

Sabbath Before Passover

Fred R. Coulter—April 16, 2011

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Sabbath before the Passover, 2011. The Passover is the most important thing to start off everything concerning the Holy Days of God. It is a day that is so filled with meaning, so filled with the fulfilling of prophecies, as we have seen. Everything in the Scriptures point to this one day; this one day becomes the most important day in the starting of the plan of God.

We've already covered many of the prophecies concerning the coming Jesus Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, everything that He would go through, the things that He would suffer. It's really quite astonishing how much is in the Old Testament which portrays what is coming in the New Testament, and then how much in the New Testament reflects back to the foretelling of it, with the fulfillment of it. It's really quite an amazing thing, and it is really just mind-boggling that so many people would say, 'Well, the Old Testament has been fulfilled and we don't need to follow that; all we need is Christ.' Well, really the truth is

- if you don't have the Old Testament and don't understand the prophecies that are there concerning Jesus Christ
- if you don't understand who the children of Israel are today and the Jews are today
- if you don't understand the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
 - ✓ the fact of His death
 - ✓ that He was in the grave three days and three night and resurrected
 - ✓ ascended to heaven and accepted of God the Father so that *we* can become the children of God

you don't know anything! You may have a 'religion' that is called 'Christian.' People may have certain principles and values that they extract out of the Bible as their own, but they are not in the New Covenant with Jesus Christ and God the Father. That is the whole key! That is the whole purpose of the Passover!

We need to understand the whole meaning of the New Covenant—what it portrays, what we are to be, how we have our relationship with God—and then that will help us understand

- how we need to lead our lives
- how we need to be led of the Spirit of God
- how we can understand the Word of God
- how we can draw close to God

because:

- God loves us
- God cares for us
- God sent His Son because He loves the world

And, as we know with the outline of the plan of God—as outlined by the Holy Days and the Sabbath—God's plan is working; God's plan is on time. Brethren, I want you to understand we're part of that plan. We're an integral part of that which God is doing and preparing for the return of Jesus Christ and the setting up of the Kingdom of God. All these prophecies, foretelling all of this, are alive and well and active and being carried out according to the will of God. We are living in desperately more troubled times than ever before, and these things will affect our lives. But, in the middle of it all—through the midst of it all—we need to understand this: We need to:

- stay close to God
- understand why we are here
- know where we are going
 - ✓ in faith
 - ✓ in hope
 - ✓ in love

in full confidence of the meaning of the New Covenant. We're just going to review one prophecy, through Abraham—concerning Abraham and Isaac—which portrays very much the whole meaning of the New Covenant.

Let's come to Genesis 22. We know and it's the same requirement for us—I want you to think about this: What does God require of us for the New Covenant? *That we count the cost! That we love Jesus Christ* more than father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children, etc., and, yes, even our own lives. Yes, we have to pick up our own cross and follow Him and obey Him—don't we? *Yes!* That's exactly the type of what happened with Abraham and Isaac.

Abraham was told to take Isaac, 'your son and go to one of the mountains of Moriah and offer him there for a sacrifice'—a burnt offering. So he did *by faith!* He walked by faith and he came to one of the mountain of Moriah and there they went through the whole thing—Isaac and Abraham together. Isaac was the sacrifice. He tied him and laid him on the altar that he had built, on the wood that was there, and was reaching down to pull the knife to cut Isaac's throat. He *knew*, beyond any shadow of doubt, that since God gave him this son in a figure from his dead body, that God was perfectly capable of resurrecting him from the dead.

Now, God wanted to test Abraham. God

wanted to know if he would love Him, obey Him. Would he follow through and do as God commanded him? *And Abraham did! So did Isaac!* Just before he was ready to take the knife and cut Isaac's throat, a voice came out of heaven:

Genesis 22:11: "...‘Abraham! Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I *am*.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand upon the lad, nor do anything to him, **for now I know that you fear God...**’" (vs 11-12). Let's use this as an examination for ourselves:

- Do we fear God?
- Do we love God?
- Are we willing to do what He's commanded us?

Knowing in faith that whatever God commands us to do is for our own good and eternal life.

What we need to understand here is this: In this sacrifice—this very act by God, and Abraham and Isaac—it is the foundational keystone laid upon Christ Who is the Chief Cornerstone for the whole plan of God, and a type of the New Covenant. "...**for now I know that you fear God**, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me" (v 12).

God has not asked us to do what He asked Abraham to do, but He has asked us to die the death of the New Covenant in the watery grave with Christ. Then what is it that He expects us to do? ***We have to walk by faith, believe in hope and live in love!*** All of those things then will put into perspective every trial, every difficulty, every circumstance that we will go through, because God wants to know:

- Do you love Him with all your mind, heart, soul and being?
- Are you going to love Jesus Christ?
- Are you going to trust in Your Savior?
- Are you going to walk in the way of God?

All of that is hinged upon what we are seeing here in Gen. 22.

Then you know that God provided a ram. They offered the ram, and Abraham named the place "...The LORD Will Provide..." (v 14). I want you to mark that and I want you to understand that. What are your circumstances? What are your difficulties? Remember, *God will provide*, but you have to ***obey His voice!*** That's what it's all about here.

