

Covenant Survey, Part 2

Exchanging Coats

- General
 - Exchanging coats represents giving of oneself, a shared identity — behavior, nature
- God's Covenant with Israel
 - Ex 28:4 “These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests.”
 - When were the priests to wear these garments?
- God's New Covenant with Christians
 - In what way did God take on our identity?
 - Php 2:7 (speaking of Jesus), “. . . but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”
 - “made [himself] nothing” (Gk): (1) to make empty, to deprive of content or possession; (2) to cause to lose power, be emptied, come to nothing; (3) to empty oneself, divest oneself of position
 - What was Jesus' original nature?
 - According to this verse, what did Jesus do with that nature?
 - “nature” [of a servant] (Gk): (1) nature, character; (2) shape, visual form, external appearance
 - What change does this describe?
 - “likeness” (Gk): similarity, likeness of form or appearance
 - 2 Cor 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - What exchange of identity or nature does this describe?
 - How do we take on God's identity?
 - Rom 8:29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
 - “likeness” (Gk): (1) image, portrait; (2) likeness, having the same form; (3) representation, pattern
 - “that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brothers”
 - “firstborn” (Gk, *prototokos*): (1) first one

born, existing before others; (2) priority, preeminence or superiority over all others

- If Jesus is the prototype, what does that mean for us?
- Rom 13:14 “Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ . . .”
 - “clothe yourselves” (Gk): (1) enter into or get into; (2) clothe or dress oneself (in the sense of getting into a garment); (3) endue with something
 - What is it we’re expected to do?
- What does all this say about importance of becoming like Jesus?
- Marriage
 - Mk 10:7-8, “‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one.”

Exchanging Belts & Weapons

- General
 - What do you think exchanging weapons represented?
 - The significance of exchanging belts
- God’s Covenant with Israel
 - Lev 26:6-8 “I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.”
 - How does this relate to the practice of exchanging weapons?
- God’s New Covenant with Christians
 - exchanging belts: pledging all of one’s strength, support, skills & abilities
 - Eph 1:19, “. . . and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength”
 - Eph 3:20, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”
 - Eph 6:10, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”
 - How do these three verses relate to the practice of exchanging belts?

- 2 Co 12:10, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
 - How does this relate to the practice of exchanging belts?
- exchanging weapons: pledging protection
 - 2 Co 10:3-5, “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”
 - How does the world use weapons?
 - Eph 6:17 (“armor of God” passage), “. . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
 - Satan’s efforts to engage us in battle are bluff, deception
- Related point
 - Mt 5:44, “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
 - Ro 12:19-20, “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.’”
 - How do these passages relate to covenant protection (exchanging weapons)?
 - Our covenant with God requires that we offer all our strength, support, skills and abilities to serve him.
- Marriage
 - Eph 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
 - What is the standard for a husband loving his wife, according to this verse?
 - How did Jesus give himself up for the church?

Exchanging Portion of names

- General
 - person’s name represents their identity, responsibility & authority
 - God’s name in OT was YHWH, most prominent letter equivalent to English letter H
 - God made covenant with Abram & Sarai, changed

their names to Abraham & Sarah

- God's Covenant with Israel
 - Lev 26:12 (God speaking to the Israelites, describing the covenant), "I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people."
- God's New Covenant with Christians
 - Jesus called himself the "Son of man"; emphasized his humanity
 - he took on true human identity (not corrupted by sin)
 - he exhibited true human authority (not corrupted by sin)
 - he learned obedience by what he suffered (like us)
 - he was tempted in every way (like us)
 - he took on the responsibility for all of man's sin (spiritual death)
 - he did all this as a man
 - We're called Christians
 - Are you a true Christian?
 - Consider one aspect of taking God's name
 - Ex 20:7 (NIV), "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."
 - Ex 20:7 (KJV), "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."
 - "use" or "take" (Heb): lift up, take, carry
 - "name" (Heb): name, renown (fame, reputation)
 - "vain" (Heb): (1) vanity (futility, worthlessness, no result or use); (2) nothing (empty); (3) falseness (deceit)
 - What do I mean if I say, "All my effort was in vain"?
 - What are some situations in which one person legally takes another's name?
 - If we call ourselves Christians yet refuse to fulfill our covenant responsibilities, have we not taken God's name in vain?
- Marriage
 - Marriage covenant is excellent example if shared identity, responsibility & authority:
 - you're no longer just an individual
 - your public identity now includes spouse
 - your family & friends think of you together because your union gives you a common identity