely his Nephew Lot and all his possessions and servants.

First Major Covenant

There have been three primary covenants that God has made with mankind.

The First Covenant was the one he made with Abraham for the sake of his son Isaac; because Abraham believed the promises and Word of God.

The Second Covenant then is a continuation and an expansion of the first covenant, which was made with Moses and the Nation of Israel; because Jacob had overcome his sins, and had achieved repentance and forgiveness from God and from Jacob's brother, as well as because the twelve sons of Jacob overcame their sins and were forgiven by God.

The Third and finale Covenant which is centered on having the laws of God written upon our hearts, which relates to all the True Worship that was established through Abraham and Jacob, as well as our acceptance the Teachings of Jesus which relates to our embracing of God's Morality, and our work at making God's morality our morality.

The First Covenant came about out of Abraham's belief or shall we say "**Faith**" in the Word and Promises of God, even though logic suggested that the promises were impossible to be fulfilled. Abraham believed the Word of God despite how impossible they might have seemed to others or even perhaps to Abram himself.

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, "Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?" **Genesis 15:1-2**

As you may recall, Abram was 75 when he began his journey, and my version of the King James Bible tells me that at the time that he set out, it was around 1920 BC, and that the war with the other kings of the region of the Canaan took place in about 1917 BC, and at the time of this conversation with God in the above two verses takes place between God and Abram, it is around 1913 BC. This would make Abram about 82 years old.

And Abram said, "Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir."

Genesis 15:3

A Son is Promised

At the age of 82, Abram still has no child and no son to be his heir, which is, I can only assume, how Abram defines his seed. As I have shown earlier, the seed of Abram is not his blood descendants, but all those who, like Abram, will have faith, in the Word and Promises of God, through their belief that God will carry out that which he promises.

*And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, "This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. **Genesis 15:4***

It is one thing to look to the future and see a multitude of people all in the faith and true worship of God, but in order to accomplish this future, the knowledge of God needs to be made manifest in the hearts and minds of the people. It is in this way God gives another promise to Abram, that Abram will have a son and he will come forth from Abrams own bowels.

*And he brought him forth abroad, and said, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them:" and he said unto him, "So shall thy seed be." **Genesis 15:5***

This is the third time that God has made this same promise to Abram; that the seed of Abram will be as great as to be beyond the ability to count.

*And he believed in the Lord; and he (God) counted it (the belief) to him for righteousness. **Genesis 15:6***

Again Abram believes the promise of God. I do not see in these pages that Abram ever stopped believing God only that seven or eight years have passed since the first promise and Abram still is without a son, and yet even so, Abram believes God will give him a son, even though he and his wife Sari are beyond child bearing ages.

God's Part of the Covenant

*And he said unto him, "I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. **Genesis 15:7***

Remember: God has promised Abram all the land from the Euphrates River through Arabia, south to the Nile River and the land of Egypt. I want to point this out so that you will understand, that at no time in

history has the seed of Abram, the Nation of Israel ever held control over all this land. This is because this is a prophecy of the End of Days. In the End of Days, after Satan has been defeated, will then the seed of Abram, those who believe in the promises and Word of God through faith and the seed of Jacob, who have overcome their sins, take possession of all this land.

*And he (Abram) said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? **Genesis 15:8***

*And he (God) said unto him, "Take me a heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. **Genesis 15:9***

The Beginning of Covenant

Today, when we go into a contract with another, we draw up papers with all the various aspects of the agreement, and then both parties sign the documents as a way of finalizing the deal. This was not possible in 1913 BC or with God, so God initiates an alternative to signing documents.

*And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. **Genesis 15:10***

In the ancient times, a man's wealth was measured by the number of cattle, sheep, goats, etc. that he possessed. By taking these above listed animals and then butchering them as a sacrifice, Abram is giving partial payment in return for God's promises and as substitute for signing documents as a way of certifying the contract.

*And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, a horror of great darkness fell upon him. **Genesis 15:11-12***

After having set these dead animals out as an offering to God, the day progressed on for several hours without any apparent acceptance by God of the offering. When birds fell upon the carcasses so to eat them, Abram shooed them away. After a time Abram grew tired, and fell into a deep sleep, where he was given a vision by God.

Remember with Adam: God caused him to go into a deep sleep, and then when he awoke, God presented him with Eve, his wife. I see this as a similar situation. Abram has been asking of God, "When will I have a son, to be my heir?" In this sleep then God is accomplishing that what he must so that Abram can father

a child. This is only my opinion, there is nothing in history or in scripture that gives support to it except for the following verse.

*And he said unto Abram, "Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance." **Genesis 15:13-14***

The word "surety" is defined as: someone who pledges that another's obligations will be met in case of default, the condition or quality of being sure. The above verses are giving prophecy of the time that Jacob and his offspring will fall under the enslavement of Egypt for 400 years, and when they are finally freed from that slavery they will have substance in the way of wealth.

*And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. **Genesis 15:15-16***

God is telling Abram of future events concerning his seed that will not occur until long after Abram has entered his grave. This is a foretelling of the time that the Children of Jacob, Abram's grandson, that will be slaves in the land of Egypt for four hundred years. Then God adds to this prophecy that the Children of Jacob will come back out of Egypt with great wealth, even though they had been slaves.

God has made promises to Abram, but there is no one above God who can take responsibility of God's end of the contract, if God should default, so God must give a surety himself. This is accomplished by the honor, and moral character that is God's, that when a promise is made, God will fulfill it to its conclusion, and that he is honor bound to do this.

In this era of time that I live, a man's personal honor is all but lost with all the immoral personality traits that men of today live by. But, in the time of Abram, a man's honor was more important to him than his life. So for God to make such a pledge to Abram was sufficient for Abram to accept and believe.

*And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. **Genesis 15:17***

Finally, after the sun had gone down and it was dark, the pieces of the offered animals were consumed by a fire, caused by God. In this God is showing his acceptance of the offering, and has accepted that Abram has accepted God's part of the Covenant as spelled out by God, thereby sealing the contract between them.

God Gives Land

In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" **Genesis 15:18**

Once more God voices his part and contribution to the Covenant, those things that God promises in return for the promises that he will require of Abram to make for his part of the agreement. Once more I want that you understand that at no time in history has the Nation of Israel or the children of Jacob ever possessed all the lands being given to Abram. That is because it is not being given to the blood descendants of Abraham but to those who in the End of Days will believe in the Word of God as Abraham does, it is to the Saints of God that this land is being given to. It is the Saints of God that are the Seed of Abraham, and the Children of Israel.

Garden of Eden

It may be of interest to you that the borders of the lands given to Abraham and his seed are essentially the same as the borders of the Garden of Eden as described in:

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good: third is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. **Genesis 2:10-15**

This makes me wonder if the reason the mountain on which Jerusalem and the Temple are built is such a Holy place, is because that it is where Adam once abode, and where God would come to commune with Adam one day a week, the Holy Seventh Day, the Sabbath Day.

A Son is Born

Once again, I will jump forward a few verses, but again I encourage you to read these pages from the Bible so you will understand why Hagar gives Abram a son first and not Sari.

*And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. And Abram was fourscore and six year old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram. **Genesis 16:15-16***

As you will recall from the verses that I skipped, Hagar was the handmaid to Abram's wife Sarai, and Sarai not being able to give Abram a son gave her handmaid to Abram as his concubine, and it was from her that Abram's first son is born.

A score is twenty years, so four score is eighty years, and six, so, Abram is 86 years old when Ishmael is born. In this God's promise of giving Abram a son has been fulfilled or has it.

God Tells Abram to be Perfect

*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." **Genesis 17:1-2***

Abram is 99 years old when God speak to him in this verse, which would make Ishmael 13 years old. Have you ever given thought to what God means when he tells Abram to be perfect?

Defining Perfect

The dictionary defines perfect as: without error, flaws, or faults, excellent or ideal in every way. In what way then does God want Abram to be perfect? The answer is, in the way that Abram worships God, and in the way that Abram's morality mirrors the morality of God. This is how God defines perfection. God asks this of Abram and all his seed, it is those who are perfect in their love and worship of God, which are the seed of Abraham.

Let me give to you my definition of what I believe is God's expectation of my being perfect is. It centers on the First Commandment of Jesus, "Love God, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." To accomplish this, you need to first remove yourself from all sin. This can only occur if you know what sin is, and sin is defined in the Ten Commandments.

Abraham Subject to the Ten Commandments

This all tells me one thing; Abram was expected of God to Keep the Ten Commandments. As you know, the Ten Commandments were not given to us until Moses, right? In truth, the Ten Commandments have

always existed; they just were not codified (written down) until Moses. As I have shown in my explanation of the Ten Commandments, there are two aspects or parts to them; the first four give instruction as to how God commands that we worship him, and the last six gives instruction as to the moral base that we must achieve if we wish to become one with God. To be **perfect** in faith to God requires the keeping of all ten of the Ten Commandments. Failure in the keeping of the Ten Commandments is the same as failure from being **perfect**. In that God tells us that Abram was perfect, tells me that Abram also kept the Ten Commandments, years before they had been codified and given to Moses and the Nation of Israel.

*And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations." **Genesis 17:3-4***

Because Abram falls to his face, he is showing his acceptance of God's authority over him. When you humble yourself you show your respect for the one before whom you are humbled. Abram humbles himself before the God of Creation, thus showing his respect and love for God.

