

“THE GREAT COMMISSION” THE EVERLASTING COVENANT OF GOD WITH MAN

Validation of the words spoken by Jesus The Christ after his Resurrection are found in many places in the Holy Bible in the context of both prophecy and fulfillment.

As these scriptures are believed by tens of millions of people around the globe and have been such a force in history and a source of a personal relationship with God for millennia, I believe the Scriptures extolling the final Declaration of Lord Jesus the Christ, needs to be examined.

We begin our study with prophecies on the “Great Commission” The core truth of the “Commission” is not to worry or fear but, rather, rely upon God in all things. God will never leave you but will always be there till the end of time. This theme is repeated and re-emphasized in scriptures through the ages.

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, there are seemingly two separate accounts of creation. In the first, **Genesis 1:1-25: (paraphrased)** God creates the light and darkness, the heavens and the earth, the waters and the land and all living things. Then God creates man and makes a covenant with him concerning his life on Earth and his relationship to God. **Genesis 1:26-31:NIV ,** *” Then God said, ”Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let him rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created “man” in his own image. In the image of God he created him: male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ” Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every living creature that moves on the ground. Then God said, ” I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit and seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it-I give you every green plant for food. And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”*

Here is the core covenant of creation. “Man” (the species or spirit of man) is created in the image of God. “Male and female” he created them. Humanity is to fill the earth and subdue it. Mankind is given knowledge of food plants and animals. Lastly; God saw what he had made and it was very good.

Note: There is no hint of the dark “sinning” scenario of Adam as found in Genesis 2. It is a very different story. Humanity ,along with Adam, was not condemned by God as people who by decree must inherit sin but were, far more mercifully as befits a bountiful creator, ”Made in the image of God. Women were not made as an afterthought to give a man

companionship nor is Adam the first human to literally walk the earth. There is strong evidence in the Apocrypha (Lost Books Of Eden) and Quran that Adam received revelation from God. [>see Adam](#)” [“Sinner or Savior”](#).

The Covenant God made with Noah as described in **Genesis 9: 8-16 NIV** is possibly the first detailed covenant in the Bible where God assures his people he will never leave them alone. , *”Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ” I now establish my covenant with you and with all your descendents after you and with every living creature that was with you...every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth, ... (15) I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”*

God is on the side of mankind. God has forgiven all the descendents of Noah for all time and will never abandon us. The “rainbow appearing in the clouds” might be an allegory for the appearance of a Divinely Appointed Messenger appearing in the “clouds” of dogma and vain imaginings.

Later, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham. **Genesis 17:1-7 NIV**, *”When Abram was ninety-nine years old, The Lord appeared to him and said, ” I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers. Abram fell facedown, and God said, ” As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendents after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of the descendents after you.”*

Not only is God confirming the same covenant made with Noah but commands Abram to be blameless or “sinless” Is Abraham an ancient “Jesus?”

Here are some verses from Exodus

Exodus 2:14-15 NIV, *”God said to Moses, ” I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” God also said to Moses, ”Say to the Israelites, The Lord, the God of your fathers-the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob-has sent me to you. This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.”*

It is shown here God reveals He is beyond any single name or attribute thus, The name of God can never be given as Jesus, The ageless covenant is redescribed and renewed.

Exodus 4:15-17 NIV Aaron is to speak for Moses to the Pharaoh. *“You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth. I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He (Aaron) will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”*

Exodus 7:1-2 NIV, *"Then the Lord said to Moses," See, I have made you like God to pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites to go out of his country. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart...and he will not listen to you."*

The above verses hint at the relationship between God and Moses. God will command Moses what to say. Moses then will have the authority of God for he is speaking the Words of God. Another observation: God sends Moses to release the Israelites from bondage but, for reason of his own, chooses to teach the Pharaoh the hard lesson of "submission to the Will of God". This also tests the faith and worthiness of the Israelites.

