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THE COVENANTS OF GOD

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When I was growing up in the Church, I was taught that the Old Testament had been annulled by the Cross of Christ. The scripture that was always used to prove this point was Colossians 2:14 which states that God has set aside the law, having "nailed it to the Cross." One result of this teaching is that we considered the Old Testament irrelevant to our lives, and we therefore did not study it.

OLD TESTAMENT RELEVANCE

Years later when the Holy Spirit led me into a study of the Old Testament I was amazed to discover that all of it is relevant to our Christian walk. I further discovered that the only part of it that was "nailed to the Cross" was the civil and ceremonial laws of the Jews which are recorded in the Mosaic Covenant.

RELEVANT COVENANTS

I was even more surprised when I discovered that there are covenants in the Old Testament that are still in effect (See Romans 9:1-5). Four covenants in the Old Testament are declared to be "eternal." They are the Abrahamic, the Palestinian, the Davidic and the New Covenant. These are the foundation covenants for understanding Bible prophecy.

Two other Old Testament covenants are also still in effect. One is the Noahic Covenant which will remain valid until God provides the eternal "New Earth." The other is the the Adamic

Covenant which will remain in effect until Jesus returns and lifts the curse that is upon Man and the earth.

TYPES OF COVENANTS

All the covenants which are still in effect are unconditional covenants. When given by God, they were characterized by "I will" statements as opposed to the "If you will" statement that is the formula of the conditional covenants.

A conditional covenant depends upon the recipient for its fulfillment. The Mosaic covenant is a good example of a conditional covenant that depended upon the obedience of the Jewish people. An unconditional covenant may contain some conditional parts, both with respect to blessings and curses, but the unconditional nature stems from the fact that God pledges Himself to achieve certain purposes in spite of the failures of the recipient. Thus, all unconditional covenants depend upon the grace of God for their fulfillment.

AN EXCITING AGE

We live in an age when the Palestinian Covenant is being fulfilled in the regathering of the Jewish people to Israel. The New Covenant will be fulfilled when the remnant of the Jews turn to Jesus and accept Him as their Messiah (Jer. 31:31-34). The Davidic Covenant will be fulfilled when Jesus returns to reign in glory over all the world from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem (Isa. 24:21-23).

Praise God for allowing us to live in such an exciting age!