God Renames Abram to Abraham

*Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. **Genesis 17:5-6***

*And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. **Genesis 17:7-8***

Defining Worship

And I will be their God: What does it take to be a God to men? If you do not give worship as is commanded by the god, then that god is not your god. Only those that give correct worship are in fact looking to that god as being their god.

As such, only by giving "**True and Correct Worship**" to the God of Creation are you showing that he is your God. Because God has given us commandment as to how we are to give this worship, we must obey those commandments, else how will he know that it is to him that we give our worship?

If the God you chose to worship is a statue or some other graven image, then it really doesn't matter how you chose to worship it because it is not alive and has no care one way or the other. But the God of Creation is Life, and he is also a sentient being, who does care, and commands. Therefore, it is imperative that you give worship to the God of Creation exactly as he commands. If you are unable or unwilling to give worship to the God of Creation exactly as he commands, then you might just as well give worship to a Pagan Idol. God tells us, you love me or you hate me, there is no middle road.

Abraham's Part of the Covenant

*And God said unto Abraham, "Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; "Every man child among you shall be circumcised." And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. **Genesis 17:10-11***

I want that you take note of the word "**Token**," this tells me, that the circumcision is a symbolic gesture. This is not something that any other of the peoples of Man has ever done. In this symbol the Jews are thus rendered unique among the nations of the world. When a man is circumcised, it is a permanent reminder that he cannot ignore that he is subject to the Law of God. In the case of the Nation of Israel, they are subject to the same perfection that God has imposed upon Abraham, which is the keeping of the Ten Commandments.

And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token (symbol) of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Genesis 17:11-12

*He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant. **Genesis***

17:13-14

God Renames Sarai to Sarah

*And God said unto Abraham, “As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. **Genesis 17:15-16***

*Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? And shall Sarah, this is ninety years old, bear?” And Abraham said unto God, “O that Ishmael might live before thee!” **Genesis 17:17-18***

I am uncertain whether Abraham is asking that God not give him another son, and is saying to God, why not Ishmael, is he not my heir? Or, it might be that Abraham, knowing and believing that God will do as God has said he would do, and is therefore concerned about Ishmael, who is the child of a concubine, whereas, the new son will be born of his wife, and therefore the legitimate heir. It is apparent to me from my study of the story of Abraham, that he loved Ishmael and therefore did not want a new child to come between him and the one son he already loved.

*And God said, “Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his seed after him.” **Genesis 17:19***

After hearing Abraham voice his concerns, God then reaffirms that Sarah will indeed give Abraham a son and that his name is to be Isaac, and that it will be with Isaac and his seed, that God will extend his covenant, not Ishmael the son of a concubine.

I see this as having greater meaning than most might understand. God is saying that Ishmael is an illegitimate son. Ishmael is the son of a concubine and as such does not have the legitimacy of the son of Abraham’s wife. This then relates to Adultery. Even though Sarah gave to Abraham her handmaid, it still amounts to adultery.

Remember: When God gave Eve to Adam to be Adam’s wife, God was by this act defining marriage as being between “**one man and one woman**.” All those religions that allow for polygamy are by this definition, engaging in adultery, and as such fall short of being in perfection before God.

*And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: “Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. **Genesis 17:20***

But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham. **Genesis 17:21**

Isaac is Born

And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. **Genesis 21:1-2**

And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. **Genesis 21:3-4**

*And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. And Sarah said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children such, for I have born him a son in his old age." **Genesis 21:5-7***

Isaac was therefore born a year after Abraham was circumcised which would make Ishmael 14 when his brother is born. God had promised Abram that he would give him a son and that son would be the father of many nations and the patriarch of the Covenant with God. When Ishmael was born, I have no doubt that Abraham assumed that Ishmael was the fulfillment of the promise, but then God said "No, not Ishmael, but Isaac will be the heir to the covenant."

At the time when God told Abraham this, Ishmael was 13 years old, and Abraham loved him as a father should love his first born son, so when God told him that Ishmael was not the heir, this no doubt anguished Abraham. In this time and culture, when a son assumed the wealth of the deceased father, and there was a possibility of another son contesting that inheritance, it was common for the brothers to attempt to kill each other. Abraham was a moral man, and must therefore been horrified that his sons would wind up hating each other. As history has shown us, this worry was not in vain, for even today, nearly 4,000 years later, the sons of Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael, still are at war with each other.

This explanation of the Story of Abraham and the First Covenant with God is yet another example of how the stories of the Bible have been distorted through history. I was always my understanding from youth that Abraham was happy when he was promised the birth of his son Isaac, but as you can see, this was news that he did not want to hear. I had also been of the understanding that Isaac was the son that God had promised Abraham, but when Sarah remained barren she gave her handmaid to Abraham as a concubine. This is true, but

it appeared to Abraham that Ishmael was the child that God promised first, and then Isaac was a second promise. Abraham loved Ishmael, and he was perfectly content to let him be his heir. With the promise of Isaac, Abraham knew that only pain and discourse would be the result. This is why Abraham asked God, **“O that Ishmael might live before thee!”** As you can see, this is a plea that God not give Sarah a child, that Abraham wanted that God accepted Ishmael as the heir.

The Sins of Jacob

As with the Story of Abraham, I feel it necessary that you know the context of who Jacob was, so that you will understand why God renamed Jacob to Israel. Jacob was renamed Israel because he overcame his sins and was reunited with God and with his brother. It is this overcoming of his sins that is necessary that you fully understand for it is the key to understanding what the Third Covenant is all about. I will not discuss all the verses, only those that have pertinence to the personality and character of Jacob.

*And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **Genesis 25:20-21***

Twins, Yet, Different

*And the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it be so, why am I thus?” And she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, “Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. **Genesis 25:22-23***

This is a prophecy of the descendants of both the children Isaac. There will be **“Two Nations”** or two distinct and separate people. I see these as the Jews and those others that though of the same faith as Abraham, lost their way. Those of Jacob went to Egypt and were enslaved, those who remained in the lands of the Canaanites, were cousins to the Jews but were not given the Ten Commandments through Moses.

One shall be stronger, but there is no indication which nation or child will be the stronger, and does this speaking of strength mean physical or spiritual strength?

Birth of Twins

*And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old (60 years) when she bare them. **Genesis 25:24-26***

Each Loved by the other Parent

*And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob. **Genesis 25:27-28***

Esau Sells his Birthright

*And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, "Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint:" therefore was his name called Edom. **Genesis 25:29-30***

The word "Sod" is the translated word of the ancient Hebrew word "Ziyd" which when you look it up in the Bible Concordance means "Seethe" which is further defined as: to churn, boil, bubble, froth, or foam. To me this means that Jacob was cooking something when Esau came upon him in the field.

This is given support by the word "Pottage" which is defined as: a thick vegetable or meat and vegetable soup. That description suggests to me a stew rather than a soup.

The above tells us that Esau was "Faint" which is why he tells Jacob to feed him. The word "Faint" is defined as: on the verge of passing out, to be weak or dizzy, to swoon, which tells me that Esau a hunter, had been out in the hot sun too long and was weak to the point of exhaustion.

Remember: in this culture of their day, Jacob was the younger brother, and Esau the First Born and soul heir to his father's wealth. This generally meant that Jacob was subservient to Esau. When Esau tells Jacob to feed him, this was as his right to command.

*And Jacob said, "Sell me this day thy birthright." And Esau said, "Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?" And Jacob said, "Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright. **Genesis 25:31-34***

I feel that in that culture and if Jacob loved his brother, he would have gone to him and given him of his food even without having been commanded, so in this I feel that Jacob is being insensitive to the weak state of health that his brother was in, and is therefore lacking in mercy and compassion, that a man of God should have. It could be however, that Jacob was insulted by Esau when Esau gave command of Jacob to feed him, and it is for this reason that Jacob shows such lack of pity.

Instead, Jacob demands of his brother Esau that he must pay Jacob for the food given to him, in the form of "**Sell me this day thy birthright.**" What is Esau's birthright? Esau's birthright is twofold, first he is the heir to all the wealth of Isaac his father, and Second, Isaac is the patriarch of the First Covenant with God, and as such the patriarch of the true worship of God. Isaac is God's voice on the Earth. It therefore means that Esau will be required to carry on that responsibility upon his father's death.

In this you can see that even though Esau was the first born and by law the rightful heir to all that was Isaac's when Isaac died, he had little care about it, and was flippant concerning his responsibility to the people that relied on Isaac for their occupations and on Isaac's leadership in their faith to God. In this Esau was also disrespectful of God and the high position that he was to inherit, which is why it is written, "**Thus Esau despised his birthright.**"

Even though I criticized Jacob for not coming to his brothers needs without the need of compensation, this was more to do with God, putting Esau through a test to find out if he loved God or not. I would say that Esau failed the test, which is why God does not give open condemnation of Jacob's actions on this occasion or the next.

The Deception of Jacob

*And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, "My son:" and he (Esau) said unto him, "Behold, here am I." **Genesis 27:1***

And he (Isaac) said, "Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; and make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die."

Genesis 27:2-4

The important thing that these verses are telling us is that Isaac is blind.

