

The
Everlasting
Covenant
of Love

I have loved thee
with an everlasting
love: therefore
with loving
kindness have I
drawn thee.

Jeremiah 31:3

IN the great heart of God an unspeakable love flows like a mighty river throughout His boundless universe. This love is an expression of Himself, for “God is love.” 1John 4:8. That’s what He is. He always has been; He will always be the same, for He has said of Himself, “I am the Lord, I change not.” Malachi 3:6. And it is His eternal purpose to insure that this divine love be experienced by His whole creation as endless joy.

“Everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the LORD love judgment...and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.” Isaiah 61:8. An everlasting covenant, a permanent, never ending commitment between the Sovereign of the universe and every one of His children. “Thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.” Psalm 25:6. It is our gracious heavenly Father “who crowns us with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfies our mouth with good things; so that our

youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Psalm 103:4,5. “The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.” Psalm 145:9. He is truly “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth” Exodus 34:6.



As the Father and Son ended their work of creation, they looked upon all that they had made and said, “It is very good.” Genesis 1:31. All the hosts of heaven gave “glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,” and cried, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Revelation 4:9,11.

In the midst of God’s perfect world was the first of His creatures, “Lucifer, son of the morning” Isaiah 14:12, “full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” Every precious stone was his covering. He was anointed by the Most High Himself to be a covering cherub, standing in the very presence of God. He was

right there “upon the holy mountain of God;” where he “walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.” Ezekiel 28:12-14.

Everything was perfect. “The light of the knowledge of the glory of God” shone in the face of His Son who was the very image of His Father. 2Corinthians 4:6,4. Father and Son sat together on the throne. Rev 3:21. The Son, the Branch, bore his Father’s glory, and sat and ruled upon His throne. “And the counsel of peace was between them both.” Zechariah 6:13.



The counsel of peace had long before been made between the Father and His Son, an everlasting covenant of love that would ever give life and liberty to all the subjects of their vast kingdom—even if they should reject their love and rebel against the perfect order founded upon their law of love.

It was a “perfect law of liberty” James 1:25. “Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:8. God the Father, the Great Source of all things, had given all power and wisdom to His Son that by him all things should be created.

Eph 3:9; Col 1:16; John 1:2. And because the Son had freely received, he also freely gave all things to those he had created.

The Son of God was to reveal his Father’s law of love to all the inhabitants of heaven. He would do “always those things that please him.” John 8:29. He would ever keep his “Father’s commandments and abide in His love” John 15:10. Only the Son could demonstrate obedience and worship in this way.

But there was one whose “heart was lifted up because of [his] beauty” and corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. Ezekiel 28:17.

Lucifer said in his heart, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north, I will ascend above the clouds, I will be like the most High!” Isaiah 14:13,14.



Lucifer desired to be worshiped like the most High, but he had no desire to be merciful and long-suffering and abundant in goodness

and truth like the most High. He began by saying these things “in his heart” but soon he was sharing them with the rest of the angelic host, the stars of God, who makes “his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire” Hebrews 1:7.



Like Absalom, he shared his dream of being like God, saying, “Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which has any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!” 2Samuel 15:4. And like Absalom, Lucifer “stole the hearts” of the angels. Verse 6.



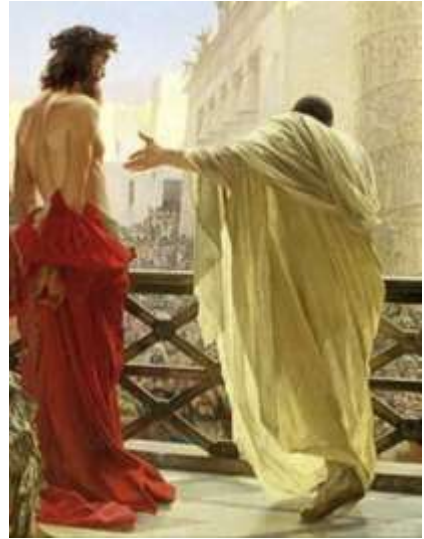
“Your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods!” he told them. Genesis 3:5. Lucifer “drew a third of the stars of heaven” Rev 12:4 and so became Satan, “the accuser” verse 10. He accused the Father of injustice in letting His Son sit on the throne. And so, “there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan.” Verse 9. “The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation” Jude 6, “prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.” Rev 12:8. Satan “was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Verse 9.

