

## ***THE RENEWED COVENANT – THE POWER IN THE PROMISE***

This article is written to be a continuum of the articles *“Old Covenant, New Covenant, What Is the Difference?”* and *“Yeshua, The Church and The Renewed Covenant.”*

It has been two years gone since these articles were penned, and the time has now arrived to add to them. If you have not read these articles I would urge you to do so before reading this one, as points and understandings will not necessarily be repeated here. The wonders and majesty of what *Yeshua* (Jesus) achieved on the execution stake, and his subsequent resurrection, are seldom fully realised. People who read the Bible in its entirety often understand in part but miss out on so much of the sheer magnitude of this - God’s Grand Design for humanity.

The information relevant to the New or Renewed Covenant was given through *Moshe* (Moses), and delivered as instruction to the Israelites in the desert/wilderness journeyings.

### ***Deuteronomy 4:5***

***“See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering, to take possession of it.”***

When the Israelites arrived on the plains of *Moab* after their 40 years journeying the final pieces of instruction were added, including blessings and curses. The Israelite elders were gathered, those that spoke for the people. Moshe said to them:

### ***Deuteronomy 26 :16-19***

***“The LORD Your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in His ways, that you will keep His decrees, commands, and laws, and that you will obey Him.***

***“And the LORD has declared this day that you are His people, his treasured possession (unconditional) as He promised, and that you are to keep all His commands (they will one day).***

***He has declared that He will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations He has made, and that you will be a people holy (set apart) to the LORD your God, as He promised.”***

Reading these scriptures, one can see why some folk think God has failed, and replacement theology is an attempt to get God out of a failed expectation. A theology that says God has given up on Israel and found another people to fulfil His promise. Yet that is not so.

When the great God of Israel was making these promises on the plains of **Moab** He knew this people would fail in their time. He knew their heart condition was not up to the job in hand yet He still made the promise. This is what differentiates this **Moab** covenant from that of **Horeb**, it is one of divine promise. It says “I am God and I am going to bring this about despite your intrinsic deficiencies.”

***Deuteronomy 29 begins :***

***“These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moshe to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant He had made with them at Horeb.”***

The whole book of Deuteronomy is about this Renewed Covenant of Promise which the Israelites are to keep by promise.

***Deuteronomy 29: 9-13***

***“Carefully follow the terms of this covenant so that you may prosper in everything you do. (This is God’s desire for all people, but first Israel). All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God – your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, together with your children and your wives, and the aliens living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath to confirm you this day as His people,***

*that He may be your God as He promised you and as He swore to your fathers Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya`akov.”*

Now here is the Eternal One making a promise to this group of Israelites and aliens by an oath which, because this is God Almighty, cannot possibly fail. That He is their God and He will cause them to keep this covenant with its Torah (instruction). This is what was stated in ***Deuteronomy 29:16-19*** which we read earlier. It does not appear that this promise was made good with this particular generation. Sure, they did rather well under Joshua’s leadership (***Joshua 24:31***), born on the back of the wilderness experience and the taking of the Promised Land. It was a relatively high point but it was altogether downhill from thereon to ultimate ejection from the Promised Land itself.

But God’s promise did not simply rest with this generation.

***Deuteronomy 29:14-15***

*“I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today.”*

Meaning all future generations of Israelites who are subject to this covenant and its requirements. It would seem by this that the God of Israel has failed big time. Israelites have never lived up to God’s standard to the point that He has set them in praise, fame and honour high above all nations (***Deuteronomy 26:19***).

Was it that God had got this people wrong and thought that their 40 years in the wilderness and all that dying of those that rebelled at ***Horeb*** would somehow change them?

***Deuteronomy 31:24***

*“After Moshe finished writing in a book the words of this law (Deuteronomy) from beginning to end....”*

**Verse 26**

***“Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness against you.”***

**Verse 27**

***“For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the LORD while I am alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die! (Answer: a lot).”***

**Verse 29**

***“For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come disaster will fall upon you because you will do evil.....”***

Well it would appear Moshe was not duped into wishful thinking and neither was God, He knows what He is dealing with. So is it like some preachers (mainly American) who square things by saying that Jews are saved from the consequences of sin and accepted into eternal habitations just because they are Jews, and God is bound by His promise? I think not!