*And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, "Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, "Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the Lord before my death. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. "Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death." **Genesis 27:5-10***

Remember: Esau is the eldest son of Isaac, and it is obvious that Isaac intends to give his blessings to Esau, and in so doing, give Esau all that Isaac owns as an inheritance. When Isaac's wife Rebekah overhears this, she commands Jacob to engage in a deception of his father.

Remember Also: that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some food, therefore, it is understandable that Jacob feels that Esau is once more insulting him by not following through with their agreement.

Deception is a tool used by Satan, and as such is a sin against God. In this Jacob is sinning against his brother but also against God. Remember, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob, so Jacob does have legal right to lay claim to the inheritance before his father, but chooses instead to resort to deception. This I see as a sin of Rebekah's as much as Jacob's, but remember, God had told Rebekah that the older son would serve the younger son, so Rebekah may have thought that she was doing the will of God, which I believe she was.

*And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver, and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing." **Genesis 27:11-12***

As you can see, Jacob is not going blindly into his sin, he is fully aware of the deceit he is engaged in.

*And his mother said unto him, "Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them." **Genesis 27:13***

But it is also clear that Jacob is an honorable man in that he does not want to engage in this deception, but only does because of the insistence of his mother. If I did not believe that this is all happening as is the will of God, I would think that Rebekah is sister to Eve, and that the deception is the work of Satan.

*And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. **Genesis 27:14-17***

*And he (Jacob) came unto his father, and said, “My father:” and he said, “Here am I; who art thou, my son?” **Genesis 27:18***

*And Jacob said unto his father, “I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.” **Genesis 27:19***

*And Isaac said unto his son, “How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because the Lord thy God brought it to me.” **Genesis 27:20***

I want to point out to all who read these words, that Jacob has committed yet another sin. Jacob has told a lie to his father, and more than that, in his lie he has made God a party to the lie. Jacob may have had legitimate cause to extract Isaac’s blessing for the inheritance, but he has now committed an even worse sin, an insult to the honor of God.

*And Isaac said unto Jacob, “Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.” **Genesis 27:21***

Isaac is blind, yet, it is apparent to me that he suspect’s deception even so.

*And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his Brother Esau’s hands: so he blessed him. And he said, “Art thou my very son Esau?” And he said, “I am.” **Genesis 27:22-24***

Once again, Jacob tells a lie, and commits another sin.

*And he said, “Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son’s venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. **Genesis 27:25***

The Blessing of Jacob

*And his father Isaac said unto him, "Come near now, and kiss me, my son. And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed: Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. **Genesis 27:26-29***

Thus, Jacob receives the blessing of Isaac his father, through deception, lies and sins against God and his brother. This blessing holds more than just words, in receiving this blessing, Jacob becomes the patriarch of the true worship of God, and as such, God's appointed voice on the Earth. This I am convinced, Rebekah and Jacob understand, but I have my doubts about Esau. Esau is pained by not receiving his father's blessing, and the treachery of his brother, but the fact that he had been so easily willing to sell his birthright to Jacob, makes me think he was not fully cognizant of all that doing so entailed.

Esau's Pain

*And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. **Genesis 27:30***

*And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, "Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. **Genesis 27:31***

*And Isaac his father said unto him, "Who art thou?" And he said, "I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau." **Genesis 27:32***

*And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? Yea and he shall be blessed." **Genesis 27:33***

To understand why Isaac could not rescind the blessing he gave Jacob, even though it was given under a deception, you need to understand the power that a person's honor stood for in those times. A promise given is a promise to be fulfilled. Even though Jacob proved to be dishonorable by engaging in deceit, Isaac was an honorable man which required him to keep his promise to Jacob.

*And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father." And he said, "Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing." **Genesis 27:34-35***

*And he (Esau) said, "Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing." And he said, "Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?" **Genesis 27:36***

*And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, "Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?" **Genesis 27:37***

*And Esau said unto his father, "Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. **Genesis 27:38***

*And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, "Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; and by the sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck. **Genesis 27:39-40***

In this blessing that Isaac gives to Esau, it sounds to me that Isaac is angry with Jacob for his deception, and has just told Esau, that there is only one way to remove Jacob's yoke from off Esau's neck, and that is with the sword. If I had been Esau, I would have considered such words as my father giving me permission to kill my brother. This is contrary to my understanding that Isaac is one with God, and could therefore never condone a sin like murder and revenge.

*And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob. **Genesis 27:41***

*And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, "Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; and tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away: Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day? **Genesis 27:42-45***

If you recall the city of Haran is the same city that Abram's father had moved his family to after leaving the city of Ur. This city is then in the far north almost to what is called Asia Minor in ancient days, and a little over 300 miles from Gerar, as the plane flies. Isaac and Rebekah are at the time settled around the city of Gerar which is south of Beersheba, and not far from God's Holy Mountain, where Jerusalem will eventually be built.

Jacob, Rachel & Leah

And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?"

Genesis 27:46

Even though Isaac is aged and blind, he is still the master of his household. He is still the master of his son's and unmarried daughters regardless of their age. If Jacob were to just up and leave his father, it would be an insult to his father, something not done in those times when a man's honor was more important than his life. Therefore, Rebekah establishes an excuse to encourage Isaac to send his son Jacob away for a time.

In this excuse created by Rebekah, Isaac may have seen a way of preventing Esau from carrying out his threat to kill Jacob. Perhaps, Isaac had been so angry that he had misspoke to Esau, and after thinking about it, decided that it would be best to remove Jacob away from Esau. It could also be that being so angry, that Isaac had no desire to have Jacob around anymore, a constant reminder of his deception, so by sending him so far away, he would thus allow his own anger to subside.

*And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, "Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Pandanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mothers' father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. **Genesis 28:1-2***

If you give this thought, you will see, that Isaac is telling Jacob to take a wife from one of the daughters of his mother's brother, which is Jacob's uncle, and that makes the daughters Jacob's first cousins. Today, this would not only be illegal, it being considered incest, it would also produce deformed offspring. In the time of Jacob, which was around 1760 BC or 3700 years ago, it was neither, and was a common occurrence.

*And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee, that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. **Genesis 28:3-4***

Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob, and as he said, he could not take the blessing back. Therefore Isaac knows that it will be through Jacob's blood line that the covenant with God will be carried. Knowing this, despite his anger with Jacob, Isaac fulfills his role as to giving his blessings and encouraging God to do the same in the person and seed of Jacob.

*And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Pandanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. **Genesis 28:5***

Jacob's Ladder

*And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. **Genesis 28:10-11***

*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land where on thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. **Genesis 28:12-14***

God uses many different way of communicating with people in general and with his prophets which are through dreams while you sleep and visions while you are awake. In this Jacob is receiving a vision from God in his dreams.

*And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. **Genesis 28:15***

In this dream, God reveals himself to Jacob, probably for the first time in Jacob's life. Before this, Jacob believed in God and his morality, because he was taught by his father, Isaac of God's law and promises. I see this as the first time that God is speaking directly to Jacob, and making promises directly to Jacob because Jacob having received his father's blessing is now God's Voice on the Earth.

*And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. **Genesis 28:16-17***

I am not happy with the translator's use of the word "**Dreadful**" as being accurate to the way that Jacob truly felt about this place. The word "**Dreadful**" is defined as, extremely bad, unpleasant, harmful, or serious in its effects, extreme in character or degree, of these are all negative connotations, then the dictionary goes on to give additional definitions of the same word, awe-inspiring, wonderful, to be very good or pleasing. This same word has opposite meanings depending upon the context which the sentence and paragraph make use of.

In this situation with Jacob, depending upon how the reader of the words looks at it, it could have either meaning. As you can see from the context, Jacob awakes after the dream and realizing that it was a communication from God, he is awe-struck, not in fear but in gladness. For this reason I am of the thought that a word with a single meaning is more appropriate, I suggest the word **wonderful**, should better define that emotion that Jacob is feeling.

The word "**Dreadful**" is the English word that replaces the ancient Hebrew word "**Yare**" which can also mean to fear, but that fear is the same sort as is meant when you say to "**Fear God**," which as I have shown before also means to have reverence for or extreme respect for. I believe that it is this meaning that should apply here.

*And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. **Genesis 28:18-19***

Because Jacob has this dream in this place, he considers the place as being holy and so he builds a pillar on the spot to mark it as a holy place. The thing is, that it didn't matter where Jacob slept that night, God would have spoken to him. It is not the place that is holy, but that God has chosen Jacob, and it is therefore Jacob that God has made holy.

There is only one place on Earth that God describes as being his holy mountain, and that is the site of the City of Jerusalem and the Temple of David.

*And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." **Genesis 28:20-22***

I will now jump ahead, to get to the point in the story of Jacob I wish to have discussion of. I leave it to you to read those verses that I leave out.

Jacob and Rachel

*And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. **Genesis 29:9-10***

Three times in these two verses we are told that the sheep, the daughter and the well are the possessions of Laban, Jacob's mother's brother. That means that Laban is Jacob's Uncle, and Rachel is Jacob's first cousin. I am not sure why God felt it necessary to repeat this three times, other than to insure we the readers are made aware of the kinship between them.

