



Colossians 3:11

Introduction

"I will give You as a covenant." Isaiah 42:6 NKJV

The Hebrew word translated "give" is *nathan* (Strong's # H5414). It can also be translated as "set" or "appoint". The NASB translation is: **"I will *appoint* you as a covenant."** The Benton Septuagint translation is: **"I have *given* thee for the covenant."** And the Lexham Septuagint translation is: **"I will *make* you a covenant."¹** The Apostolic Bible Polyglot translation is: **"I *gave* you for a covenant."**, using the Greek word, *didomi* (Strong's # G1325). The future tense usage speaks prophetically of the

¹ Septuagint translations are Greek translations of the Old Testament Hebrew text. These translations can be a useful reference because Koiné Greek was the common language in the time of Jesus and the apostles. Most of the New Testament texts are written by diaspora Jews like Paula and Luke, addressing largely Christians in Greek-speaking communities.

coming Messiah. The past tense usage speaks of God's eternal plan and purpose in Christ from eternity past. (Ephesians 1:4-5, 9-11; 3:11; Cf. Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:10-11) The covenant Isaiah refers to is what we know as the "New Covenant". God's New Covenant – by which He made the Old Covenant obsolete (Hebrews 8:13), does not consist in the letters of written words, but is embodied in *a Person - Jesus Christ, the Living Word*.² "Christ Jesus, became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:30) "Christ is all." (Colossians 3:11) The Old Covenant was "weak" (Romans 8:3): While the written words of the Old Covenant were God-breathed, they were incapable of communicating ALL of God's Covenant, which could not be captured in written words only. In the New Covenant, *the Person of Jesus Christ – the Living Word* – lives by His Spirit in our hearts and minds to communicate ALL of God's Covenant to us moment by moment, in ALL circumstances and situations. (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:25-27)³

² This perspective of the New Covenant is well-communicated by Peter Gentry Stephen Wellum in their book *Kingdom Through Covenant: A Biblical Theological Understanding of the Covenants*. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012) This perspective is referred to as "New Covenant Theology". However, they have adopted the name "Progressive Covenantalism" to better represent their proposal: "*It (Progressive Covenantalism) nicely captures our basic proposal. "Progressive" seeks to underscore the progress of unfolding of God's revelation from old to new, and "covenantalism" emphasizes that God's plan across redemptive-history unfolds through covenants as **all of these covenants are terminated, culminated, and fulfilled in Christ and the arrival of the promised new covenant age.**" (p. 24)*

³ I have written further on this in another articles, for example: [The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus](#).



In the Covenant

*The Archetype for the New Covenant is not a set of prescriptions (“letters”) which would define the covenant and its terms of operation. The reason this is so because **Jesus Christ IS the New Covenant**, in the sense that *He Himself is the sum of all the elements of the covenant*. Specifically: He is the blood sacrifice (Hebrews 9:12, 14; 1 Peter 1:19); He is the High Priest (Hebrews 7:27, 8:1, 9:11, 24) who offers the sacrifice; it is His blood which “cuts” the covenant (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:18-22, 10:29, Cf. Exodus 24:7-8); it is His death which inaugurates the covenant (Hebrews 9:16-17); He is the Mediator of the covenant (Hebrews 9:15); and He is the Advocate who declares the terms of the covenant (1 John 2:1-2, Cf. John 14:16). *The covenant is in operation in, and by, and through Christ.**

CHRIST IS ALL



In the Kingdom

Christ is also the Archetype for the Kingdom, as well. Peter's revelation given to him by the Father was primarily of the King of the Kingdom: ¹⁶“Simon Peter answered, “You are **the Christ**, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of **the kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:15-19

The Father revealed Jesus as the King of the Kingdom. Jesus is building His Church (Ekklesia) upon the revelation of Himself – as the King of the Kingdom, and is sharing His authority (“the keys”)

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with His people (the Church). The Church is a witness to the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14; Ephesians 3:10), but it is the Kingdom which creates the Church, not the other way around.⁴ This is why the “Great Commission” was to “make disciples” “of the kingdom”⁵ - not to plant churches.⁶

The Kingdom reflects the King. For example, the Beatitudes reflect the overall character of the King, the Kingdom, and those who would be disciples of the King and His Kingdom. (Matthew 5:3-10)⁷ And more specifically, the Church is to reflect Christ, the Suffering Servant. (Isaiah 53) “The Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16) was *a crucified Christ*. This is what the Jews missed. We cannot afford to miss it. Paul the apostle identified “the wisdom of God” as both Christ and the “word of the Cross”. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) THIS is the very wisdom God intends to “make know through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places”. (Ephesians 3:10) – *Christ and the “word of the Cross” – the Crucified Christ*.⁸

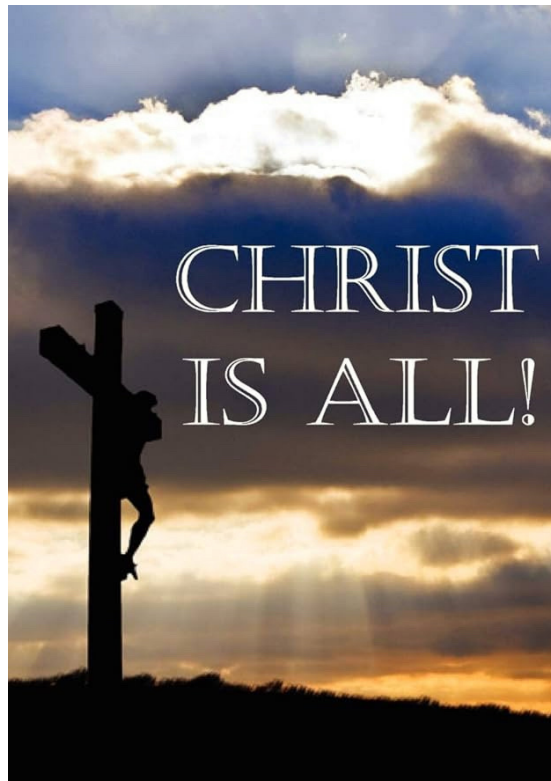
⁴ Observe the sequence in Matthew 16:15-19: The revelation of the King and the Kingdom precedes and becomes the bedrock of the Church.