***Deuteronomy 29:19***

***“When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks ‘I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way,’ this will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry (no walking in praise and honour here).”***

**Verse 20**

***“The LORD will never be willing to forgive him, His wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this Book will fall upon him. And the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.”***

People do think this way of course. Many Christians do but it is the broad road to disaster. This covenant in **Moab** was being established/inaugurated as a process into the future and it was in the

future that the God of Israel's oath/promise would be fully realised. The Apostle *Sha'ul* (Paul) in *Romans 10:1* says:

*“Brother, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. (That is, from the consequences of what they are by nature).”*

Sha'ul knew something about God and His promise. He was not being sentimental or living with wishful thinking. He knew God's will and purpose and was praying in accordance with and in tandem with that divine will, a little understood passage sheds some light on this:

*Deuteronomy 29:29*

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this Law (Torah).”*

What secret things is this verse speaking of? Well, it is in relation to this Renewed Covenant and its outworking. The details of how the God of Israel was to get a people who did not subject themselves to His will, which was to obey His Torah - indeed could not as they were in their natural fleshy carnal nature – to a condition where they would obey and become a praise to Him and a holy people unto himself, is not at this time revealed. What is revealed is what God plans to do and achieve, but not how He is to get there with this people. The secret things, or at least some of them, would be revealed through the prophets that were to come later, all of whom were Israelites. This revealing in stages would open the way for the Israelites to ultimately adhere to the words of Torah. Most of these secret things have been revealed, although little understood, and we are now awaiting the final revelation in the return of Yeshua the Messiah.

In *Deuteronomy Chapter 30* Moshe continues to relate these amazing promises as they applied to these Israelites standing there on the plains of *Moab* as well as all who would follow after.

**Deuteronomy 30:1-6**

***“When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you (mainly curses it turns out) and you take them to heart (come to realise what has happened) wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations (ultimate outcome of disobedience) and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and with all your soul (did you get that, this people, who were there at Moab would return and obey Him and keep his Torah – even though they would die) according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes (or, as the footnote says, ‘Bring you back from captivity’) (Yeshua came to set the captives free – Luke 4:18-19) and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.***

***Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens (or in the grave therein) from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers (vast numbers will be brought back). The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants (that is, give the Holy Spirit), so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.”***

The loving with all heart and soul is not something we human beings can do without the indwelling presence of God through His Holy Spirit. Sha’ul succinctly states this in **Romans 8:6-8**

***“The mind of sinful man (without circumcised heart) is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit (circumcised heart) is life and peace, because the sinful mind (which is natural to all humans) is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s Law (Torah), nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”***

Then in **verse 9** it says:

***“You, however (speaking of those who had received circumcised hearts at that time in Yeshua), are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit.....”***

In other words these folk in Rome following Yeshua were not hostile to God and His Torah anymore. This is the condition all Israelites will be brought to according to the promise and purpose laid out in the covenant in ***Moab***.

A good deal of the revealing God would bring about through the prophets of Israel had to do with Messiah and His atonement for Israel and indeed all humanity. This central part Yeshua the Messiah was to play was crucial to the full implementation of this Renewed Covenant in ***Moab***. To understand God’s aims for Israel and humankind as a whole through His Covenant of Promise also will help us understand and appreciate the sheer majesty and magnitude of what Yeshua did on His first appearing among His people Israel as the Lamb of God.

The prophet Ezekiel gives us an explanation as to how the Eternal God is going to fulfil His promise to those Israelites standing before Moshe prior to their entering the Promised Land. The truth is they could not really enter into what was God’s real intention for them, that is His Peace/Rest, which is a spiritual one-ness with Himself, because they were not equipped to do so. Hebrews ***Chapter 4*** explains this beautifully.

***Ezekiel 37:1-3***

***“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley (a lush and fertile place); it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them (up and down the passage of time), and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. (They had been there a long time, this was not addressing a purely recent event). He asked me ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ ‘I said ‘O Sovereign LORD, you alone know’.”***

Here was a further revealing of God’s secret things. Can the dead live. The prophet is addressed as the “son of man”, a title Yeshua would assume at a later date. The prophet was acting out a role that the true “Son of Man” would fulfil, that is raising the dead to life.

**Ezekiel 37:4-10**

***“Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones and say to them, Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ (That is – receive Torah and live it with all ones heart, mind and soul in a way they never could when they were formally alive).***

***This is what the sovereign LORD says to these bones: ‘I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life (physical resurrection from the dead). I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you (Spirit of God – a circumcised heart), and you will come to life (really experience true Spirit led life). Then you will know that I am the LORD. (Truly trust and believe in Him).***

***“So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.***

***Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man and say to it ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says (who rules over the dead and the living). Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these, slain that they may live.’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.”***

Here God is fulfilling His promise that He made by oath to the Israelites that He would be their God and they His people. That He would circumcise their hearts and they would choose life. The Spirit led life in full submission to His Divine will and purpose.