*And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. **Genesis 29:11-12***

*And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embrace him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. **Genesis 29:13***

Bone and Flesh

*And Laban said to him, "Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. And Laban said unto Jacob, "Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me, what shall thy wages be? **Genesis 29:14-15***

*And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favored. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter." **Genesis 29:16-18***

During the time of Abraham and until only recently, a man's daughters were his to give into marriage to whomever he chose, the daughter having little or no say in the decision. In this Jacob's Uncle asks what Jacob will take as payment in return for his going to work for his Uncle. Jacob says that he will work for his Uncle in return for his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

*And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. **Genesis 29:19***

In this verse, Laban, Jacob's Uncle agrees to the terms set by Jacob, and the contract is made.

I will now jump ahead, to get to the point in the story of Jacob I wish to have discussion of. I leave it to you to read those verses that I leave out.

Time to Return Home

*And he (Jacob) heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory." And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. **Genesis 31:1-2***

If you read those verses I jumped over, you will know that in payment for another six years over and above the seven he work for the hand of Leah, and another he worked for the hand of Rachel, Jacob was to receive all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown sheep, and all the spotted and speckled among the goats.

God enriched Jacob in that far more animals were born that were of the type that would be Jacob's wage than were to remain the property of Laban. I see this as punishment for the way that Laban coerced Jacob to work for him for so many years, by not living up to his contract of employment with Jacob over the giving of Rachel's hand in marriage to Jacob after the first seven years.

*And the Lord said unto Jacob, "Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah (his wives) to the field unto his flock, and said unto them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. **Genesis 31:3-5***

*And Ye know that with all my power I have served your father. And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. **Genesis 31:6-7***

*Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. **Genesis 31:9***

And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, "Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him strangers: for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our

money? For all the riches which God hath taken from our father that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do." **Genesis 31:14-16**

Having asked for and received the approval of his two wives, Jacob makes the decision to remove himself, his wives, children, servants and animals from his Uncle's lands.

Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camel; and he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. **Genesis 31:17-18**

And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. **Genesis 32:1-2**

Jacob sends a message to Esau

And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, "Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; "Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: and I have oxen, and asses, flocks and menservants, and women servants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight. **Genesis 32:3-5**

And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. **Genesis 32:6**

Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands; and said, "If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape. **Genesis 32:7-8**

And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which sadist unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. **Genesis 32:9-10**

Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. And thou sadist, "I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude. **Genesis 32:11-12**

In this prayer to God, Jacob reveals his devotion to God and his repentance of the sins of his youth. In this prayer Jacob is also showing that he has put his life and the lives of his wives, children and servants into the hands of God.

A Gift of Appeasement

*And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, thirty milch (milking) camels with their colts, forty kine,(cows), and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals. **Genesis 32:13-15***

*And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, "Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove." And he commanded the foremost, saying, "When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, "Whose art thou? And whither goest thou? And whose are these before thee? Then thou shalt say, "They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us." **Genesis 32:16-18***

*And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, "On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him." And say ye moreover, "Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us." For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me." **Genesis 32:19-20***

*So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company. And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. **Genesis 32:21-23***

Jacob Wrestles with God

*And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he (the man) saw that he prevailed not against him (Jacob), he (the man) touched the hollow of his (Jacob's) thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. **Genesis 32:24-25***

*And he (the man) said, "Let me go, for the day breaketh." And he (Jacob) said, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." **Genesis 32:26***

Jacob Prevails

*And he (the man, God) said unto him, “What is thy name?” And he (Jacob) said, Jacob.” And he (God) said, “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” **Genesis 32:27-28***

The question I ask you the readers, “**What did Jacob prevail over?**” Do you know what Jacob prevailed over and why because of that, God renamed Jacob to Israel? Knowing the answer to this you will understand the significance of why God refers to those who followed Moses out of Egypt, Israelites, and why God made the children of Jacob to be a people apart from all other nations on earth.

Jacob sinned against his brother and against God, he even sinned a sin that came close to being against the Holy Ghost, which is an unforgiveable sin. Despite this Jacob was able to overcome his sins, and repent them before God, and then asked God that he forgive him, though Jacob felt himself unworthy of all the mercies that God had given him. It is this why God renamed Jacob to Israel, and why those who keep the Commandments of God and have themselves overcome their own sins, that they are then Israelites and not just Jews.

*And Jacob asked him, and said, “Tell me, I pray thee, thy name.” And he (God) said, “Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he (God) blessed him there. **Genesis 32:29***

As you may have noticed, Jacob asks God what his name is, but as you might also have noticed, God never does answer. Israel goes on to receive forgiveness from his brother Esau as well, and it is from the sons of Jacob, that God brings their descendants out of Egypt.

Second Major Covenant

This covenant was with descendants of Jacob through Moses and those that came out of Egypt, which God formed into the Nation of Israel. Once more I am jumping ahead in the Bible to bring us to those verses that relate to the subject that I am discussing with you, the Tree Covenants of God.

*And it came to pass in process of time that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. **Exodus 2:23***

*And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. **Exodus 2:24-25***

Moses the Prophet of God

Then the Lord said unto Moses, “Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.” **Exodus 6:1**

God’s Name Jehovah

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, “I am the Lord: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Exodus 6:2-3

In this verse, God indicates that his name is Jehovah; he also gives definition as to what the name means, **“God Almighty.”** But it is more than a name; it has meaning beyond being a name. The dictionary defines Jehovah as: a translation from the old Hebrew of the name of God, as used in the Bible. The Bible concordance shows the original Hebrew word to be, “Yehovah”, which is defined as: self-existent, or eternal. This is derived from the Hebrew word “Hayah”, which means: to exist, to become, or to come to pass. In this name Jehovah, the Name of God is more of a statement of fact or a title and not so much as a name as a Man would use a name. With men there are many, so a name is required to keep track of one man from another, there is only one God, therefore no name is necessary, but that the people had a need of a name to call the God of Creation, God gives them Jehovah as a simple way of saying **“God Almighty.”**

And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers. **Exodus 6:4**

It has been four hundred years and many generations since the days of Jacob, and though a small trace of the knowledge of God and his relationship with Jacob might still exist, many of his descendants may not have any memory. For this reason, God reminds them of who they are.

And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant. **Exodus 6:5**

God intends to establish a nation

Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, “I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: and I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.” **Exodus 6:6-7**

And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning that which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the Lord. **Exodus 6:8**

In this, God is informing the children of Jacob that he has once again revealed himself for the purpose of setting them in a nation of their own, free from the yoke of the Egyptians as a way of keeping his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

And the Lord said unto Moses, “See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.” **Exodus 7:1-2**

In this God gives his definition of what a prophet of God is. God speaks to Moses, Moses tells Aaron, and Aaron tells all others. Moses is prophet to God, in that Moses hears and then repeats the Word of God, and Aaron is prophet to Moses, in that Moses tells Aaron what to tell the others. This then establishes the following definition of what a Prophet of God is: one through whom God speaks, as Moses speaks through Aaron, and God Speaks through Moses.

The reason Aaron has to speak for Moses is because Moses has what today would be called a speech impediment. Moses can make himself understood to those who are close to him, but to stand and speak and make himself understood to a large number of people is beyond his ability.

Plague's on Egypt

And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. **Exodus 7:3-4**

*And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. **Exodus 7:5***

In this, God intends not only to remove the children of Israel out of the bondage of the Egyptians, but that in doing so he reveals his power to the Egyptians as well. The Egyptians are controlled by a religion and its priests that are established by Satan. By giving plagues to Egypt, he shows their gods as being impotent and no gods at all. As are all false religions and false gods. God is using this account of the Exodus to show not just the Jews and the Egyptians that he God is the Almighty God, but the entire world and all men who have lived since and heard this story.

The Rod becomes a Serpent

*And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, “When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, “Shew a miracle for you:” then thou shalt say unto Aaron, “Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.” **Exodus 7:8-9***

*Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods. **Exodus 7:11-12***

If I were present and I saw with my own eyes Aaron’s snake swallow whole the snakes of those others, I would have given pause and wondered if all that Moses had been saying was of God. For how else can such be explained?

The River Turns to Blood

*And he hardened Pharaoh’s heart that he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said. And the Lord said unto Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go. Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river’s brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand. **Exodus 7:13-15***

And thou shalt say unto him, “The Lord God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee,” saying, “Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear. Thus saith the Lord, “In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon

the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river.” Exodus 7:16-18

And the Lord spake unto Moses, “Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. Exodus 7:19

And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the Lord had said. Exodus 7:22

Because the magicians had been able to do as Moses and Aaron had done, by turning the water to blood, Pharaoh was once again not impressed with Moses. I for one am impressed, and I would like to know how the magicians managed to duplicate the feat. It is one thing to turn the water in a vessel to look like blood, as is what the magicians did, but the entire river Nile? I can see only God being able to pull that one off.

And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river. And seven days were fulfilled, after that the Lord had smitten the river. Exodus 7:24-25

Frog Infestation

And the Lord spake unto Moses, “Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, “Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me. And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: and the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading troughs: And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants. Exodus 8:1-4

And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt. Exodus 8:7

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Entreat the Lord, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord.