Verse 15: "And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, 'By Myself have I sworn,' says the LORD..." (vs 15-16). God doesn't need to swear by Himself, but we will see why He did so.

- God cannot lie!

- It's impossible for God to lie!
- Whatever God says is true!
- Whatever God says will happen *will* come to pass!

"...‘By Myself have I sworn,’ says the LORD, ‘because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens...’" (vs 16-17). I want you to see what is the first blessing of the descendants of Abraham that God is looking for. These are the *spiritual* seed. When we're resurrected from the dead, as Jesus said, we're going to 'shine like the sun.' And as Daniel said, 'like the stars of heaven.' So this is talking about the *spiritual* seed. That's why it goes back to Gen. 15 where God said to Abraham, 'Come on outside here and I want you to look up into the heavens and count the stars if you're able to do it.

"...and as the sand which is upon the seashore.... [That's the *physical* seed from Isaac and Jacob and the twelve tribes of Israel.] ...And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because...** [We need to ask ourselves this question: Do we do this?] ...**you have obeyed My voice**" (vs 17-18).

Let's think about this, because Paul told Timothy to watch out for those who did not adhere 'to the sound words of Jesus Christ.' So, we add that into it. Do we obey the voice of God the Father and Jesus Christ? Is that not the whole foundation of our part in the New Covenant? That's quite a thing for us to understand. God has called us to be in a relationship with Him. God has not called us to come to a church that has separated from this church or that church or the other church or from Sunday-keeping churches. He has called us into a New Covenant and a personal relationship with God the Father Whom Jesus revealed, and Jesus Christ Who is our sacrifice for us.

Let's come to the book of Hebrews. We're going to spend a good deal of time today in the book of Hebrews, because it's important for us to understand the functioning of the New Covenant, which is a *superior covenant*. We can say the Old Covenant or the Old Testament, but in a sense—even though that's common knowledge and understanding of what we're talking about—it should be referred to as *the covenant with Israel*. You have the covenant with Abraham, which is separate from the covenant with Israel, and that's why the Passover started with Abraham and not with Israel. The Passover that we keep is nothing like the Passover that the Jews kept. We need to keep that in mind. We need to understand it. Everything has been

elevated to a higher spiritual level through Jesus Christ.

Let's come to Hebrews, the sixth chapter, where Paul writes of the this very thing concerning how God swore by Himself and how God made these promises irrevocable. Brethren, we're part of those irrevocable promises. Yes, we're living in the end days. We can see it all around us—can't we? *Yes, indeed!* This is why we need to focus and keep our minds on that New Covenant and what God has done, and what Jesus Christ has done, and how He did it. We've covered many of these prophecies and seen them fulfilled in the Gospels.

Paul refers right back to Abraham in describing the New Covenant, *which is superior!* That alone should tell us that aside from the patriarchs, aside from certain kings of Judah, aside from certain major priests—none in the Old Testament—we have the patriarchs all the way through—none of the people received an offer for eternal life. So, it's a complete misnomer to believe what the world believes that they received eternal life with law-keeping; or, 'we receive eternal life with lawless grace; we don't have to keep law.' I beg you, please, look at the world filled with lawlessness—where did it come from? In the western civilization it came right from the 'religious' leaders preaching a lawless grace and an inferior covenant. They're not teaching the New Covenant. So, as we come to this Sabbath before the Passover I want us to know and understand about the New Covenant.

Hebrews 6:13: "For God, after promising Abraham, swore by Himself, since He could swear by none greater... [When God swears by Himself, you *know* it's going to happen! You *know* that it is true!] ...saying, 'Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you.'" (vs 13-14). God has done that.

What do you think Abraham is going to think when he's resurrected and God says, 'Abraham, here are all your children right here on the Sea of Glass'? And Jesus says to the Father, 'Behold, the brethren you have given Me.' Then God says, 'Abraham, come over here to this side of the Sea of Glass and I want you to look down on the world and I want you to also see that many of those who are fighting down there are also your children, and I have a plan to save them in the final analysis. Right now they are enemies, but those are all your children. I fulfilled My promise to you, Abraham.' I wonder what Abraham is going to say other than, 'Oh, Lord God!' Yes, indeed!

Verse 15: "Now after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.... [Yes, he did!

But not the fullness of the promise.] ...For indeed, men swear by the greater, and confirmation by an oath *puts* an end to all disputes between them. In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise... [That's us! That's why we study the Bible, study the Word of God!] ...to show the heirs of the promise... [the stars of heaven—that's us!] ...the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath" (vs 15-17).

- God has His purpose!
- God has His plan!
- God has brought us into the knowledge of it!
- God has brought us into the understanding of it!
- He's given us of His Spirit!
- He's given us of His Truth!
- He's given us understanding of His way!
- He wants us as His children!
- We are partakers of the sonship through the Spirit of God!

And, yes, if you are Christ's then 'are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.' That's New Covenant; that's what we're reading about!