Moses then proclaims the ancient covenant made with Noah. **Deuteronomy 31: 7-8 NIV**, *"Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him, in the presence of all Israel," Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

It seems Moses is given great power and authority that many Christians fail to give God or Moses credit for. He is not a mere prophet, as was Aaron, but has been selected to receive divine instruction directly from God. Was Moses actually an ancient "Jesus"?

A reminder of the everlasting great Covenant of God with mankind is eloquently proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. His is a longer quote but it is worth reading to get the full picture. In **Isaiah 54: 5-10 NIV**, *"The Lord Almighty is his name- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. " For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the Lord your Redeemer. "To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you."*

Most agree Isaiah is receiving God-given inspiration. Clearly God is revealing His Covenant to Isaiah. This is the same eternal covenant given to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.

Note: The "The Lord God Almighty is "God"(note the edit mark -)The Holy One of Israel" may well be Jesus who is prophesied correctly to be called the "God of all the earth." (Jesus may be called God by the churches but that does not mean he IS God. [>see "Jesus: Deity or Deliverer."](#) The verse, " To me this is like the days of Noah," describes an ancient past as if it were a recent memory of infinite Mind, yet, many would ascribe the whole passage to Jesus but, once again, God is making known His long-term relationship with us all. God will bring us back. He was sworn not be angry with us. We must rely on God in all things. He has a destiny in mind. His love for us is unfailing.

Now let us turn to the New Testament and look directly at the words of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, the “good news” of Christendom. The texts we are looking for are after Jesus’ death, transformation and resurrection. Before this time it is most evident Jesus’ mission was not to proclaim himself as God but rather, teach by word, deed and example complete submission to the will of God. See [>Jesus and God](#).

Matthew 28:16-20 NIV, *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.””*

God grants Jesus authority over all things yet the ancient covenant of Noah, Abraham and Moses remains the same. This verse in Matthew is the only one where Jesus is apparently given the same authority as God. As shown elsewhere in this study God is the one in charge, Jesus, along with the messengers of the past, clearly submit their will to the Almighty. What did Matthew mean? Is this his personal theology incorporated into the scripture or is there a deeper meaning to all of this? Is translation an issue?

(Mark 16:9-13) paraphrased: After Jesus’ resurrection he appears to Mary Magdalene. She tells the mourning disciples he has risen but they do not believe her. **Mark 16:14-20 NIV**, *“Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons, they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well.” After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.””*

Note: Being seated at the right hand of God denotes a position of authority second only to God himself. (NIV Bible study notes)

Psalms 110 NIV written by David long before the time of Jesus says, *“The Lord says to my Lord, Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*

It seems to me “sitting at the right hand of God is a station reserved for those for whom God chooses to bestow this honor. [See>Jesus and God](#)

A good point to start in Luke is after the disciples recognize and believe in the presence of the risen Jesus. **Luke 24:44-46 NIV**, *“He (Jesus) said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these*

things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Again God, the Father in heaven, keeps his covenant made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and now Jesus. God is the main player in this drama. Jesus is God’s obedient servant.

John’s account is joined after the point where Mary Magdalene recognizes her risen Lord. **John 20:17-23 NIV,** *”Jesus said, ” Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ’ I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ” Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, ” Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, ” Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven: If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. ”*

Jesus once again, as in Matthew, seems to be given personal authority to grant salvation or deny it yet, the Gospels of Mark and Luke would seem to disagree on this point. Also, Jesus goes through a locked door and shows the disciples his hands and side. Is the image of Jesus’ body being used to illustrate the Holy Spirit giving understanding? If the body was corporal, how could Jesus walk through a locked door? Jesus makes clear the relationship between himself and God when he says, ” As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. Again, He says, ” I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” God is center stage and is commanding Jesus to send forth the disciples.

To find out more about Christianity and what other references outside the Bible have to say in Jesus and his relationship to God: go to [>Christianity.pdf](#) or the main site listing of [“faiths and issues”](#).

Indeed, God is larger...infinitely greater than any one faith or creed. Mystery abounds in the Word of the Lord. Open your heart and search.