Exodus 8:8

And Moses said unto Pharaoh, “Glory over me: when shall I entreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only?” **Exodus 8:9**

And he, (Pharaoh) said, “To-morrow. And he (Moses) said, “Be it according to thy word: that thou mayest know that there is not like unto the Lord our God. **Exodus 8:10**

And the frogs shall depart from thee, and from thy houses, and from thy servants, and from thy people; they shall remain in the river only. **Exodus 8:11**

And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh: and Moses cried unto the Lord because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh. **Exodus 8:12**

And the Lord did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields. And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank. **Exodus 8:13-14**

But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said. **Exodus 8:15**

Lice Infestation

And the Lord said unto Moses, “Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. **Exodus 8:16**

And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. The magicians said unto Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said. **Exodus 8:18-19**

Do not think that Pharaoh is a dim witted person, that after all these plagues; he still refuses to see that he is up against the God of Creation and not just Moses. God does not want Pharaoh to acquiescent just yet. God wants to make an example of Egypt and through that example all nations of Man will know, that God is the Almighty, and to oppose him is to bring upon you his wrath.

Fly Infestation

And the Lord said unto Moses, “Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, “Thus saith the Lord,” “Let my people go, that they may serve me.”

Exodus 8:20

Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

Israel is Protected

*And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to-morrow shall this sign be. **Exodus 8:21-23***

And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, “Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

Exodus 8:25

*And Moses said, “It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us? We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as he shall command us. **Exodus 8:26-27***

*And Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: entreat for me. **Exodus 8:28***

*And Moses said, “Behold, I go out from thee, and I will entreat the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to-morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord. **Exodus 8:29***

*And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and entreated the Lord. And the Lord did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, for his servants, and from his people; there remained not one. **Exodus 8:30-31***

*And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go. **Exodus 8:32***

Death of the Live Stock

Then the Lord said unto Moses, “Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.” **Exodus 9:1-3**

Israel is Protected

And the Lord shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children’s of Israel. And the Lord appointed a set time, saying, “To-morrow the Lord shall do this thing in the land.” **Exodus 9:4-5**

And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. **Exodus 9:6**

And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go. **Exodus 9:7**

Boils upon the People of Egypt

And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, “Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.” **Exodus 9:8-9**

And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. **Exodus 9:10**

And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. **Exodus 9:11**

And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he (Pharaoh) hearkened not unto them (Moses & Aaron); as the Lord had spoken unto Moses. **Exodus 9:12**

Hail & Fire out of the sky

*And the Lord said unto Moses, "Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me." For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. **Exodus 9:13-14***

An Example to all Mankind

*For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth. **Exodus 9:15-16***

*As yet exalteth thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go? Behold, to-morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. **Exodus 9:17-18***

One thing I want that you should take note of in all these plagues that God inflicts upon Egypt, Moses foretells of their happening before they begin. In this way, it cannot be said that God was not speaking through Moses.

*Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. **Exodus 9:19***

This time God also gives warning to bring in their livestock and what they can harvest of their crops. This reveals to me that the audience between Pharaoh and Moses is not secret, but that it is announced to the people. In this warning, God is revealing to Pharaoh and all who read about these events throughout history that there are some of the Egyptians that have been convinced of the truth of the Almighty God.

He that feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: And he that regarded not the word of the Lord left his servants and his cattle in the field.

Exodus 9:20-21

This holds true for the people of today. Jesus has given prophecy of a Great War, and the resulting Great Tribulation that will be the result of the war. How many alive today are taking heed of these prophecies?

If you go to the chapters that I have titled, **The Great War**, you will learn of these prophecies and just how close we are to them being fulfilled.

And the Lord said unto Moses, “Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:22

And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Exodus 9:23-24

*And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. **Exodus 9:25***

Israel is Protected

*Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail. **Exodus 9:26***

Once more God reveals how he can inflict pain and suffering on those who do not obey his word, and leave unscathed those who do keep his commandments and believe his word.

*And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, “I have sinned this time: the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. Entreat the Lord (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer. **Exodus 9:27-28***

*And Moses said unto him, “As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the Lord; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the Lord’s. But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the Lord God. **Exodus 9:29-30***

I would have thought by now that Pharaoh would be sincere in his intent on letting Israel go, but as you can see, Moses knows Pharaoh has yet to be completely humbled by God.

*And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the Lord had spoken by Moses. **Exodus 9:34-35***

Locust Infestation

*And the Lord said unto Moses, “Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him: And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son’s son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the Lord. **Exodus 10:1-2***

Once again God is intent that all of Egypt as well as the children of Israel know that he is the God of Creation, and that he is to be obeyed, and that disobedience will not be tolerated. It is also his intent that the haughty and arrogant Pharaoh be humbled before God. That it is God who decides who will be king and who will not, even in those lands that do not give worship to him. Man belongs to God, regardless of Satan’s influence on them.

*And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, “Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. **Exodus 10:3***

*Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to-morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which growth for you out of the field: And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers’ fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh. **Exodus 10:4-6***

As you may recall, God told Moses that in the eyes of Pharaoh, he Moses was as a god, and Aaron was as his prophet. With Moses finally removing himself from the presence of Pharaoh without first being given leave to do so, he was showing Pharaoh that he Moses no longer gave respect to the office that Pharaoh represented in Egyptian society, only someone greater than Pharaoh would have such disrespect, else they would have been put to death on the spot. That Moses was not put to death shows the power that he had acquired over Pharaoh and his servants.

*And Pharaoh’s servants said unto him, “How long shall this man be a snare unto us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God; knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed? **Exodus 10:7***

In that Pharaoh's servants are brought to plead with Pharaoh, it shows my above analysis as being correct. As you can see, it is admitted by Pharaoh's servants that all of these plagues that have been inflicted upon Egypt, has ruined its economy and its wealth.

And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, "Go, serve the Lord your God: but who are they that shall go?" **Exodus 10:8**

And Moses said, "We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the Lord." **Exodus 10:9**

And he (Pharaoh) said unto them, "Let the Lord be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you." "Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord; for that ye did desire." And they (Moses and Aaron) were driven out from Pharaoh's presence. **Exodus 10:10-11**

At first it sounds like Pharaoh is finally going to let Israel go, but then he relents, and such is his anger that this time he has his guards drive them from his presence.

And the Lord said unto Moses, "Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left." **Exodus 10:12**

And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. **Exodus 10:13-14**

For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt. **Exodus 10:15**

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in hast; and he said, I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and entreat the Lord your God, that he may take away from me this death only. **Exodus 10:16-17**

And he (Moses) went out from Pharaoh, and entreated the Lord. And the Lord turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt. **Exodus 10:18-19**

*But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go. **Exodus 10:20***

A Heavy Darkness

*And the Lord said unto Moses, "Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. **Exodus 10:21-23***

Who but the God of Creation could accomplish all of these plagues? Do you believe yet? Think of these words that you have been reading, as a communication from God directly to you. Don't think of them as something written down in books long ago by gray haired old men. These words are not the words of Moses, but the Word of God, given to Moses, that he might write them down. Know this and you will then believe, God is real, God lives, and God will be obeyed.

*And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, "Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. **Exodus 10:24***

*And Moses said, "Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither. **Exodus 10:25-27***

*But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. And Pharaoh said unto him, "Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. **Exodus 10:27-28***

*And Moses said, "Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more." **Exodus 10:29***

Death of the First Born

*And the Lord said unto Moses, "Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. **Exodus 11:1-2***

Earthly wealth is of no interest to God, he already owns the entire Earth and all that is upon it, but he has a need for these things of silver and gold as explained in other chapters of the Book of Exodus.

*And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people. **Exodus 11:3***

In this God is letting us know that the Egyptian people will give to the children of Israel of their jewelry freely. Even though Pharaoh is arrogant and prideful, the people want nothing more than for the Jews to leave, which is to show that the calamities that have befallen Egypt are known of the people of Egypt to be the cause of the God of the Hebrews, as foretold by Moses.

Moses as a prophet of God Almighty has proven himself to speak the words of God, and as such has become a holy man to the Egyptians as he is to the Hebrews, with all the honor and respect that holy men held in ancient times.

Remember: in the Pagan religion of the Egyptians, Pharaoh is god on earth, a living god. When Moses shows through all these plagues that the God of the Hebrews is greater than Pharaoh, this has shaken their faith in Pharaoh.

*And Moses said, "Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: and all the first born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. **Exodus 11:4-5***

I need you to take note of a phrase that God uses in the above verses, **"from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne."** The key words in this are **"that sitteth upon his throne."** In recent years some historians have suggested that Pharaoh, **Rameses** is in his 80's at the time of the Exodus, and has thus retired, giving his authority over to a regent, who is the crown prince, or the first born son of Rameses. This sits well with the words in the Bible, in that it reveals the Pharaoh that sits on the throne as being about the same age as Moses. There have been other stories that Moses and this younger Pharaoh grew up together as brothers, which also fits with the words of the Bible.

What I am getting at is that the first born son of Pharaoh that dies as is told in Exodus is given to be a young boy, and not an adult. In the above wording, this then would fit. The son of Rameses is the Pharaoh **that sits on the throne**, and it is his son that dies along with the other first born of Egypt. In these words God has given a qualifier as to which Pharaoh he is speaking of.

*And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. **Exodus 11:6***

Israel is Protected

*But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. **Exodus 11:7***

Once more God is showing his power in that he can keep safe those who he chooses, at the same time he is causing injury to all others.

*And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, “Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger. **Exodus 11:8***

In this, Moses is giving prediction to Pharaoh that his own servants, which is another way of saying advisors, will bow down to Moses and tell him and his people to leave.