Verse 18: "So that by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible *for* God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has been* set before *us*." That's why that was given on the mountain of Moriah, that Abraham called 'God Will Provide.' Not only will God provide for you in circumstances in your life, but He's going to provide us with eternal life. He is going to resurrect us from the dead. He's going to give us glory and power and honor to serve with Jesus Christ.

Verse 19: "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and steadfast... [then the greatest privilege of all; this is why our lives and our relationship and prayer and study and walking and living by every Word of God and obeying the voice of God is so important]; ...and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil; where Jesus has entered for us *as* a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec" (vs 19-20). Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father.

- He is our Savior!
- He is our Mediator!
- He is our Intercessor!
- He is our Champion!
- He is our Hero!
- He the Head of the Church!
- He is the soon coming King to rule over the world!

We have direct access to God the Father. Isn't that something? Brethren, I want you to understand, because of this it is a shame what has happened to the Christian religion in the world and in the Churches of God, that too many setup the same failed system of *worshipping a man* instead of teaching people to yield to God and to understand the New Covenant. God put His Spirit in every one of us. We are all brethren together. We need to keep that in mind and understand that and realize that continually.

Now, let's come to John, the tenth chapter, and let's see what Jesus said concerning the sacrifice that He knew that He was going to have to give. He knew it before the foundation of the world—didn't He? It says there in Rev. 13, 'the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.' That was all set in the plan of God. This is why it is so great and we need to understand concerning that the One of Elohim that became Jesus Christ, willingly gave up His glory and His power to become a pinpoint of life and to be impregnated in the womb of the virgin Mary, born a baby, live a human life and *lived that life in perfection*, though, as we will see, He carried human nature within Him. That is an astonishing thing to understand, and the greatest grace of God to provide that for us.

Here's what Christ said, John 10:14: "I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine.... [We know Jesus Christ! We know God the Father! We know the plan of God! Don't we?] ...Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep" (vs 14-15). Remember what Jesus told Peter three times: 'You love Me—feed My sheep. You love Me—feed My lambs. You love Me—shepherd My sheep.' *Yes!* And He is the Chief Shepherd.

Verse 16: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and* one Shepherd. On account of this, the Father loves Me: **because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again**.... [Nothing was taken from Christ; He willingly gave His life. God the Father willingly gave Him.] ...**No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.** I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment I received from My Father" (vs 16-18). Isn't that something? He willingly laid down His life! Everything focuses on the Passover—Old Testament and New Testament—and comes right down to the person of Jesus Christ.

Now, let's see what He said on that Passover night, Matthew 26. We will cover this during the

Passover ceremony and I want you to understand that all the words of the New Covenant, when you go through John 14-17 on the Passover night, realize and understand this: This is really the words of the New Covenant for us and in its written form it is a love letter *from God the Father and Jesus Christ to each one of us!* It starts out with where we are and our ultimate destiny of being *one* with God the Father and Jesus Christ. That's the whole purpose! That's their whole reason! That's why the New Covenant is called a 'superior' covenant.

Matthew 26:26: "And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*; *then He* broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'" This is symbolic, but we have to understand that God—in the form of Jesus Christ—gave His whole being in the sacrifice. We are to partake of this bread symbolizing His broken body and symbolizing His shed blood when we drink the wine.

"...gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'.... [As it says in 1-Cor. 11, 'which is broken for you.' That's personal, direct!] ...And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'All of you drink of it; for this is My blood, the *blood* of the New Covenant...'" (vs 26-28). We have studied how that the covenant sacrifice must be given to show the absolute ratification and the validity of the covenant, which God the Father did with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us. The New Covenant being a 'superior' covenant is that which we cannot go back on. God will do everything to see us through, that we complete it, because Christ gave His life for us. He is the sacrifice!

"And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'All of you drink of it; for this is My blood, the *blood* of the New Covenant which is poured out for many for *the* remission of sins'" (v 28).

Let's understand something as we get to it. Let's come back to Hebrews, the first chapter, and let's see some things concerning Jesus Christ:

- where He is today
- what He is doing
- the power that He has
- why He is the Savior
- how He is operating as our Intercessor and our High Priest

Let's see that there is nothing comparable to this under the covenant that was with Israel. It could not have been, because it was at the 'set time' that Jesus came. It was on the Passover that falls in the middle of the week, so that He could be three days and three nights in the grave, then resurrected, ascend into

heaven, accepted of God the Father, came back and was, for 40 days, teaching the disciples and showing His powers and wonders to them. Hebrews is important in understanding the difference in the covenant that was with Israel and the covenant with Abraham and the covenant that we have—the New Covenant—unto eternal life.

Hebrews 1:1: “God, Who spoke to the fathers at different times in the past and in many ways by the prophets, has spoken to us in these last days by *His* Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds... [That could also mean *ages*. Christ is heir of all things and we are joint heirs with Christ. *All things* includes everything; the vastness of the universe, because He created it.] (Notice what Jesus had to do): ...Who, being *the* brightness of *His* glory... [after His resurrection] ...and *the* exact image of His person...” (vs 1-3). He has the character of the Father.