**Ezekiel 37:11**

***“Then He said to me: ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They say: Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off’.”***

An army of Israelites brought into battle against the forces of darkness – the Satan, only to be vanquished because they were not inherently

equipped to win the battle. The “Son of Man” Messiah comes to their aid and delivers them out of their defeat.

***Ezekiel 37:12-14***

***“Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel (where they will work out their salvation). Then you, My people will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live (have true eternal Spirit led life), and I will settle you in your own land (have peace and security in a way they did not experience before). Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it (fulfilled His oath), declares the LORD.’”***

In the book of Yochanan (John) we read of a meeting – a secret one – between Yeshua and a leading Jewish Rabbi of the time, Nicodemus. Nicodemus had come in the dark, which was a reflection of where the Jewish leadership was. He admitted that they (the Jewish leadership) recognised that Yeshua was sent by the God of Israel. Given that this was their understanding and, given the way they were to treat Yeshua, it’s small wonder that so terrible a judgement was to come on the land of Judah.

Anyway, in response to Nicodemus’s admission Yeshua proceeds to tell him a thing or two, which had an underlying subtext, to the effect: “You do not know what you are talking about.” Fine words but no real understanding.

***John 3:3***

***“.....I tell you the truth, no-one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.”***

Some have taught that this refers to being resurrected into a new body and eternity as is revealed after Yeshua’s death and resurrection through the Apostles. But I don’t think so. Yeshua is here explaining that unless ones “eyes and ears” are opened to spiritual seeing and hearing you cannot understand the things of God.

**Isaiah 6:9-10**

***“Go tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing (attentive religiously), but never understanding; be ever seeing (theologically clever), but never perceiving. Make the heart of this people calloused (hard, impervious to true instruction); make their ears dull and close their eyes’.....”***

**John 3:4**

***“ ‘How can a man be born when he is old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!’”***

Nicodemus’s mind is grappling here to understand what Yeshua is talking about. He, at this moment, is on a completely different mental wavelength.

Yeshua continues to teach this Rabbi what will be required to enter this born again experience, which is circumcision of the heart in “Old Testament” terminology.

**Verse 5**

***“Yeshua answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit’.”***

Yeshua reveals to Nicodemus the requirement for entering this true spirit led existence. Sha’ul explains in **Romans 8:14-15**:

***“Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, (have a circumcised heart condition). For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again (as our natural spirit of the flesh does) to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by Him (the Spirit) we cry ‘Abba, Father’.”***

So born of water is repentance, which is symbolised in the act of full water immersion which was practised by Yeshua’s disciples on His instruction. To bury your old nature, to be born refreshed, cleansed, and a new you. Given that this has been done for the right reasons

the Holy Spirit can then be received from God, a miraculous act that draws one into the divine spirit world, the Kingdom of God.

**John 3:6-8**

***“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (It is not something you receive by nature, the natural order of things, but comes from God himself). You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again’ (he shouldn’t have been but he was).***

***The wind blows wherever it pleases (spirit likened to wind or breath). You hear its sound (the gospel preached), but you cannot tell where it comes from (the Jews couldn’t figure out where or how Yeshua did what He did or knew what He knew) or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit’.***”

**Verse 9-10**

***“ ‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Yeshua, ‘and do you not understand these things?’ ”***

What things? The need for Israelites to acquire a new heart condition as in Deuteronomy and the Prophets, some of which I have related in this article. The Jewish leaders and teachers who studied the Torah scrolls in mind-numbing detail had completely lost track of this requirement. They figured they were okay in themselves - what they were by nature. Not so!

**Verse 11-12**

***“I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know (who’s the we? Those of the Kingdom, Yeshua, the prophets, John the Baptist etc.), and we testify to what we have seen (through spiritual eyes), but still you people (of the flesh, not spiritual) do not accept our testimony (can’t receive it).***

***I have spoken to you of earthly things (concepts that are not particularly deep and that can be intellectually accepted through study of the Torah) and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? (deeply profound spiritual matter which the likes of Sha’ul was to broach at a later time, which even those of the Kingdom can struggle with).***

**Verse 13-15**

***“No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moshe lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.”***

Some of the Jews at that time seemingly had dabbled with the going to heaven idea. The Christian world has largely taken up this theme even to the point of having saints mediating for one before God. This primarily stems from Greek mythology and is demonic at its root. Yeshua makes plain that He alone has come from the heavenly realm and He didn't have company in the form of human beings, past, present or otherwise; and that He alone was going back from where he came after completing His task of being murdered on a stake, to pay for our transgressions. Belief on our part, together with the recognised need for a heart change condition, would make available the Spirit of the Living God to impart a heart change, the centre of all we are in mind, and deep emotion and motivation. This Spirit imparts Eternity in our souls and leads to the prospect of a special resurrection.