*And the Lord said unto Moses, “Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land. **Exodus 11:9-10***

Even though Moses has just warned Pharaoh that his own son will die if he does not let the children of Israel go, he refuses to believe. Such is his pompous arrogance that he cannot see that he is not dealing with a man, Moses, but with the God of Creation.

The First Passover

*And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. **Exodus 12:1-2***

Those of you who are not Jewish may not know, but the Passover is observed in the Month of March, and it is in this month that God has said is to be the first month of the year, not January as we observe it. I see our observing the first month of the year in January as yet another of Satan’s attempts to rewrite or change the laws of God. For those of you who do not see the evil of Satan all around you, here then is another of the lies told by Satan, that you have been ignorant of your whole life.

Recently, I came to understand that the Jews were observing their new year, but it was not being celebrated in the Month of March, but some other month. This I see as a realization that the Jews are just as deceived of God's Commandments to them as are most Christians. If God told Moses to then tell those who came out of Egypt with him, that month that the First Passover is observed in, March, was to be the first month of the year, then I ask why do they not observe their New Year in the Month of March other than that somewhere over the generations they have lost their way on even this command from God, as well as all those other inequities which God gives list of in the Books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

God Commands what to Eat

*Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, "In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. **Exodus 12:3-4***

*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. **Exodus 12:5-6***

*And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. **Exodus 12:7-8***

God Commands How to Cook the Meat

*Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance (relevance) thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. **Exodus 12:9-10***

I could not find the word purtenance as it is spelled in this verse, in the dictionary, so I went to the Bible Concordance to look up its meaning. The word purtenance is the Old English word used to replace the Hebrew word, Qereb, and that is defined as: the heart, bowls, inward parts. This then tells me that the beast is to be cooked whole, without first butchering it.

God Commands How the men must eat the feast

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover. Exodus 12:11

I am unaware as to what the tradition of the Jews has evolved into, but I am pretty sure, they sit at a table and eat the Passover meal as they would any other meal. God has said that instead, the men at least, must be girded, and that you must have your shoes on your feet, and your staff in hand.

The word *girded* is defined by the Encarta Dictionary as: to prepare yourself for conflict or vigorous activity, to put a belt or girdle around you, to secure something to yourself with a belt or straps, or a girdle. None of these definitions seems right for the way the word is used in these verses, so I looked it up in the Bible Concordance. The word *girded* is the English word that replaced the Hebrew word, *“Chagar”* which is defined as: to put on, as in a belt or armor.

In that they are also required to have their staff in their hand, while they are eating, suggests that what is meant is that they are to be prepared to have to put up a fight in defense of their home and family. They must eat quickly and be fully dressed in case they must put up a fight. A staff can be used as a weapon when needed, as well as a walking stick.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Exodus 12:12

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13

Take Note: The blood that they are to put around the door or entrance to their homes is a *“Token”* which is defined as: a demonstration, or keepsake, or as something that is symbolic of something else. This use of blood then amounts to the same thing as when God tells us that when we keep the Seventh Day Sabbath it is a *“Sign”* between us and God, that we are the people of God and that we look to the God of Creation as being our God. Whereas the blood is only symbolic of this, the keeping of the True Sabbath is the actual sign.

Passover an aspect of the Second Covenant

*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever. **Exodus 12:14***

Unleavened Bread

*Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses; for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day that soul shall be cut off from Israel. **Exodus 12:15***

*And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. **Exodus 12:16***

And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

Exodus 12:17

The First Month

*In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. **Exodus 12:18-19***

As you can see, God is telling those who are subject to the Second Covenant that they must observe this feast in the First Month of the Year. Remember: God has given that the first month of the year is to be the same month that the Passover is to be observed, which is in the month we call March, not January as Christians have come to observe it.

Therefore the first day of the Passover observance is on the fourteenth of March, and lasts seven days until the twenty-first of March. During this time no bread that has leaven in it is to be eaten. Leaven is another word for yeast. When you put yeast in with the flour and water when making bread, the yeast causes the mix to expand or rise.

Take Note: The twenty first day of March is the Spring Equinox, when the day light hours are equal to the night time hours. This is historically a time of most Pagan celebrations celebrating the rebirth of the Earth. Satan has always attempted to pollute the worship of the God of Creation, which is why his Pagan religions have held celebration during this same time so as to confuse and deceive that which is of God and that which is Pagan.

The Word of God is Supreme

Now you may ask, “Why does God care if we put yeast in our bread or not?” It is only during the observance of the Passover, that God has commanded that we eat no leaven, it is still permitted by God that we may eat leaven bread the rest of the year. Think of it as a command of God, and only in obedience to the Word of God can you show your love for God. It does not matter if you think it illogical or not, it is that God has told you to do something in a certain way, and if you love God you will, regardless of your thoughts about it.

Nation of Israel only

*Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread. **Exodus 12:20***

As you can see, God reiterates his intent that we eat no leaven bread during the week of the Passover. I have been using the word “**We**” in many of these explanations, but I want that you understand it is a reference to those who were and are subject to the requirements of the Second Covenant only. Those before Moses were not required to observe the Passover, and those of the Third Covenant are not subject to its observance either. This will be explained further on in the Lessons.

An Ordinance Forever

*Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, “Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the tow side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. **Exodus 12:21-22***

The word **Hyssop** is defined in the Encarta Dictionary as an unidentified plant whose twigs are described in the Bible as being used to sprinkle water during Hebrew religious ceremonies. Which gives me no idea of what it is, therefore I looked it up in the Bible Concordance, the word **Hyssop** is a

Latin word that is given for the Hebrew word "naphach" where it tells us that it is a dried up fig that is broken up into a powder.

In recent times I have heard that there were Bible scholars attempting to figure out what substance the Hyssop was made from, but they seem unable to determine this, yet in about a three minute search, God has revealed this to me. This tells me that unless you are in search for God and his truth, you will not be able to find either with your own intellectual abilities alone, as Jesus tells us: "I am the way." Only with Jesus as your guide can you find the full truth and in that find God.

Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

Blood as a physical Token

*For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. **Exodus 12:23***

The blood is a token or symbolism that those who reside inside that building are children of God, and therefore under God's protection.

The Passover is an Ordinance

*And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever. **Exodus 12:24***

An Ordinance is defined by the dictionary as: a law or rule made by an authority such as a city government. In the Bible an ordinance of God or of Moses, is a law to be upheld, but unless otherwise stated it is not forever and can be amended or repealed by God.

An ordinance is generally a law written by the hand of a man. This ordinance concerning the Passover has the support of God, and God has said that it is an ordinance forever. The Ten Commandments, which are written by the finger of God on stone, indicating that they are to last forever, unchangeable, cannot be called an ordinance. The Ten Commandments are more like that of the law of the land under which all other laws and ordinances are subordinate.

Unlike That with the Fathers

In the above verse, God tells us that this “**ordinance**” is to be for the Israelites for all their generations. I need to tell you of my uncertainty in how this effect the Saints of God, which are not held to the same parameters of the Second Covenant as the children of Jacob, were.

The Passover as spelled out in these verses, tell me that they are part and parcel to the Covenant that God established with the first Israelites. As such I am uncertain as to whether it applies to those who are a part of the Third Covenant.

The Second Covenant establishes the Nation of Israel, were as the Third Covenant establishes a one on one personal and intimate relationship between you as an individual and the God of Creation.

I cannot see how the Passover has any purpose therefore in that relationship. I leave it up to you to give prayer to God, and allow him to show you what he commands of you. I have prayed to God concerning this, and I have been given the feeling, but not with any certainty, that the keeping of the Passover by the Saints of God, is unnecessary. Be it known however, that the Apostles of Jesus and Jesus did in fact observe the Passover, hence my uncertainty. The only thing that keeps coming to mind when I think of Jesus as having kept it, is that he was born a citizen of the Nation of Israel, and was therefore under the Second Covenant until his death upon the cross.

Why Keep the Passover?

*And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the Lord will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, “What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, “It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. **Exodus 12:25-27***

I see the above three verses as being the true reason why God commands the keeping of the Passover, that all the generations to come, after those that lived during the death of the first born of Egypt, will remember the power of God, that the God of Creation is real, and has from time to time given direct involvement in the affairs of Man.

With the Saints of God and the Third Covenant, no one that has attained the status as a Saint of God could ever forget, it being a part of which they are, in personality, honor and moral character, therefore the keeping of the Passover is no longer needed, at least that is how it is seen, you decide for yourself.

*And the children of Israel went away, and did as the Lord had commanded, Moses and Aaron, so did they. **Exodus 12:28***

Death of the First Born

*And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the first born in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the first born of cattle. **Exodus 12:29***

*And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. **Exodus 12:30***

*And he (Pharaoh) called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also." **Exodus 12:31-32***

*And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, "We be all dead men." **Exodus 12:33***

Defining the Second Covenant

*And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: **Exodus 12:34-35***

*And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians. **Exodus 12:36***

*And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle. **Exodus 12:37-38***

*And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual. **Exodus 12:39***

*Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed of all the children of Israel in their generations. **Exodus 12:40-42***

And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron,

- 1. "This is the ordinance of the Passover:*
- 2. There shall no stranger eat thereof:*
- 3. But Every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.*
- 4. A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.*
- 5. In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house;*
- 6. Neither shall ye break a bone thereof.*
- 7. All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. **Exodus 12:43-47***
- 8. And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. **Exodus 12:48***

Take Note: In this verse God is indicating that the only time that a stranger, (a non-Jew), can partake of the Passover Feast is if they first submit to being circumcised. I want to have you understand that in this and in other verses throughout the Book of Exodus, God is revealing his expectation that the people of the Nation of Israel are to be Evangelists and preach the Word of God to all the rest of mankind.