Remember what Jesus said in Matt. 5:48: ‘we are to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.’ And the whole New Covenant is to perfect us *spiritually!* And that is the goal: to develop the character! The body is going to get old and wear out; we’re going to die. Some will remain when Christ returns, and they will be changed ‘in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump.’ But we are all going to be receive spiritual bodies just like Jesus.

“Who, being *the* brightness of *His* glory and *the* exact image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His own power... [Remember what Jesus told the disciples there in Matt. 28: ‘all authority in heaven and in earth has been given to Me.’ That’s something! Stop and think about it for just a minute! Even all the atheists are under the authority of Jesus Christ. Isn’t that amazing?! *Yes!*] ...when He had **by Himself...**” (v 3).

Jesus said, ‘I lay down My life; no one takes it from Me.’ The One Who was God and made all human beings. He is the life of all men that come into the world. All human beings that have life is because of Christ. Isn’t that something?

“...when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at *the* right hand of the Majesty on high; having been made so much greater than *any* of the angels... [Yet, there are some people that call themselves ‘Christian’—which they are not—who believe that Jesus was Michael the archangel. Or, in the case of Mormons, Moroni the angel. NO! “by Himself... inasmuch as He has inherited a name exceedingly superior to them. For to which of the angels did He ever say, ‘You are My Son; this day I have begotten You’? And again, ‘I will be a Father

to Him, and He will be a Son to Me’?” (vs 3-5). Never happen! Didn’t take place!

Verse 6: “And again, when He brought the Firstborn into the world, He said, ‘Let all *the* angels of God worship Him.’” What happened on the night that he was born? What did the angels sing? *They sang Glory to God in the highest!* Yes, they did worship the little baby Jesus. But he grew to be a man! And for this very purpose and this destiny!

Verse 7: “Now on the one hand, of the angels He says, ‘Who makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.’ But on the other hand, of the Son *He* says, ‘Your throne, O God... [He was God before He came to the earth. He was the Son of God while He was on the earth; also called the Son of man because He also had human nature.] ...*is* into the ages of eternity...” (vs 7-8). That is the destiny of time in which we are going to live. The ‘ages’ means that there are segments of eternity. Do we live in eternity today? *We live within an age that is part of eternity*—is that not correct? *Yes!* Are we eternal yet? *No! We’re not!* Will we be? *Yes!* *At the resurrection! That’s the whole purpose of the New Covenant.*

“...a scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your Kingdom. You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; because of this, God, *even* Your God... [What does this show? *Two Who are God!* Everywhere through the Bible it shows there are two—never three—who are God! Right there!] ...has anointed You with *the* oil of gladness above Your companions” (vs 8-9). We are the companions—yes, we are!

Let’s talk about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and let’s understand that His death is called *the death!* Why? *Because it was the only death that could pay for the sins of all mankind!* That’s why! Now, when we are baptized it says in Rom. 6, we are baptized into *the death*—the death of Jesus Christ. Then we are raised out of the watery grave and we are dead to sin, but we are to walk in newness of life—is that not true? *Yes, indeed!* That’s the whole beginning basis of the New Covenant.

No one is in covenant with God the Father and Jesus Christ until they have repented of their sins and have been baptized and received the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands. *No one!* And if you are not repentant at the time, then, like many people—some few, not lots and lots of people compared to a smaller number—have to be baptized again, because those in the ministry were delinquent in teaching what they should teach and helping people to come to repentance in preparation for *the baptism of the death* of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:6—this is quoting from the Greek

of the Septuagint: “But in a certain place one fully testified, saying, ‘What is man, that You are mindful of him, or *the* son of man, that You visit him? You did make him a little lower than *the* angels... [In Hebrews 2:9 ^[transcriber’s correction] it says ‘little lower than God.’ We’re made in the image and likeness of God—male and female. Yes, we’re lower than angels, that’s true, because they’re spirit beings. Yes, Jesus was made a little lower than angels when He came to be a human being. That is absolutely true! So, either way it is correct.] ... You did crown him with glory and honor, and You did set him over the works of Your hands... [gave us the whole world] ... You did put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing *that was* not subjected to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him” (vs 6-8). Why? *Because we’re not yet spirit beings!* That’s why! That’s quite a statement—isn’t it?

Jesus is going to inherit all things—correct? *Yes!* We’re joint heirs with Jesus Christ—are we not? Is that correct? *Yes!* That helps explain this subjection of all things. Since it has not yet happened and the plan of God is still ongoing but not yet fulfilled:

Verse 9: “But we see Jesus, Who *was* made a little lower than *the* angels, crowned with glory and honor on account of suffering **the death...**” There it is, right there; just as it is in the Greek—*the death!* *The one sacrifice* by the One Who was God Who became a human being, and that death was *the death*. It was the death that was prophesied all through the Prophets, the Law and the Writings and now is fulfilled when Jesus was crucified—*the death!*

Notice for what purpose, v 9: “...in order that by *the* grace of God He Himself might taste death for everyone.” Isn’t that something! Jesus took upon Himself the wages of sin, and His death pays for all the sins of mankind *who repent*—otherwise, it doesn’t pay for them. That’s another whole story.