⁵ Matthew 13:52; 28:20

⁶ If we continue to focus on the church rather than the kingdom, we will continue having a plethora of “Christian clubs” and a dearth of authentic disciples of Christ.

⁷ See my book, *The Character of the King & His Kingdom*.

⁸ D.A. Carson has said that the epitome of God’s wrath and love were expressed at the Cross. Wrath poured out on sin, not people. Love not expressed through joy, but through suffering. The apostle Paul identified “the wisdom of God” as both Christ and the “word of the Cross”. This is the very wisdom God intends to “make know through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places”. (Ephesians 3:10) – Christ and the “word of the Cross” – the Crucified



In the Church

*Christ is pre-requisite for Church.*⁹ Without sufficient revelation of the mystery of Christ, and without vital relationship with Christ, and without authentic reflection of the character of Christ (all the stuff of the New Covenant), we have merely “a form of religion, contradicting its own spirituality”¹⁰ - that is, worship praxes which continue to “miss the mark” and “fall short of **the glory**” of **God’s Archetype, which is Christ Himself**. Paul the apostle wrote of the necessity of being able to “**discern the Body**”.¹¹ Pre-

Christ. See my eBooks *[The Cross & The Powers of Darkness](#)* and *[Seeing the Kingdom Through the Cross](#)*.

⁹ See my eBook *[Christ is Pre-requisite for Church](#)*, also available in [paperback](#).

¹⁰ 2 Timothy 3:5 NASB: “holding to a form of religion, although denying its power”

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 11:29

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requisite to “discerning the Body” is to be able to “*discern the Head of the Body*”.¹² Without sufficient revelation of Christ, we will – once again – end up with a body which is not His. *Christ builds His Church by revelation of Himself*.¹³ The Church Jesus is building is made up of people who are “pressing on to know the Lord”¹⁴ by intentional pursuit of *revelation of Christ in the scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit*.¹⁵ Yes, Christ is the Archetype of His Church¹⁶, and we are to “**build according to the Pattern**”.¹⁷ The Church should be able to say as Paul the apostle said: “**So also is Christ.**”

¹² Cf. my booklet, “*Christ is Pre-requisite for Church*”. (Request a complimentary .PDF copy by writing to: AtChristsTable@gmail.com)

¹³ Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁴ Hosea 6:3

¹⁵ John 5:39-40; 15:26. Cf. my pamphlet, “*Doing Church*”. To request a complimentary .PDF copy, Email: AtChristsTable@gmail.com

¹⁶ Cf. my booklets, “*Apostolic Teaching*”, “*The Foundation of the Church*”, “*Foundation Stones*”, “*Discipleship & The Equipping Ministries*”. (Request complimentary .PDF copies by writing to: AtChristsTable@gmail.com)

¹⁷ Moses: Exodus 25:8-9, 40; 26:30; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5. David & Solomon: 1 Chronicles 28:19. Ezekiel 41:17; 43:10-11. Paul: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

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1 Corinthians 2:13

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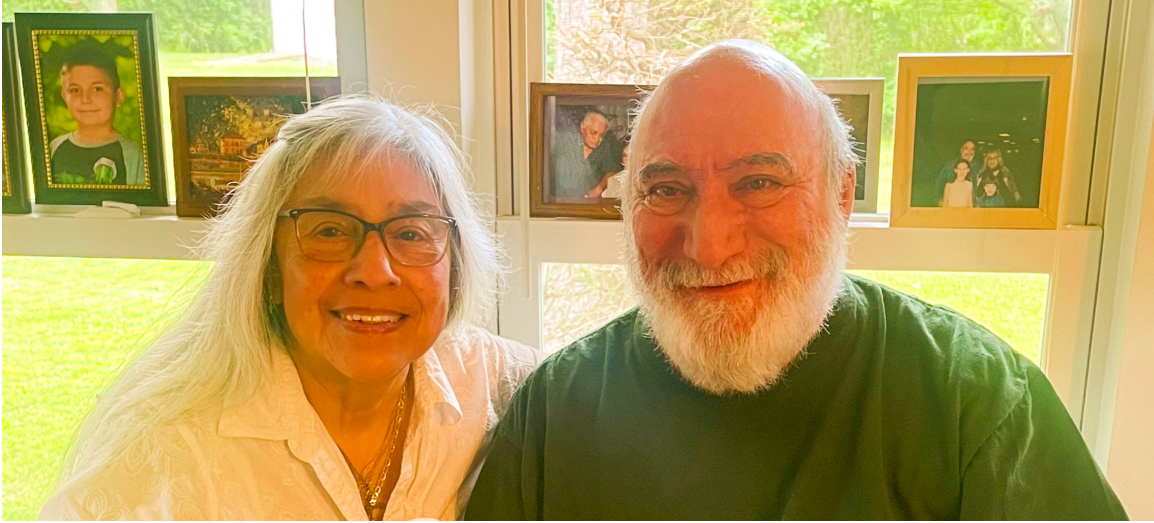
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Bill & Frances Furioso
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Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, discipled many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

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