The act of circumcision is symbolic of revealing yourself as being a child of the God of Creation, and that you look to God as being your God and no other. Therefore, when God tells us in this verse that the stranger can partake of the Passover Feast if they are circumcised, it is not that they must only be circumcised but they must also have converted in heart, soul and mind to the worship of the one true God. This amounts to the same thing as the blood around the entrance door, as a symbolism of being of God.

- 9. One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you. **Exodus 12:49***

As you can see, my comments are given support by this verse.

10. *Thus did all the children of Israel; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. And it came to pass the self-same day, which the Lord did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies. **Exodus 12:50-51***
11. *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, "Sanctify unto me the first born, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine." **Exodus 13:1-2***
12. *And Moses said unto the people, "Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place:"*
13. *These shall no leavened bread be eaten.*
14. *This day came ye out in the month Abib (March). And it shall be when the Lord shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy father to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.*
15. *Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the Lord.*
16. *Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.*
17. *And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, "This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.*
18. *And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt.*
19. *Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year. And it shall be when the Lord shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee.*
20. *That thou shalt set apart unto the Lord all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the Lord's. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck:*
21. *And all the firstborn of Man among thy children shalt thou redeem.*
22. *And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, "What is this? That thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, for the house of bondage: And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the Lord slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of Man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.*

23. *And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt. Exodus 13:3-16*

Parting of the Red Sea

There are many explanations of what happened with the parting of the Red Sea, and one of them suggest that it wasn't the Red Sea that was parted but the Reed Sea, which is in the northern most end of the Red Sea, and that it didn't actually part but because of dry weather it dried up allowing the Children of Jacob to pass over it. If this is true then how is it that Pharaoh's army had the waters fall back upon them? There is one thing you should keep in mind, the words in the Bible are not inspired by God, and are not the words of the prophets, written by the prophets, but are in FACT the Word of God, given to the prophets by God to then write down and have published.

Defining a Prophet of God

The Dictionary defines a **prophet** as one who speaks for a god.

A **Prophet of God** is one through whom God speaks. Can you see the difference?

When the words of the Bible say that the Red Sea was parted and that the water was as walls on either side of the passage thus created, then that is as God has told Moses to write. The Word of God is truth, and only those who believe God's word as he caused it to be written, are of the faith, if you doubt the truth of this account as it is written in the Bible, then you are not a Saint of God, for you do not believe.

Remember: Abraham believed, even when logic said it was not possible, and because Abraham believed God made a covenant with him and all his seed. Believe in God and have eternal life or have doubts and know eternal death.

Codifying God's Law

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. Exodus 19:1-2

If the First Month of the Year is our March, then this Third month is June as we call it.

And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." **Exodus 19:3-6**

I have found that most people when they read tend to assume a meaning of a word or phrase to be one thing when it quite often has a greater meaning.

The Word "Indeed"

When God tells the children of Israel to "keep my covenant" **indeed**, I will bet that you think that the word **indeed** means "also," or that you read over it with no thought to its meaning. I used to be guilty of this as well. The word "**indeed**" is defined by the Encarta Dictionary as: introduces a statement that strengthens or adds to a point just made, gives additional emphasis after a descriptive word or phrase.

With such an ambiguous definition, little wonders why most people pay little attention to such words. As used in the above verse it relates to the root word "**deed**", and that is defined as: an intentional act, to do something in fact and in truth.

The Bible Concordance shows that the word **indeed** replaces the Hebrew word, "**omen, or omnah**" which is defined as: verifiable truth, surety. The word "**surety**" is further defined as: sure knowledge, the state of being sure, certainty, confidence in manner or behavior, assurance, formal engagement.

When you put this all together you gain a true understanding of what God is saying. God is telling the children of Israel that they must keep his covenant, as an act of true and real surety, and with the intentional act in truth and in spirit, verifiable by God as you're having done so. Think of it this way, when you go into a contract with someone there are certain aspects of that contract that are your responsibility to perform and others that the other party to the contract must perform, if either of you fail to do your part, then the contract is

in default. God is telling the children of Israel, that as their part of the covenant they must keep all the point that are given in the covenant that apply to them, in truth, in fact, and in actual act, which are then verifiable to God. To keep indeed means to do it for real, and in truth.

A Kingdom of Priests

Another phrase in the above verses I want to bring to your attention is, “a kingdom of priests.” Have you ever taken the time to understand what this phrase entails? The first question I asked is what is a priest? A priest is someone who preaches gospel. To be a kingdom of priests then suggests that God intends that the children of Israel, all of them, not just a few, but the entire population, preaches the Word of God, not to just themselves but to all of mankind, to other nations. In this way, the Gospel of God would be known to the entire world. The Jews must not have taken the time to understand God’s words, because they established a custom or tradition, that the only way you could be an Israelite was to be born into a family of Jews or to marry into a family of Jews. This is yet one more reason why God had issue with the Jews over all their generations. From the very beginning they failed to keep even the basic of God’s instructions.

*And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, “All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.” And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. **Exodus 19:7-9***

God has spelled out the terms of the covenant with the people through Moses, and when they all agreed, “All that the Lord hath spoken we will do,” they have in Fact, accepted those terms, and they and their descendants are thus required and obligated to fulfill them.

*And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. **Exodus 19:16***

Picture this as if you are there. You wake in the morning and the mountain that you are camped near to has this massive cloud about it, and it is thundering and lightning atop the mountain. This is not an uncommon sight in that area of the world, and though it may gain your attention it is nothing that you most likely haven’t seen before. But when have you ever heard the sound of a trumpet coming out from inside such a thunderstorm? Not just the sound of a trumpet, but exceeding loud. I am not sure if any of you have ever heard a trumpet sound at its full volume or not, but it is loud and it can be heard from far away, but the sound that

these people are hearing is so loud that it causes them to tremble. This is the first time in the Bible where God reveals his voice as being the sound of a trumpet.

*And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. **Exodus 19:17-18***

From their encampment the people are then encouraged by Moses to go to the very foot of the mountain, to listen to what God has to say to them. The cloud that is all about Mount Sinai is not a weather cloud but a cloud of smoke and of fire, and the heat of it is as that of a furnace, and the mountain quaked as in an earthquake. Would you not be frightened beyond words, if you had stood there in the presence of the God of Creation?

*And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. **Exodus 19:19-20***

What this verse is telling me is that the people saw with their own eyes and heard with their own ears the God of Creation speak to them. My question is then, how can they then not believe? With all the miracles that these people have seen, they even still cannot believe! This is incomprehensible to me, and yet I have never seen and I have never heard the voice of God. God does speak to me, but not in this fashion as he spoke to the people on that day.

The Ten Commandments

*And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **Exodus 20:1-2***

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and hallowed it.*
5. *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*
6. *Thou shalt not kill.*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's. **Exodus 20:3-17***

*And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. **Exodus 20:18-19***

This verse is telling me, that the people did hear and that they did understand that which God spoke to them, but preferring to hear it second hand from Moses, because of their fear of God, they removed themselves from the foot of the mountain.

This reminds me of a warning from Jesus, that those of the End of Days that when they hear or read the Words of God will be offended. Which is to say that they do not want to hear God's True Word, but prefer to stand off so as to give excuse that they could not hear.

*And Moses said unto the people, "Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. **Exodus 20:20***

As you can see, Moses attempted to persuade the people to stay and listen to God speak, so that they would know the truth and thus gain knowledge as how not to sin. But this they refused, and relied on Moses to speak the Word of God to them.

I have given a full discussion on the Ten Commandments and what they stand for in the Lesson 2 on this Web Page, therefore I will continue to the purpose of this lesson.

Third Major Covenant

This covenant is unlike the others, God warns of this even as he is establishing the Nation of Israel which was bound by the Second Covenant.

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 anything, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.

Deuteronomy 4:23

*For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. **Deuteronomy 4:24***

*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 anything, and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger: **Deuteronomy 4:25***

*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. **Deuteronomy 4:26***

*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. **Deuteronomy 4:27***

Take Note: and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen. This warning is not a warning of the Jews, that they will be few in number, but of the True Israelites, and that they will be few in number. Those who believe the Word of God, and are obedient to the Commandments of God, are today few in number. There are many who are Jews, but they do not keep the Laws of God, there are many who are Christian, but they do not keep the Laws of God, therefore, today this prophecy is fulfilled, for the Saints of God are few. Jesus tells us that a Saint of God is one who keeps the Commandments of God and has the Testimony of Jesus Christ. Can you say in truth that you fit this definition?

As you can see, God is giving warning to the Children of Israel, and that they will falter in their worship of him, and the fate that they will come to when they do falter. The above was a prophecy of the destruction of Israel, the City of Jerusalem, and its Temple, by Babylon and then again by Rome, and the people of the Nation

of Israel will be scattered over all the nations of the world, and those that are Israelites will be few among the many.