(go to the next track)

Let’s continue on the book of Hebrews concerning Jesus Christ Who’s the focal point of the New Covenant. It is His sacrifice. It is His life that He gave, willingly laid down for us and it’s being explained by the Apostle Paul which is very important for us to realize; that we grasp and understand the full meaning of the New Covenant and hence will improve our understanding of taking the Passover and why that is so vital.

Let’s understand something very important: *If* you do not have the Spirit of God, and *if* you do not partake of the Passover

- exactly the way that Jesus said
- at the time that He said

- in the manner that He said
you have no life in you!

There are many counterfeits out there. There are many people claiming that they’re ministers of Jesus Christ. But when we read the words of the New Testament and understand the meaning of them, it’s entirely different than what most people think.

Let’s understand something, Hebrews 2:10: “Because it was fitting for Him, for Whom all things *were created*, and by Whom all things *exist*, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation **perfect through sufferings.**” Let’s stop and think about this for just a minute.

God is perfect—is He not? *Yes, indeed!* But, He is perfected even more in humbling Himself, becoming a human being, taking on human nature and suffering this death for the payment of sins for all mankind. That perfected Christ. It also perfected His righteousness to this extent: That He subjected Himself to the temptations of Satan the devil and never once yielded to sinning to Satan or to any man. That made Christ even more perfect. That is the perfection of the New Covenant that God wants us to have, as well.

Verse 11: “For both He Who is sanctifying and those who are sanctified *are* all of one; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren.” We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ *and* friends!

- Friends of God the Father
- Sons and daughters of God the Father

Think of that! This is why we need to

- our lives
- our hearts
- our minds
- everything

lifted up toward God! Not be looking at ourselves; not be looking at our difficulties. We’ll talk about difficulties a little later on.

Verse 12: “Saying, ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in *the* midst of *the* Church I will sing praise to You.’ And again, ‘I will be trusting in Him.’ And again, ‘Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me’” (vs 12-13).

In order for that process to happen: it’s talking about us; it’s talking about the fulfillment of the New Covenant at the resurrection when Jesus returns. Notice v 14, and this is what we need to grasp. There are some people who say it was impossible for Jesus to sin. NO! It was improbable that He would sin, but it was possible that He could sin, *if* He had chosen to

do so.

Verse 14: “Therefore, since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in like manner He also took part in the same, in order that through death He might **annul** him who has the power of death—that is, the devil... [The *King James* says ‘destroy’—that means to *annul* everything that Satan has done.] ...and that He might deliver those who were subject to bondage all through their lives by *their* fear of death” (vs 14-15). That’s what it is today. That’s all human beings have gone through.

Verse 16—I want you to key on what this is telling us: “For surely, He is not taking upon Himself to help *the* angels... [He’s not redeeming the angels who have sinned—no sir!] ...but He is taking upon Himself to help *the* seed of Abraham.” We are the *seed of Abraham*; the *spiritual* seed. He took upon the same nature that we have.

Verse 17: “For this reason, it was obligatory [mandatory] for *Him* to be made like *His* brethren **in everything**... [Does everything mean *everything*? Yes, indeed!] ...that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest *in* things pertaining to God, in order to make propitiation for the sins of the people.... [Christ is there propitiating, forgiving, interceding. Everyday when we go to God, we pray: God the Father, forgive us our sins—and we list them out, repent of them—we’re forgiven! He’s making intercession for us.] ...For because He Himself... [*personally experienced the suffering*] ...has suffered, having been tempted *in like manner*, He is able to help those who are being tempted” (vs 17-18).

- Christ is our Helper!
- Christ is our Strength!
- Christ is our Redeemer!
- Christ is our Savior!

There it is, to help those.

Now, let’s come to Romans, the eighth chapter, and let’s see something very important concerning taking upon the nature of *the seed of Abraham*—that is human nature! What kind of human nature? *The exact same human nature that we have!*

Let’s understand something: Since God is going to forgive sin. And if He’s going to forgive it, Who is the One Who gave us the *law of sin and death* as punishment, through the sin of Adam? *The One Who became Jesus Christ!* Is that a curse to have that kind of nature? *Well, yes, it really is! It’s carnal-mindedness!* It takes us away from God. If God is going to redeem us from this, then, as we read in Heb. 2, it was *obligatory that He be made in the exact sameness and likeness* with the same nature as we are. Otherwise, His sacrifice would not

forgive all sin, because the cause of sin is Satan the devil and the *law of sin and death* within us. That’s why He first defeated Satan the devil, and then defeated death having been tempted like we are.

So, God sent Him in the sameness, the likeness of sinful flesh! Romans 8:3: “For what *was* impossible for the law to do... [The Law *cannot* convert you. Only with the Spirit of God can that be done. Yes, it says, ‘the law converts the soul.’ That is true, but the implied meaning is that it must have the Holy Spirit to do so.] ...in that it was weak through the flesh... [Because the Law cannot make anyone do anything. The Law only states thus and such and thou shalt not and thou shall, etc.] (here’s what God did): ...God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness [‘homoiote’—meaning the *exact sameness*] ...of sinful flesh... [the Greek there is very interesting: *of flesh of sin*] ...of sinful flesh... [in the exact sameness, likeness] ...of sinful flesh and for sin... [In order for sin to be condemned, Jesus had to live a perfect life although He had the *law of sin and death* within Him, just like all of us do.] ...condemned sin in the flesh.”

