



#### INTRODUCTION.

It is of utmost importance that Believers understands, not only the provisions of God but also the requirements of God in their Covenant relationship with God.

Understanding Covenants and the Signs of the Covenant is vital to our relationship with God.

Abraham understood God's requirements for his relationship with Him, so he was able to keep the Signs of the covenant throughout his generations. Through his knowledge and obedience, he obtained God's promises for his generations.

This book will walk you through the Covenant Signs of God, both in the old testament and in the new testament, placing the subject matter in its proper perspective. This is to help those who truly believe in Jesus, understand the essence of the relationship they have with God through Jesus Christ.

My desire is that this book will help you find freedom that will compel you to tell others about the love story of God.

# COVENANT SIGNS OR REMINDERS.

od always come into Covenant or agreement with man, because God endowed man with a free will, when He created him in His likeness.

As in any agreement or Treaty, there are three parts that makes up an agreement.

The Covenant between God and Man also has three part:

1A statement about God's Saving Acts (What God brings to the Agreement)

2A Statement about what God expects from humanity in response; and 3A Sign or a symbol as a reminder of the Covenant.

"Signs of the Covenant", is the third part of a Covenant. It is a confirmation, a proof or a testimonial that bears witness to the Covenant or Agreement between God and Man. And the Sign is a Reminder of an existing Agreement or Commitment for both parties.

In the Old Testament God made Covenant with several people, and there were always Sign or a Reminder of the Covenants: Let's Look At These Covenant Signs:

#### SIGNS OF THE COVENANT WITH NOAH

God entered into covenant with Noah after the flood, for his obedience; and in the Covenant, God gave a rainbow as a Sign or a reminder of His Commitment. For God said:

"This is the Sign of the Covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creatures that is with you, for a perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the Sign of the Covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My Covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the water shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. And God said to Noah, this is the Sign of the Covenant which I have

established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."" (Genesis 9:12-17)

The sign here did not involve Noah doing anything, but God will bring the rainbow for a reminder, to show that the flood will no longer cover the earth.

### SIGNS OF THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM.

Now in the Covenant between God and Abraham, God instructed Abraham to perform Circumcision as a Sign or a reminder of the Covenant, He has with him. God said to Abraham "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male

child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a Sign of the Covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My Covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."" (Genesis 17:10-14)

In this sign, Abraham and his generation were instructed to perform the sign or reminder forever without stopping. This they did, have been doing and will continue to do.

#### SIGNS OF THE COVENANT WITH THE ISRAELITE

The Sign or reminder of the Covenant God made with the children of Israel, Jacob children, the descendant of Abraham when He delivered them from the house of bondage, is in the, 'Feast of Passover'.

God said to Moses:

"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying 'On the tenth of this Month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same Month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall

kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire- its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. For I will pass

through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike 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. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

On the first day you shall remove leaven
from your houses. For whoever eats
leavened bread from the first day until the
seventh day, that person shall be cut off
from Israel.

On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat-that only may be prepared by you.

So you shall observe the feast of unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have

brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

In the first Month, on the fourteenth day of the Month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your

dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread."

Then Moses called for all the elders of

Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take

lambs for yourselves according to your

families, and kill the Passover lamb.

"And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.

And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

"For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.

"It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

"And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'what do you mean by this service?'
"that you shall say, 'it is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and

delivered our households'" so the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.'" (Exodus 12:3-28).

The description of what God expect from the children of Israel, was in clear details, to show the importance of the signs of the covenant they have with God. The Scripture records that they obeyed and carried out the LORD's command throughout their generations and also tell their children why they are doing it to let the children know, the events that occurred, and that they are in covenant with God.

What is described here, is not about religion, where the worshippers neither interact nor have any relationship with the gods they are worshipping. But this is about a people who know their God, interact with their God, receive instructions from their God and live for their God—This is relationship.

### SIGNS OF THE COVENANT WITH ALL MANKIND.

Now God also made a covenant with all who will accept, believe and come to Him through Jesus Christ, Whom He sent, as the Savior of the world. The Signs of this Covenant is, 'The Water baptism and The Holy Communion'.

#### WATER BAPTISM

'Water Baptism', one of the Signs of the covenant; was instituted by God as a sign of the covenant He will have with those who believe in Jesus.

(Matthew 21:23-25, John 1:33a).