Let's have a little recap over what I have said here.

The God of Israel had made a Covenant of Promise with the Israelites to the effect that He would bring them both individually and collectively, to repentance; that He would give them His Spirit so that they would have a circumcised heart condition – be Spirit led; and that the details of the working out of this Promise when given being shrouded in secrecy would be revealed through Israelite Prophets.

Yeshua was one of those secrets to be revealed and was key to the fulfilment of the Promised Covenant. In ***Matthew 5:17*** we read:

***“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”***

He came to make possible the Promised Covenant with the Israelites, which would be accomplished in two stages. One advent as the “Lamb of God”, the second as “King of Kings”. One to pay the price for Israelite sin; and the second to rule over them.

One of the secrets to be revealed was that Yeshua was going to gather to Himself a special group of people between His first and second advent to assist in this fulfilment of the Renewed Covenant Promise. They would be vigorously trained and tested to prove worthy in this task and honour.

The Israelites, who get resurrected in the *Ezekiel 37* “dry bones” account, who will be the vast majority of Israelites who ever lived, will be in a second resurrection. The Israelites and indeed some Gentiles who will be chosen by the God of Israel to assist Yeshua in the fulfilment of the Renewed Covenant Promise will be in the first resurrection.

I realise what I have written here, as well as what will now follow, will be hard for many readers to receive. This is in no small measure down to replacement theology which is endemic in the Christian world. Christians generally do not understand the covenants of Israel, do not appreciate the need to take Torah seriously, do not fully understand why Messiah Yeshua came, nor indeed the reason for the so called church age.

Many Jews who came to Messiah are often in no better position because they often feel behoven to church people for bringing to them an awareness of Messiah Yeshua whom Jews as a people have largely rejected, and then are led astray with much of the nonsense disseminated by Christians as sound doctrine.

Yeshua made it quite plain about the success of those the Father would call (called out ones - Greek: *Ekklessia*) in this preparatory period up to His second coming.

***Matthew 7:13-14***

***“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”***

Well, this statement alone puts Yeshua at odds with most Christian thinking – and what about this?

**Matthew 7:21-23**

***“Not everyone who says to me ‘LORD, LORD’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, (‘LORD, LORD’ is double emphasis, urgent, passionate), but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Oh, so it’s the God of the Old Testament we have to concern ourselves about not the nice easy Jesus most have grown to love).***

***Many will say to me on that day (when having to give account), ‘LORD, LORD, did we not prophesy in your name (we claimed to represent you), and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ (had great campaigns, lots of altar calls, people slain in the spirit etc), Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you’. (I didn’t have a relationship with you). Away from me, you evil doers!”***

The use of the word “evil doers” does not convey a right understanding in this N.I.V. translation. Other translations use the words “Those that practice lawlessness or workers of lawlessness.” In other words live their believers’ lives as if the Torah, or Law if you like, didn’t apply to them, which I would suggest to you makes for a lot of Christianity.

There is a parable given by Yeshua about the so called “Church age” in **Matthew 22**. I am not going to write it out so you’re going to have to find a Bible and read it yourself. It speaks of a wedding banquet, which is when Yeshua consummates His marriage to Israel at His return. This marriage is through Torah, which is given as a covenant of marriage, and the wayward Israel, the betrothed Israel, after centuries of whoring, finally comes to her senses and realises who her husband is. She will be forgiven and received into a thousand year honeymoon. A mutual embrace of purity of passion, a one-ness, or in Hebrew: ‘Echad’.

In **Verse 3** it speaks of Yeshua inviting the Jews to attend as guests. This was at the time of the Apostles, post 30 C.E. They had an official invitation but they mostly rejected it. More servants or apostles were brought in but the Jews largely rejected their message and the urgency of the matter and abused and killed the messengers.

The King-in-Waiting, Yeshua, allows the Romans to destroy Jerusalem and bring an end to the Jewish state.

**Verses 8-10** tell of the message going out to anyone that would listen regardless of whether they were Jews or not, and some accepted the invitation. They wanted to be there at this wedding sure enough, flattered that they would be invited even. Now, the key point of this parable: Those invited had to come dressed for the occasion.

**Verses 11-12** : One had to be dressed with righteousness which comes through the grace of Yeshua and is expressed through living by Torah.