We’ll see in a little bit that’s why He was tempted in all points like we are, yet, He was without sin.’ This is the whole focus and purpose of the New Covenant. This is why he said, ‘Take, eat, this is My body, which is broken for you; and drink this, because this is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for the remission of sins of many.’

“...in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh**” (v 3). You can’t have any more perfect sacrifice than that—can you? The Creator of all mankind taking upon Himself the very curse that He gave mankind, through Adam and Eve, with the *law of sin and death* and take it upon Himself, and to show that with the Spirit of God He could overcome every temptation. ***He could never sin because He chose not to sin!*** Likewise, that set the standard for us, too—doesn’t it?

Let’s come to Hebrews, the fourth chapter, now; let’s see what it says about this and how that it is for us and our coming to the throne of God. Remember, Jesus was the forerunner Who came into the Holy of Holies for us.

Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful...” Let me tell you something very important here: When we read the words that printed on the paper—some people like to read it on their computer, that’s fine—nothing wrong with it—but I guarantee you, you do not exactly have the same impact as when you read the printed word. And with the Bible, you don’t need electricity, you don’t need a battery. Anyway, we’ve provided

digital copies for people who want them and need them, and that will help them in their study. But we want, also, everyone to have a literal Bible, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, a Faithful Version*—because we have corrected all the mistakes of the *King James Version* of the Bible. That’s another whole topic.

“For the Word of God *is* living... [Jesus said that ‘they are spirit and they are life’ and they are understood spiritually, and you must have the Spirit of God *in* you to fully grasp the Word of God.] ...and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart” (v 12). Isn’t that something?! *It exposes human nature* like nothing that anyone else has written, not to be comparable with anything!

- God knows our thoughts
- God knows our hearts
- God knows our intention

And that’s why God is there with His Spirit

- to forgive us
- to lead us
- to correct us
- to up-build us

—because we are in a *superior covenant!* We’ll see this as we go along. This is important to grasp as we come to the Passover on Sunday night and take the Passover.

So, it “...*is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart. And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account” (vs 12-13). Rather than be fearful, rather than be trepidatious, rather than be worried and wrought with anxiety, we need to come to God, trusting in Him

- in faith
- in hope
- in love
- in confidence

Verse 14: “Having therefore a **great High Priest**... [not like the priests at the temple—NO!—but One who is our heavenly High Priest.] ...*Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses...” (vs 14-15).

- He knows!
- He had the pulls of the flesh, *but never gave in!*
- He had the temptations of Satan the devil, *but never gave in!*

- He always chose what was right!
 - He always did what was right!
 - He always yielded to God!
- Though He was tempted in every single way!

“...but *one Who* was tempted in all things according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet *He* was without sin. Therefore... [What should this do for us? Here it is right here, how do we come to God? *In thankfulness, gratefulness, in humility, in love!*]: ...**we should come with boldness to the throne of grace**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (vs 15-16).

That’s why it’s everyday! *everyday!* **everyday!** This is a fantastic covenant that we are in, brethren, which we are going to see is called a ‘superior’ covenant—greater than the covenant that was made with the children of Israel, a *superior* covenant. Isn’t that something?!

Let’s see about Christ. Let’s see what these temptations and things and suffering and being beaten and scourged—having the flesh ripped right off of Him—what it did to Him.

Hebrews 5:5: “In this same manner also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but He Who said to Him, ‘You are My Son; today I have begotten You.’ Even as He also says in another *place*, ‘You *are* a Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec’” (vs 5-6). A never-ending priesthood; that is *superior*, because the covenant with Israel had priests who died, subject to sin. They had to offer sacrifices for their own sins, as well as the sins of others.

Notice how He responded; notice how Christ had reacted with prayers and supplication and yielding to God to overcome the pulls of human nature so that He would not sin, v 7: “Who, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because *He* feared *God*.” That’s quite a thing—isn’t it? That’s how we need to come to God! That’s how we need to yield to Him! We need to understand that, yes!

Notice what it did, v 8: “Although He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience from the things that He suffered...” Likewise for us. Whatever things we suffer, those are so that we learn the *spiritual obedience* to God the Father and Jesus Christ in all things. That’s something for us to really know and understand and remember.

“...He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected... [That’s an amazing statement—isn’t it? God was perfected through the process of becoming a human

being, so that He could become the perfect sacrifice. Amazing, isn't it?] ...having been perfected, He became *the* Author of eternal salvation **to all those who obey Him**" (vs 8-9). There it is! That's the word that people don't like to obey—*obey God! love Him and serve Him!* That's the reason that He came.

It is the perfection that God wants. Christ was perfected! We are being perfected! Isn't that something? God is the Potter; we are the clay. He is molding us, helping us grow and develop in character to have the mind of Christ.