This sign is a remainder of God's Saving Acts by giving His only begotten Son, Jesus to take the place of sinful man, and to die for the sins of the world. Jesus became the Passover lamb to free us from the bondage of sin, and the captivity of Satan. In the land of Egypt, it was the blood of sheep and goat sprinkled on the doorposts. Today, it is the blood of Jesus.

## THE BAPTISM OF - JOHN THE BAPTIST

Baptism was first known or seen with John, though the Scriptures talks about other baptisms. John the Baptist came as a forerunner of Jesus. He was sent by God to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus.

Malachi 3:1. Says "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts."

So God sent John the Baptist, with the ordinance of baptism, to baptize and prepare people for the coming of their Messiah.

John himself testify to this, when in his witness about the Messiah, said "-but <u>He</u> who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."

John 1:33b)

Therefore, John came to preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sin as it is recorded thus:

Mark 1:4 says "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Luke 3:3 says, "And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Jesus also gave credit to John's baptism when He asked the Chief priests and, the Elders of the people, the origin of baptism in Matthew 21:25. Thus: "*The baptism of John – where was it from? From heaven or from men?*"

The Pharisees and the Lawyers rejected in their ignorance and hardness of heart, the baptism which was the ordinance of God to their own detriment.

Luke 7:30 states "But the Pharisees and the Lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him"

### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

As earlier said, John came as a forerunner — meaning a sign of something that is going to

happen. By the counsel of God, John preached and administered the baptism of repentance before the coming and ministry of Jesus.

When Jesus began His ministry, He and His disciples began to baptized (The Scripture said, 'though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), (John 4:2) then the disciples of John came and told him about Jesus saying:

"Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified — behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming

to Him!' John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven' 'You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, I have been sent before Him.' 'He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, Who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:26-30

This gave credibility to the Baptism of Jesus, as the bridegroom of the bride. John also showing that he is only a forerunner for the Bridegroom.

So then, John testifying about the baptism of Jesus said: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11)

Therefore, when the work of redemption was completed Jesus instructed His Disciple saying: "All authority has been

given to Me in heaven and on earth. 'Go therefore and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

Mark 16:15-16. Also recorded the instruction thus: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 'He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'"

Now Jesus instruction is that everyone should be baptized, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as a Sign of the new Covenant.

In Jesus, we are baptized into His death and resurrection, as our response or as our reaction in conformity to what we consider, believe, and accept to be true.

It is no longer the baptism of repentance but the baptism into the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as an answer of a good conscience toward God as recorded in the book of 1Peter 3:21 thus: "There is an antitype which now saves us

- Baptism (not the removal of the filth of
the flesh, but the answer of a good
conscience toward God), through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Therefore, it is not through baptism that our sins are washed, because, our sins were washed by the blood of Jesus, when we heard, believed, repented and accepted the massage of the salvation of our soul.

Colossians 1:14 says "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"

Therefore we are baptized into His death and resurrect into His life, as a Sign or an everlasting memorial of the finished work, which Christ, our Passover Lamb accomplished to redeem us from the bondage of sin and the captivity of Satan.

Romans 6:3-5 states: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as

Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united

together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."

Also

Colossians 2:12. Declares: "Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

Then Galatians 3:26-27 says: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

It is important to note that Jesus did not cancelled baptism or declares it not important, but rather, He Himself took part in baptism; He was baptized, He allowed His disciples to baptize and He charged His disciples, commissioning them for the kingdom of God's mission with an instruction to go into the world, preach and baptize in the name of Jesus, whoever would believe.

The disciples of Jesus carried out the instruction and preached; many who believed were baptized as seen in these few passages:

Acts 2:40-41 "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation' Then those who gladly received

His word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

Acts 8:35-38. "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered

and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him."

Acts 10:44-48. "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speaking with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered. 'Can

anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." Though we saved by believing in Jesus, but performing the sign, that reminds us that we are in covenant with God through the death of Christ is vital.

## WE ARE TO BAPTISE IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

Today the error of preaching and administering the baptism of repentance is still persisting among believers. This is the reason of the confusion and mixed-up,

regarding Baptism. Distinction is not made between the baptism of John, which was the baptism of repentance, and the Baptism in the name of Jesus, which is a sign of being buried into His dead and resurrecting into His life.