*When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in **the latter days**, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; **Deuteronomy 4:30***

The phrase, "**in the latter days**," is a reference to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. They reference a period, just before the Second Coming of Jesus, which marks the final years of the End of Times. God is telling those who are about to cross over the Jordan into the promised land, to take heed, and beware that they and their offspring do not falter in the worship of God, but that if they do, they need only return to the faith, and they will not be forsaken by God. Even those who have lived after the birth of Jesus, who do not accept Jesus as God in the flesh, will be forgiven of God, if they but only return to the true faith, and accept that Jesus is God in the flesh of a man.

Only God Sees the Future

I want to point something out with this verse. This verse was written by the hand of Moses, when the nation of Israel was just being formed, yet even then, God knew, that the descendants of Jacob would turn away from his worship, and his commandments, and that they would be subjected to tribulation in the times of their enslavement by Babylon, by Rome, but also in the End of Days. How can such foretelling of the future be so accurate unless they were prophesied by the God of Creation? No man could make such accurate predictions of future events. God is real, God is alive, and God will be obeyed.

Never before in history

*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. **Deuteronomy 4:31***

*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 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? **Deuteronomy 4:32***

*Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? **Deuteronomy 4:33***

*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 mighty hand, 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? **Deuteronomy 4:34***

*Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him. **Deuteronomy 4:35***

What this is saying is that God performed all of the wonders and miracles in bringing the sons of Jacob out of Egypt so that the people would know that it was accomplished not by a man but by God. God had rightly expected that the people having seen such things would have had the intelligence to see the hand of God in all that they saw, but the people are immensely hard headed, for though they saw, and they heard, they did not believe it to be God.

Verses 32 through 35 above are a mystery to me. Here God is impressing the magnitude of what he has done for the descendants of Jacob, that they have been witness to things done by God, as no other have ever seen since man was first established on the earth. Yet, as we all know, the children of Israel did turn their backs on the worship of God, and still today, they deny Jesus, despite all the Old Testament prophecies concerning his coming, and that only he Jesus can be shown to have fulfilled them.

I who have never seen any of these things, I who have never heard God's voice, I still know these things to be true, because of God's guidance and instruction, in the words of the Bible and in the mysteries of the universe. I see and hear God, having never seen nor heard him, yet those who did witness his glory turn their backs on his worship.

God foresaw the nation of Israel forsaking him, and so he has established another covenant, with the followers of the Teachings of Jesus.

Why a new Covenant

For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Hebrews 8:7

God is referring to the covenant with the Nation of Israel as the first covenant. The reason I call it the second is because it had distinct differences to the covenant he had with Abraham and Isaac.

God is admitting that there was something wrong with his covenant with the Nation of Israel. God is admitting that had it not been for that flaw, the people would have believed and kept God's Laws. That they did not keep the Commandments of God is the reason that God has decided to try again, but this time using a different approach.

A New Covenant

The following is from Hebrews written by the Prophet Paul. The original text where God first spells out the aspects of the New Covenant can be found in Jeremiah beginning at Chapter 31 Verse 31.

*For finding fault with them, 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: 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. **Hebrews 8:8-9***

Take Note: *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers.* This Third Covenant will be unlike the one he had with the Nation of Israel.

*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 they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and ever man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord:" for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. **Hebrews 8:11***

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. **Hebrews 8:12***

*In that he saith, "A new covenant," he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. **Hebrews 8:13***

Because God is establishing a new covenant with the house of Israel, and because the gentiles are also invited to partake in this new covenant, I feel it necessary that we discuss more fully what God has said, and what it means to all who choose to worship God as he commands.

In **Hebrews 8:7**, God is admitting that there must have been a flaw in the first covenant. He does not elaborate on what the flaw was except that the descendants of Jacob seemed unable or unwilling to keep his laws, so therefore there must have been a flaw.

In **Hebrews 8:8**, God tells us, that because of the flaw in the first covenant, he will establish a new covenant.

In **Hebrews 8:9**, God makes it clear that the new covenant is not according to the old covenant, which is to be interpreted as meaning it will be different somehow.

As you may recall from the discussion on the First and Second Covenants, in return for the land the sons of Jacob were to worship God as he commands by keeping his commandments. In this New Covenant, the land is not offered by God. In the New Covenant God offers not land but Eternal Life, in return for worshiping God as he commands, and to insure that we will worship God correctly, he tells us that he will write his laws upon our minds, and our hearts, thus making them part of who we are, and something that cannot be forgotten.

In **Hebrews 8:10**, God gives definition to this. The most important aspect of the New Covenant is, *I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts,* something that the Jews have never had.

In **Hebrews 8:11**, God tells us that he will forgive and forget the sins of those who repent their sins and live righteously from then on.

In **Hebrews 8:12**, God tells us that the old covenant is thereby made old and will decay and then vanish away. Which I interpret that the gift of land is no longer part of the covenant between men and God, which I suggest it also means that national boundaries will no longer exist in the new earth that will arise out of the ashes of the old.

I wish to point something out if you haven't observed it for yourselves yet. The phrase, **after those days**, or other words to that effect, are used throughout the Bible, they refer to the End of Times or the End of Days, and the establishment of the Third Covenant. So whenever you see these or similar words, regardless of where in the Bible, remember that God is referring to those who live during the End Times, and not those who live in the time that you are reading about. Though these warnings were given to the first Jews after Moses, they are intended for we who now live in the End of Days.

Remember: a covenant is a contract and that it requires two parties, each giving something of value. In return for the riches that God is giving us, we must keep his laws, "**The Ten Commandments,**" on

our hearts and in our minds, no longer as words written on two tables of stone, but part and parcel of our own personality and moral character. In other words, we must come to walk in the spirit of God.

Can you see the difference of the former Covenants, and this New Covenant? In the first two, an individual (The King or High Priest) was given leadership and authority over the rest of the people. It was his responsibility to teach the Commandments of God, to the others.

The people of the second covenant were a nation, with borders of land and seas, once again with a leader or leaders that taught the laws to the people.

Under the new or third covenant, there is no nation with Earthly borders, or leaders, only individuals, in a personal and intimate relationship with God, one to one, which is as it was with Adam in the Garden of Eden.

In this New Covenant, we as individuals are required to learn and obey the Commandments of God, even to make the Morality of God our own morality, to have the Commandments of God written upon our hearts. No longer do we look to another man, pastor, rabbi or priest, that is our teacher and our leader, but we are to look to Jesus as our teacher, and our guide down the path of righteousness, to achieving the status of being in the Spirit of the Lord.

This I reveal to you in these following verses.

*I (Jesus-God) lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment. **Proverbs 8:20***

*Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. **Proverbs 10:2***

As righteousness tendeth to life: so he (the sinful) that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.

Proverbs 11:19

*In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death. **Proverbs 12:28***

*He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour. **Proverbs 21:21***

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. **Matthew 5:6***

*Because he (Jesus-God) hath appointed a day, in the which he (Jesus-God) will judge the world in righteousness by that man (Jesus) whom he hath ordained; whereof he (Jesus-God) hath given assurance unto all men, in that he (Jesus-God) hath raised him (Jesus) from the dead. **Acts 17:31***

*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **Romans 8:3-4***

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:10

*For I bear them (those that call themselves Christian) record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. (They accept Satan's lies over God's truth.) **Romans 10:2***

*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **Romans 10:3***

To be "**Righteous**" is to live your life within the framework established by the six Moral imperatives as shown in the Ten Commandments, as well as by the moralistic teachings of Jesus, and by the worshiping of God as he commands, as shown in the first Four Commandments, and **not** as it is convenient for you, (by your pleasure).

The Parable of the Non-smoker

I will use the example of the non-smoker to symbolize what I am attempting to explain. You are a non-smoker. You hate the smell of burning tobacco, the smell of a smokers, clothes, hair and breath. You are invited to a party, and someone comes up and offers you a cigarette. Of course you refuse. The thought of you puffing on a cigarette is revolting to you. It would be against your very nature to accept the cigarette. There is no way you would ever do so.

This is how God wants you to feel about your living in sin. The Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus, are given to us to instill in to your very fiber, abhorrence to your very nature of ever committing a sin, not to mention to disobeying his commandments, which is how you commit a sin. As you a non-smoker would refuse a cigarette, God wants that you as one, who is righteous, would refuse to engage in sinful acts, as it would be against your very nature to do so.

God Created the Sabbath

When God rested on the Seventh Day after creating the universe, he still created something in his rest. He created the Sabbath, or should I say he brought it to completion, it having taken the first six days of creation to establish the foundation to the Holy Sabbath Day. That is why we say there are seven days of creation not six, for in six day God created the universe, but it took him seven days to create the Sabbath.

For you or any religion to choose to observe a day of rest on any day other than the one that God so specifically describes, (the Seventh Day), Genesis Chapter 2:1-3 and Exodus Chapter 20:8-11, is to put yourself and that religion in opposition to God the creator.

God wants under the new covenant that all who love him, **shall have his commandments written on their hearts**, and not just words on slabs of stone. There is no middle road, there is only Black and White, Right and Wrong, Good and Evil. Obey all of God's Ten Commandments, and be in communion with him, or do not obey all Ten, and be apart from God, or in opposition to God. Black and White, Good and evil, there is no middle road.