Satan was in a rage. He imagined a vain thing. He and his angels took counsel together against the LORD and His anointed, saying, “Let us break their bands and cast away their cords from us.” Psalm 2:1-3. It was a vain thing, indeed. Separated from the Source of life, they would ultimately perish. The most High knew this and pleaded with His rebellious children. “Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die? I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn and live!” Ezekiel 18:31, 31. “Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?” Isaiah 50:2.

The infinite heart of God was wounded. “Yea, mine own familiar

friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” Psalm 41:9. Yet, the Father continued to give life even to those who rebelled against Him. God is love; that is what He is. He had made an everlasting covenant with His Son, to let all His creatures freely choose between life and death, between receiving and taking, between giving and stealing. God and His Son, in the council of peace, determined to ever be a savor of life unto life (2Cor 2:16), that the joy of their creation might be full. Satan came down to earth with great wrath, deceiving the whole world as the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44), inspiring Cain to kill his own brother, even as Satan plotted the death of God’s own Son.

of a woman. Galatians 4:4. He would have no outward beauty that we should desire him. He would be “despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” Isaiah 53:3.



The Seed of the woman was a promise to Adam and Eve that the serpent’s head would finally be crushed (Genesis 3:15). But first the serpent would bruise the Seed’s heel. In the fullness of time, the Son of God would come to earth, born

He would be brought as a lamb to the slaughter. He would be wounded for our transgressions, he would be bruised for our iniquities. For the Lord would lay upon him the iniquity of us all. He would make his soul an offering for sin, and pour out his soul unto death. Isaiah 53:4-12.

It was all part of the everlasting covenant, a plan to save the cosmos from total rebellion and ultimate self-destruction. The Creator, who knew no sin, would be made sin for those who choose to be freed from the law of sin and death. 2Cor 5:21; Rom 8:2. They would look upon him whom they had pierced and mourn for him as one mourneth for

his only son. Zechariah 12:10. It was a magnificent plan founded on the royal law of liberty: each being is totally free to choose for themselves their own destiny. God set before them life and death, blessing and cursing. Deuteronomy 30:19.

It was the Father's predestined desire that all choose life! He was not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and accept His abundant mercy and forgiveness that grace might abound. 2Peter 3:9; Rom 6:1. God gave His only begotten Son that none should perish. John 3:16. And the Son of God loved us and gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us according to the will of God the Father. Galatians 2:20; 1:4. And this was all decided before the foundation of the world. John 17:24; Eph 1:4; 1Pet 1:20.

God had chosen "the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and the weak things of the world to confound the mighty" 1Cor 1:27. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

The Father and Son covenanted together to save the universe from sin and death by not only bearing our sins in his own body, 1Pet 2:24, and becoming obedient unto death, Phil 2:8, to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, Heb 9:26, being reconciled to God by the death of His Son, but much more are we saved by his life! Rom 5:10.

The life we now live, we live by the faith of the Son of God. Galatians 2:20. Because he died for me, I am crucified with him, nevertheless I live! Yet, not I, but Christ lives in me! "Know you not your ownelves how that Jesus Christ is in you? 2Cor 13:5. "In that day you shall know that I am in you," Jesus told his disciples. John 14:20. And to his Father he prayed, "that the love wherewith you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." John 17:26.

This is the mystery of God, hid from all ages, now manifest in His saints: Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:26,26. This was the promise of the Father, made to His Son before the foundation of the world when He predestined us to be adopted as His children to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:4,5.

