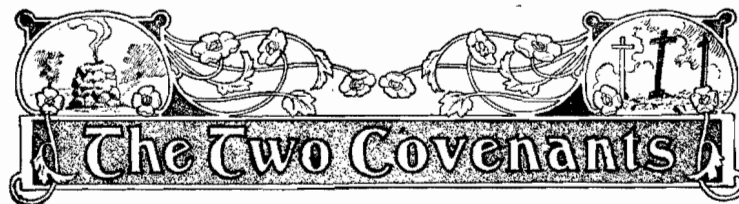


the sleeping saints, who, together with the living righteous, are changed from mortal to immortal, and thus glorified they are caught up by the angels to meet the Lord in the air, and are transported to heaven, where they celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb: or in other words, the coronation of Christ.

Reader, among which class do you desire to be? We are living in a time of great peril; for while the last message of mercy is now being carried to the world by those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, yet there are in the world to-day many counterfeit messages; messages which are preparing the way, not for the true Christ, but for the false. By these you need not be deceived: for in Isa. 8:20 God gives the test by which all may distinguish the true from the false: "*To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*"



CHAPTER XXXI.

When speaking of the "two covenants," reference is made to the old and the new covenants. One was confirmed at Mount Sinai with the children of Israel, and the other was confirmed with the household of faith, by the blood of Christ on Calvary. The former is called the old covenant, and the latter the new. However, to make the subject more comprehensive, we will first consider the new covenant, what it embraces, when it was made, and with whom it was made.

This covenant might be spoken of as the covenant of grace, or the gospel covenant. While this covenant was not confirmed until the death of Christ, yet it was promised to our first parents, and reaffirmed on different occasions to their posterity, as the following will show:—

1. What promise did God make to Adam and Eve?

"That the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head." See Gen. 3:15.

2. Who is the one referred to as the seed of the woman?

Jesus Christ. See Gal. 3:16; 4:4.

NOTE.—The promise to send Christ into the world was first made to Adam; it was reaffirmed to Abraham (Gen. 17:1-7), to David (Acts 2:29, 30), and to Israel. Isa. 9:6, 7.

3. What was promised in the new covenant?

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." Ex. 19: 3-6.

9. When Moses laid before them the Lord's words, what answer did they make?

"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." Verses 7, 8.

NOTE.—Following this, the Lord gave directions to Moses to prepare the people for hearing the law, which was proclaimed by the Lord himself from Mt. Sinai three days later. When the Lord had finished speaking the ten commandments, the people, through fear of being consumed by the glory of God, requested that the Lord speak to them thereafter through Moses. Ex. 20: 18-21. The Lord then called Moses up into the mount, and gave him the judgments and statutes recorded in chapters 21, 22, and 23. Moses then rehearsed these to the people, and they again promised obedience. Ex. 24: 3.

10. What did Moses next do, and how was the covenant finally ratified?

"Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins: and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the blood of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be

obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." Ex. 24: 4-8.

NOTE.—These are the steps which led up to the making of the old covenant between God and Israel. The reader will observe that the promises which the Lord made in his proposition to Israel were strictly conditional, "if ye obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant." This they seemed ready to do, and faithfully promised upon three different occasions, before the covenant was ratified, to be obedient. Had they lived up to their promise, they would have been indeed a kingdom of priests, an holy nation, a peculiar treasure unto the Lord above all people. But this they failed to do, and as a result they were rejected of the Lord: for he could not regard them as being what they were not. Heb. 8: 8, 9.

11. Why did Israel as a nation fail to meet God's standard?

"Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone." Rom. 9: 32.

NOTE.—Israel attempted in their own strength to do what they had promised. Their failure revealed their weakness and inability in and of themselves to attain to holiness. The law which they had covenanted to keep, which was ordained to life (Rom. 7: 10), became to them a minister of death. 2 Cor. 3: 6, 7. The old covenant made no provision for the pardon of their sins. The conditions were, "Do, and thou shalt live."

In less than six weeks after the covenant was *ratified*, it was nullified by their wholesale lapse into idolatry. See Ex.

32:1-35. Hence their only hope thereafter was to accept Christ, be born again, and as individuals be adopted into the divine human family, the household of faith. This would insure them the blessings of the new covenant, which was established upon better promises. Heb. 8:6. These promises embrace the forgiveness of sin, the writing of God's law in the heart of the believer, and their eternal salvation through faith in Christ.

Let the reader remember that no person was ever saved under the old covenant, for none ever met its requirements. It is only through the new covenant that divine grace enables the sinner to attain to the righteousness of the law. Christ came to do what the law could not do; viz., "save his people from their sins," "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:3, 4. Hence the old covenant made at Sinai with Israel was only temporary, it being invalidated shortly after its ratification, by failure on the part of the people to live up to their side of the contract. The new covenant is an everlasting covenant, the fulfilment of its promises to the believer is eternally sure, because of the immeasurable ability of Christ to save to the uttermost those who come unto God by him. Heb. 7:25.



CHAPTER XXXII.

But few subjects before the world to-day deserve more careful study by all classes than that of Health and Temperance. One of the greatest blessings to be enjoyed in this life is health. But priceless as this treasure is, it comes only to those, and abides only with those, who steadfastly conform to the laws of God established in our nature. Health depends upon temperance. I do not use the word "temperance" in this connection as meaning simply an abstinence from the use of spirituous liquors, but in a general sense the avoidance of all over-indulgence, even in things that are in themselves good and lawful, as well as abstaining from things that are sinful. And inasmuch as all effects are produced by some cause, the reader is asked to consider some of the causes which are, without doubt, largely responsible for the increase and widespread intemperance of to-day.

Sowing and Reaping

1. What important truth is expressed by the apostle Paul relative to sowing and reaping?

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7.

NOTE.— This law holds good in natural as well as spiritual things. The farmer who wants a crop of corn or wheat, sows corn or wheat; the man who wants health, must sow for it. Many a fond mother whose son has gone down to a drunkard's grave would be shocked to know that she, and not the saloon-