Hebrews 7:19: "Because the law brought nothing to perfection; rather, *perfection*... [because it couldn't change human nature. It couldn't give eternal life.] ...rather, *perfection* is brought about by a **superior hope**..." Not just land and a kingdom, but an *eternal* kingdom and living in New Jerusalem forever! A *superior hope!* That's why all things on the earth we can count as *nothing!* We don't look at them as anything for us. What glory is there in it? *It's all going to be changed!* We're looking for the eternal glory that comes from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

"...**superior hope**, through which we draw near to God. And according to this *superior* measure, *it was* not without *the* swearing of an oath *that He was made a Priest*. (For those *who descend from Aaron* are made priests without *the* swearing of an oath... [they just had to be born of the lineage of Aaron] ...but *He was made a Priest* with the swearing of an oath by Him Who says concerning Him..." (vs 19-21). Remember, God does not need to swear by an oath, and when He does that is to absolutely know the immutability that it's going to happen. No variance at all that it is in doubt!

This is what He said, "...concerning Him, '*The Lord swore and will not revoke His Word, "You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec.*'"). By such a greater measure then, Jesus was made the Guarantor of a **superior covenant**" (vs 21-22). We have a study in the back of the Bible—*A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenant* (appendix I)—and you will see the covenant given to Israel was a covenant of *physical* blessings and *physical* promises to live in a *physical* land. All of them have been upgraded and superceded by *spiritual* blessings:

- the Spirit of God
- the spiritual rewards
- resurrection from the dead
- eternal life living in the Kingdom of God
 - ✓ that is a superior covenant
 - ✓ that is a superior resurrection

Let's come to Hebrews 8—it explains a little more concerning this, brethren. In understanding this, in

the way that we need to understand it, gives us great hope and great anticipation, and with that it gives us faith, love and spiritual strength. Through the Spirit of God and the Word of God and the Way of God, we are strengthened for the days which are ahead of us—which are going to be difficult indeed! But remember, **God says He will deliver us from all!** We need that confidence and we need that hope and we need that strength that comes from God, and it is through the **superior New Covenant!**

After He compares what was given to Moses and so forth, let's come to Hebrews 8:1: "Now *here is* a summary of the things being discussed: We have such a High Priest Who sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord set up, and not man" (vs 1-2). Then he talks about Moses and the physical representation of the heavenly things, etc.

Now, come down here to v 6: "But on the other hand, He [Jesus] has obtained a *supremely* more excellent ministry, as much greater as the superior covenant of which He is also Mediator, which was established upon **superior promises**." I want you to really grasp and understand the word *superior*. There is nothing comparable to it. That's why we need to always look to Christ, as Paul wrote in Heb. 12, 'keep our eyes focused on Him.' Not on the things around us; not on the difficulties that are there.

Verse 7: "For if the first *covenant* had been faultless, *then* no provision for a second *covenant* would have been made." But, as we have seen, there were the prophecies of the covenant to come. And yet, the world has ignored it; the Jews have ignored it; the 'Christians' have rejected it; the Jews have rejected Christ. What a state of affairs that is—isn't it? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 8: "But since He found fault with them... [because of their sins and no Holy Spirit and unwillingness to obey] ...He says, 'Behold, *the* days are coming,' says *the* Lord, 'when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in *the* day that I took hold of their hand to lead them out of *the* land of Egypt because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them,' says *the* Lord" (vs 8-9).

So here is the solution to the problem: **A New Covenant which will change their hearts and their minds to yield to God!** That's what the New Covenant is all about. That's why we keep the Passover! That's why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

Brethren, those are the dividing lines with the Spirit of God that separates us from the world; that puts us on God's side, rather than on the world's side

- with a *false* Christianity
- with a *false* covenant
- with a *false* hope

We have the real spiritual covenant that comes from God!

Verse 10. “For this *is* the covenant that I will establish with the house of Israel after those days,’ says *the* Lord: ‘I will give My laws into their minds, and I will inscribe them upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.’” That’s what it is.

- We are the people of God!
- We are the seed of Abraham!
- We are under the New Covenant!
- We are under the blood of Jesus Christ!
- We have been given direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven above.

That’s the whole purpose of the New Covenant! That’s why Christ came and died, and died the death that He did, because of the vileness and the viciousness of human nature. And that’s why He had to take on human nature, so that He could overcome every temptation that He would not sin, that He would be the perfect sacrifice for us, and the sins of all mankind. That’s why, brethren, it’s so important to grasp and understand the things concerning the Holy Days.

Every year, yes, we go back through these things every year. Also, every year we learn more; we understand more; we’re drawn closer to God because of it. And our lives are then spiritually motivated where *we cry out ‘Abba Father,’ because we have the sonship of God!* Go back over those sermons concerning the sonship of God.

Let’s come to Hebrews 9:11—Comparison; look at Appendix I: *A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants*. You’ll see the difference. “But Christ Himself has become High Priest of the **coming good things**, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle... [the Holy of Holies in heaven above] ...not made by *human* hands (that is, not of this *present physical* creation). Not by *the* blood of goats and calves, but by the means of His own blood, He entered once for all into the Holiest... [where God the Father sits on His throne in His glory] ...having by Himself secured everlasting redemption *for us*” (vs 11-12). That is something! That is tremendous for us to understand!