This is the mystery of Godliness that the life of Jesus might also be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 1Timothy 3:16; 2Cor 4:11. For the whole creation groans and travaills in pain together until now, waiting for the adoption, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God when they will be conformed to the image of His Son! Romans 8:22,23, 19,29.

This is the mystery which "in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished" Revelation 10:7. It is then that the message of the everlasting gospel shall be proclaimed

to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth and the fountains of waters.” Rev 14:6,7.

The everlasting covenant was challenged by one who wanted to be worshiped. But worship is only worthy of the Creator. “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For He is our God.” Psalm 95:6,7. “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things” Rev 4:11. Yet, Satan dared to ask the Son of God to bow down and worship him! Matt 4:9.



He could not tempt his Maker, but he has had much greater success in deceiving the whole world. “All them that dwell on earth shall worship him” Revelation 13:8.

They worship the first beast, they worship the image to the beast, “and they worshipped the dragon which gave power to the beast.” Verse 4.

There have been many covenants. God has made several. He made a covenant with Noah and every living creature to never again destroy the earth with a flood. Gen 9:9-11. God made a covenant with Abraham to give his children the land of Canaan. Gen 15:18. God promised to make an everlasting covenant with Isaac and his children. Gen 17:19. God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai. Deut 5:3.

God has kept all of His covenants. But the people didn't always keep the covenants that they made. Joshua made a covenant with the people in Shechem. Joshua 24:25. But when Joshua died, “there arose another generation after them, that knew not the LORD...they forsook the God of their fathers and followed after the gods of the people that were round about them.” Judges 2:10-12.

King Zedekiah made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to observe the year of release, the seventh year when the Hebrew slaves should be set free. So all the princes and all the people entered into the covenant and set their servants free. But then they changed their minds and brought them all back!

At Sinai the people vowed to do all that the Lord had said. But in only a few weeks later they had

broken their covenant with God by worshipping a golden calf.

This is the covenant which God makes: “**I will** write my laws within their mind, and write them in their hearts: and **I will** be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people.” Hebrews 8:10. “**I will** sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean; a new heart also **will I** give you, and a new spirit **will I** put within you... and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25-27.

Satan accused Joshua the high priest because of his filthy garments. But the angel of the Lord said, “I have caused your iniquity to pass from you. Take away the filthy garments. I will clothe you with a change of raiment.” Turning to Satan, he said, “The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan. This is a brand plucked from the fire.”

Satan demands judgment without mercy. All judgment has been given to the Son, for he was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. He has been touched with the feelings of our infirmities. He knows what it is like to rebuke sin in the likeness of sinful flesh. John 5:27; Heb 4:15; Rom 8:3. And his judgement is this: He shall have judgment without mercy, that has shown no mercy. For with what judgment ye judge, so shall ye be judged. James 2:13; Matt 7:2.

The everlasting covenant is laid in perfect justice, the same for all. Whatsoever a man sows, that shall

he also reap. “Let God be true, tho’ every man a liar. That You might be justified in Your sayings, and might overcome when You are judged.” Romans 3:4. The Father and Son committed to remain true to the law of love regardless of the consequences. Though reviled, he would not revile in return; when abused, he would not threaten. 1Peter 2:23. When struck on one cheek, he would turn the other also. Instead of attacking his enemies, he would pray for them. Instead of harming them, he would feed them, clothe them, care for them, and offer them the water of life. 2Kings 6:21,22. He and his Father would love them, bless them, do good to them even though they curse, and hate, and persecute. Matt 5:39-44.

The Son came to show us the character of his Father. In laying down his life for his enemies, he showed even greater love than dying for one’s friends. John 15:13. For while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8. It was the covenant he had made with his Father before the foundation of the world. And it will last forever.

**I will make a
covenant of peace
with them; it shall be
an everlasting
covenant.**

Ezekiel 37:26