Thanksgiving — Covenant God

The Lord God Almighty is a covenant God. Throughout history, humanity has depended on a relationship with the Almighty God.

Initially, Adam and Eve walked with God under grace and innocence.

When they sinned, God provided a covenant covering for their nakedness and promised a Redeemer.

After Noah's generation was destroyed by the flood, God provided a covenant covering.

He established a perpetual covenant through all generations to never again destroy the whole earth by flood. That eternal covenant was signified by God's rainbow.

God entered into a covenant with Abraham.

God's eternal covenant with Abraham provided blessings to his descendants. In addition, God said: *"Everyone who blesses you will be blessed and everyone who curses you will be cursed."* Through that Abrahamic covenant, God provided the exodus and the Promised Land to Israel.

That covenant brings us to God's new covenant that is established through Jesus Christ.

The Lord our God is a covenant God.

In Psalms 25:10, God promised to keep His covenant and testimonies. When He made His covenant with His chosen people, (Psalms 89:3) God promised that He would never violate nor alter the Word that has gone out of His lips, (Psalms 89:34). Then in Psalms 111:5, God Almighty promised to remember His covenant forever. *Isaiah 54:10 NKJV "*For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, But My

kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

Listen to this.

Isaiah 55:3 NKJV Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

God has extended His covenant.

The benefits of God's covenant blesses His people in every area of life.

In Deuteronomy 28, God had Moses remind His people of the blessings of obeying His covenant. They will be blessed coming and going. They will be blessed in the city and in the country. The labor of their hands will be blessed. Their children and possessions will be blessed. Their basket and food supply will be blessed. Their enemies shall be defeated and when they come against you one way they shall flee from you seven ways. The Lord would command these blessings upon you and your storehouse and in all you undertake. He will bless the land He gives you. You will be established as a holy people to the Lord. All people of the earth shall see that you are called by His name. The Lord shall make you have a surplus of prosperity through your children, work, and your possessions. He will open to you His treasury in heaven. The Lord will make you the head and not the tail. You shall be above only and not beneath.

Through Christ, God promised to bring all of the blessing of Abraham down to His covenant people.

We all want to live in and enjoy every blessing that the Lord gives. There is nothing like God's blessing. One of the major components in God's covenant is His blessing. We depend on the mercy and grace of God's blessing and we need to know that God is fighting our battles. We count on the fact that God will lead us into green pastures and His blessings will come upon us and overtake us. We want to be blessed everywhere we go and in everything we do. We want His blessing upon every phase of our lives. We want to know that God is going to bless our children and our possessions.

When God established His great covenant with Abraham, He swore by Himself: *"Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply..."* (Genesis 22:15-18, Hebrews 6:14).

After patiently enduring, Abraham obtained the promise.

From the bounty of the storehouse of God's blessings, God's people have their needs supplied.

You can read it throughout the Bible. God is abundant in mercy, grace and kindness. He has been our Healer, Helper, Shelter, Keeper, and Savior. He is our Shepherd, Defense, and Strong Tower of refuge. From His great treasure, God has promised to help His people.

This is a special time of thanksgiving.

We have set aside this time to celebrate the bounty of harvest and God's blessing. As we remember what the Lord does for us, we should praise Him for His everlasting mercy.

Psalm 118:1–4 NKJV Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD now say, "His mercy endures forever."

Most of us can remember the wonderful works that the Lord has done in our lives.

We celebrate in His grace, mercy, love and kindness. The Lord's mercy still endures and the grace never fails.

To help you give God some praise and thanksgiving for what He has done for you, read Psalms 103:1-5.

Psalm 103:1-2 NLT Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me.

Psalm 103:3-5 NLT He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me

from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

You should know and rejoice in what God has done for you.

He <u>did not</u> have to show you kindness, but He has. He <u>did not</u> have to send a Savior, but He did. It is from the depth of His own grace, mercy, and love that God blesses you. He <u>did not</u> have to forgive your sin, but He has. He has charged your sins and iniquities to the account of His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. He did not have to heal your body, but by His wounds Jesus Christ bore our sickness.

Psalms 26:6-7 The Psalmist said: *"I will go about your altar, O Lord and proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving all of Your wondrous works."*

Psalms 100:5 He said: "The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting."

We need to take this to a much deeper level.

We want to worship and praise God for all of those things. We should not be negligent about giving God all of the glory and worship. After you consider these temporary blessings that God constantly provides, we should remember the eternal blessings in His covenant.

Consider what God has done for you when He brought you into His covenants of promise through Christ Jesus.

This is where we find the blessing and favor of God that extends throughout eternity. God does not just provide us with the temporary blessings that we need, He has eternity in mind. These blessings are wonderful and we want to thank God for the immediate and temporary reprieve from our guilt, sin, and sicknesses. It is amazing grace to receive His forgiveness and peace.

We should praise God that He has eternity in mind when He forgives us of our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:19 AMP The Apostle Paul said: "If we who are [abiding) in Christ have hope only in this life and that is all, then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied."

This covenant God has not just dealt with the issues of our daily lives, He has settled the eternal issues for our soul.

The Messiah did not enter into the earthly sanctuary to provide purification and cleansing from sins. Jesus, your Messiah and High Priest, entered into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:22-24)

Here is the profound wonder of what the Lord has done.

Through Christ, God has cleansed us and has given us access into heaven. Through Christ, God has included us in all of His covenant blessings. It is good to know that when you pray, you have access to the Almighty God Who hears and answers prayer. The barrier that excluded us from God has been removed.

The blessing and covenant does not stop here and now.

These blessings in Christ reach up into the eternal throne of heaven, into the presence of God. The greater fulfillment of what God has done for you in Christ is eternal in value. He has made a way for you to enter into the presence of the eternal God. He has made it possible for you to go to heaven. Jesus Christ your

Savior has opened up the way for you to have and enjoy every blessing that is beyond this life.

Most people have trouble getting past their present situation or condition.

Their minds are constantly upon all of the burdens, disturbances, and difficulties they face daily.

Just for a little while, will you join with me and offer some praise and thanksgiving to God for what He has promised you in heaven.

God has promised no tears or sorrow in heaven. Your covenant God has promised that there will be no more death or dying. Your covenant God has promised that there will be no tempter or accuser in that eternal abode. God has promised peace, joy, and love. Your covenant God has promised. Will you give Him some praise.