Verse 24: “For Christ has not entered into

the Holy places made by *human* hands... [that is, the temple on the earth] ...*which are mere* copies of the true; rather, *He has entered* into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God **for us**... [On our behalf. Look, we need to understand this: in spite of any difficulty we go through; in spite of whatever burden that we bear—**God loves us and is for us**. Don’t think because you’re going through a test or difficulty that God is against you. He is not!

- He is *perfecting* you!
- He wants you *to be perfected!*
- He wants you *to be ready* for the resurrection to eternal life!
- He wants you *to fulfill* the New Covenant through Jesus Christ!

That’s what we need to understand as we come to take the Passover Sunday night. It is the greatest, most important, most profound thing that we do in our calling and our lives, and that God has called us out of this world and

- given us of His Holy Spirit
- given us of His love
- given us of His work
- given to us understanding through His Holy Spirit

—then to have that access direct to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Brethren, that is so absolutely marvelous and tremendous! We need to really grasp on that and think about it. We’ve got one more day before the Passover. So, let’s dwell on these things.

Let’s finish off by coming to Hebrews 10:4—after saying, “Because *it is* impossible *for the* blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.... [They were justified to the temple—that another whole topic.] ...For this reason, when He [Christ] comes into the world, He says... [to God the Father] ...‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me. You did not delight in burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin. Then said I, “Lo, I come (*as* it is written of Me in *the* scroll of *the* book)... [that’s the book of the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ (see Hebrews series #27).] ...to do Your will, O God.’”” (vs 4-7). That’s what God wants! He doesn’t want the animal sacrifices. He doesn’t want the physical things. ***He wants you to do His will***

- in faith
- in hope
- in love

Verse 8: “In the saying above, *He said*, ‘Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin (which are offered according to the law) You did not desire nor delight in.’” That was only temporary. What He wants is a broken heart and a contrite

spirit. What he wants is a repentant heart and crying out to God for:

- His love
- His spirit
- His hope
- His Truth

Verse 9: “Then He said, ‘Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant*; by Whose will we are sanctified... [Think of that! You are here because of the will of God! I am here because of the will of God! All the people that belong to God the Father and Jesus Christ are His because of His will and His desire and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood. That’s something! Yes!] ...by Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**” (vs 9-10). That’s something we need to understand and realize, brethren.

Verse 14: “For by one offering He has obtained eternal perfection *for* those who are sanctified.” We have that sacrifice applied to us everyday. We’re being perfected everyday, every Passover, every Feast of Unleavened Bread, every Pentecost, every Trumpets, every Atonement, every prayer—we are being perfected. And, as we have seen by the sermon series: *By the Washing of the Water by the Word* to sanctify us; to make us Holy.

Isn’t that fantastic, brethren! Yes, this physical body is going to get old, shrivel up and die. We’re going to yield up the spirit; that goes back to God to be preserved for the resurrection and we go back to the ground—dust we are and dust we shall return—and in the next waking moment we’ll be resurrected! Think of that!

That’s why He did it, but here’s what He wants to happen for us, v 15: “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, “This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,” says *the* Lord: **“I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds; and their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again.”**” (vs 15-17). Think of that! All of it wiped away! Perfected!

Verse 18: “Now where remission of these *is*, *it is* no longer *necessary to offer* sacrifices for sin. Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter into the *true* Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way... [The New Covenant! The bread and the wine of the New Covenant] ...which He consecrated for us through the veil (that is, His flesh), and *having* a great High Priest over the house of God, let us approach *God* with a true heart, with full conviction of faith, our hearts having been

purified from a wicked conscience, and our bodies having been washed with pure water [baptism]. Let us hold fast without wavering *to* the hope *that* we profess, for **He Who promised is faithful**” (vs 18-23).

Brethren, as we go to the Passover tomorrow night, let’s keep this in mind, and let’s keep in mind

- the faith
- the hope
- the love
- the mercy
- the kindness
- the goodness

of God, and that we have entered into a relationship of sonship with God unto eternal life. That’s why He said, ‘Take, eat, this is My body, which is broken for you; and take, drink, this is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for the remission of sins of many.

Have a wonderful Passover, meaningful and spiritual!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 22:11-12, 14-18
- 2) Hebrews 6:13-20
- 3) John 10:14-18
- 4) Matthew 26:26-28
- 5) Hebrews 1:1-9
- 6) Hebrews 2:6-18
- 7) Romans 8:3
- 8) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 9) Hebrews 5:5-9
- 10) Hebrews 7:19-22
- 11) Hebrews 8:1-2, 6-10
- 12) Hebrews 9:11-12, 24
- 13) Hebrews 10:4-10, 14-23

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 15
- Revelation 13
- 1 Corinthians 11
- Matthew 5:48; 28
- Romans 6
- Hebrews 2:9
- Hebrews 12

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *Hebrews* (#27 specifically)
- *Washing of the Water by the Word*

Appendix I—A Comparison Between the Old and New Covenants (from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*)

Transcribed: 3-17-11 (corrected copy sent 3-22-11)