**Verses 13-14** tells us if we're not fittingly dressed then we are not accepted at the banquet. It states "many are invited (called) but few are received."

That is the way it is; hard to accept it may be. But this is the thread of Truth throughout the Bible. Few make it to be in this first resurrection. It is a very tough call indeed.

Remember in **Deuteronomy 29:29** where it says :

***"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law."***

The Book of Revelation is the final revealing in the process that will lead the Israelite nation to fully obey God and His Torah. The book itself is principally written to inform the "called-out-ones", those that will be used to assist Yeshua in the full implementation of the Renewed Covenant.

***Revelation 1:5-6***

***".....To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father....."***

To serve Him in teaching and guiding Israel, and indeed the whole world, in applying the Law of Moshe through the grace of Yeshua the Messiah.

The second and third chapters of the Book of Revelation are devoted to seven assemblies of the “called-out-ones” as existed in the first century C.E. in Asia Minor. Letters were to be delivered from the first to the last on a postal route which had information about how Messiah viewed those particular congregations. The “Angel” or “Messenger” to whom the letter would be addressed were the leaders of those assemblies who guided them and set the pattern and tone of their conduct.

It has been suggested that these congregations in their behaviours depicted the condition of the “called-out-ones” between Yeshua’s first and His second advent, and I tend to view it this way myself.

To continue the theme of the difficulty of this “calling,” there is a caveat as to whether one would accede to the first resurrection.

***Revelation 2: 1 & 7***

***“To the messenger of the Church in Ephesus write:.... ‘He who has an ear (can receive spiritual information), let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God’ (receive eternal life).”***

***Revelation 2: 8 & 11***

***“To the messenger of the Church in Smyrna write:..... ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death’ (means there is also a second life.)”***

***Revelation 2: 12 & 17***

***“To the messenger of the church in Pergamum write:..... ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will give him a white stone (ancient ticket into a public festival) with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it’.”***

***Revelation 2:18, 26 & 27***

***“To the messenger of the church in Thyatira write:..... ‘To him who overcomes and does my will (in full submission to Torah) to the end, I will give authority over the nations, – ‘He will rule them with an iron sceptre; he will dash them***

*to pieces like pottery’ – just as I have received authority from my Father’ (enormous power and kingship given).”*

**Revelation 3:1, 4 & 5**

*“To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:..... ‘Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes (remember the parable about being properly dressed for the wedding banquet). They will walk with me, dressed in white (fitting clothes for the wedding banquet), for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life,’.....”*

**Revelation 3: 7, 11 & 12**

*“To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: .... ‘I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no-one will take your crown (to rule over the nations). Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. (A main support in the edifice of God’s government). Never again will he leave it’.....”*

**Revelation 3:14 & 21**

*“To the messenger of the church in Laodicea write:..... ‘To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame (how did Yeshua overcome? He kept His Father’s commandments – John 15:10) and sat down with my Father on His throne’.”*

After being born again – in receiving a circumcised heart condition these followers would have to be obedient and consistent to God’s calling placed on their lives. They were no longer their own. They are purchased from spiritual death to serve God and Messiah.

So here we are in another stage in the development of the Renewed Covenant from its inception through promise and oath by the God of Israel to His people in *Moab* to its ultimate full fruition at the time of Yeshua’s return. His return to restore Israel into its full potential and expectation to be His Holy people. And as to that ultimate fruition we read:

**Revelation 20 :4-6**

*“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge (it is those who overcome through*

*the seven church eras). And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Yeshua and because of the word of God (Torah). They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands (had not actively supported the world system). They came to life and reigned with Meshiach for a thousand years. (Educating Israel and the world in God's ways).*

*(The rest of the dead (those in the dry bones resurrection) did not come to life until the thousand years were ended). This is the first resurrection (very special). Blessed and Holy are those who have part in the first resurrection (they enter and are changed into perfection). The second death has no power over them (they have received immortality and eternal life), but they will be priests of God and of Meshiach and will reign with Him for a thousand years."*

We are now entering the end phase of putting all the pieces together to finally energise the fullness of the Renewed Covenant of Promise. The time of the preparation and training of the "called-out-ones" is coming to an end. In one last gasp the forces of darkness will seek to scupper God's plan for Israel and the world. Victory however is assured for the whole, the only question would be if we as individuals overcome what is to be thrown against us. That wholly depends on us, for God will not fail to do His part in helping us through whatever comes our way. We are heading for exciting times, let us make sure we clear the last hurdle.

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***DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT GOD OF ISRAEL***

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