#### Learn a lesson from this story.

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.

This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and

taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of the Lord more accurately." Acts 18:24-26.

And it happened, while Apollos was at

Corinth, that Paul, having passed through
the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And
finding some disciples he said to them,
'Did you received the Holy Spirit when
you believed?' so they said to him, 'we

have not so much have heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' so they said, 'Into John's baptism.' Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.'

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men

were about twelve in all. Acts. 19:1-7.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION.

The Holy Communion is the second Sign or reminder of the Covenant of God with those who believes; it represent the broken Body of Christ that was broken for many and the blood shed for the remission of man sins. Jesus Christ became the Passover Lamb for our redemption. His blood now gives us life. In Jesus's teachings concerning the significance of the Holy Communion, He said "Most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink

His blood, you have no life in you.

Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My

blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the

Father sent Me, and I live because of the

Father, so he who feeds on Me will live

because of Me." John 6:53-57.

Because Jesus is our Passover, He instituted the Holy Communion during the period of Passover showing, He is the Lamb of our Passover [Remember what Passover stands for, its significance, and why the children of Israel were still celebrating the Feast.]

"Then came the day of unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying 'Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.'When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve Apostles with Him.'

Luke 22:7-8,14

'And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'

'Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new Covenant in My blood, which is shed for

you." Luke 22:19-20.

Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 11:26, saying, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

Baptism and the Holy communion are all the Counsels of God for an everlasting Sign of the Covenant that God made with man. We are required and expected to perform the signs. Just as Abraham was required to circumcise every eight day old male child that is born into the family and

also with a warning that any male child that broke the covenant will be cut off from his people, so also are we required to baptize every new born believer that is born into the family of Christ as a sign of the covenant. So that the new born will put on Christ. We are also warned not to brake the covenant. There are consequences for braking the Covenant.

## Consider the warning of these two passages:

This is Jesus's warning "Most assuredly, I

Baptism is the wisdom of God and the ordinance of the Most High. God in His wisdom had instituted the mystery of Baptism even of old and the people in the old testament also experience baptism; (though not done by man). Apostle Peter described the baptism of Noah and his household, how they were saved through water thus: "In the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water" 1Peter 3:20b

While Apostle Paul, writing to the people in Corinth told them about the mystery of

say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God' John 3:5

1John 5:8. Also Declares "And there are three that bear witness on earth: The Spirit, The Water, and The Blood; and these three agree as one." We do need to perform the Signs, or the reminder of the covenant we have with God through Christ, because performing them, is a proof we believe.

## BAPTISM, IN THE DAYS OF NOAH AND MOSES.

Examples and warnings from the past

baptism, how Moses and the Children of Israel having been delivered from bondage also went through baptism:

1Corinthians 10:1-12. "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our Fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

All ate the same Spiritual food,

And all drank the same Spiritual drink.

For they drank of that Spiritual Rock that
followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.'

Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore let him, who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Believing in Jesus, gives us the forgiveness of sins and salvation comes from the finished work of the cross. Performing the signs of the covenant we now have with God, proves we truely believe; but that

should not be all; Jesus also said, "He who feeds on Me will live because of Me" (John 6:57) And according to the Gospel of John, Jesus is the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14).

Therefore, Jesus want us to feed on Him (The Word of God), so that we can live because of Him. When we do this we can escape the examples, Apostle Paul gave about those who ate and drink from the Spiritual rock [which was Christ]; yet God was not please with them (1Cor.10:4-5).

Jesus said "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:32).

The truth is spoken in love, so that We can learn some lessons and make room for corrections.

## INVITATION TO THE FAMILY.

I will not end without telling you, that Jesus is coming very soon to take those who believe in Him home.

If you are reading this book and you have not accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, or you are not sure whether you are in covenant with God.

This is an opportunity, don't ignore, you may not have another one.

Christ Jesus came to save sinners. If you want Him to save you, pray this prayer and believe with your whole heart, the words of this **prayer**.

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me this opportunity to receive you. I acknowledge that I am a sinner, I am

sorry for all the sins I have committed, please forgive me, cleanse me with your precious blood, make me whole and receive me as your child. Come into my heart and dwell; and through your Spirit in me, help me to walk in newness of life. Thank You because I receive all I asked for in Jesus name. Amen.

If you believe, Welcome to the family of God in Christ.