

The people of God

Part 2

Hosea 2:18

In the Everlasting Covenant of Grace, God chose and gave a people to Christ and conditioned all their salvation on him. As their Surety and Representative, he accomplished everything necessary to their salvation and final glory in heaven. In forever past God chose them; he has loved them with an everlasting love. Forever being ðin Christö they were always ðblessed with *all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.*” I.e., “*Holy, unblameable and unrepreevable in his sight.*”(Colossians)

The elect fell in Adam and though guilty, defiled and deserving of condemnation and wrath, they did not fall from their standing ðin Christ.ö Though their state of innocence changed, their standing of justification before God remained unchanged. On Christ, the Eternal and everlasting Surety of his people, God had already laid the iniquity of all for whom he represented. As their Surety and Representative, God charged Christ with the sin of which they were guilty and he, as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world would, by the cross ðbare their sins in his own body on the tree.ö He would die, the just for the unjust. His death was necessary to establish the one righteousness which would vindicate, (declare just) God for seeing and declaring the Elect, in Christ, always holy, righteous and just in God’s sight. (Genesis 7:1, Romans 4).

Appointed to this covenant office from eternity, Christ came in time to do his cross work by which he ðetrothed his bride to himself forever. In Christ, though ignorant of it, his Elect must be included by way of revelation, regeneration, reformation and faith. What we don’t know is ours already by election and divine grace must be communicated to us in the gospel of how a holy God can justify an ungodly sinner and remain just. When the Holy Spirit quickens us we are made to see that God loves us. We are also given an interest in what Christ has done for us as evidence of that love. This the Holy Spirit does under the preaching of the true gospel. Herein (1 Corinthians 2:10) “*God reveals them unto us by his Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, ye the deep things of God.*” It is then and only then that sinners engage in covenant with the covenant God who has always been engaged for us. This revelation and engagement comes in conjunction with God ðstrippingö us of our idolatry (Hosea 2:2-3)

In our last message from Hosea 2: 14-17, we saw how **The People of God:**

Are exercised by the chastening of the Lord. “*He chastens every son.*”

Are extended the comforts of the Lord. “*I will speak comfortably to her.*”

Today we’ll continue with this thought and the logical outcome of His chastening and comforts. Here we’ll see:

The People of God engage in covenant with the Lord. Hosea 2: 18.

As I mentioned earlier, the Everlasting Covenant of Grace between the Triune God Head included the eternal security of God's people. As we are in Christ that covenant was made with us. David said in **2 Samuel 23:5**, "*Although my house be not so with God; yet has he made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he makes it not to grow.*" David, already engaged **by** God in the Everlasting Covenant of grace would be engaged **with** God in yet another.

Hosea 2:18. "*And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.*" God will engage his elect, who will engage with him.

1. "In that day." In what day? In the day God makes a sinner willing to bow to the terms of the Everlasting Covenant of Grace. This is accomplished by God in time, in each successive generation when He calls individuals by his gospel to faith and repentance. This is followed with his exercise in chastening every son he saves. This chastening includes removing the cloud of darkness over our minds (***Men love darkness***) and hearts that hides God's redemptive glory from us. It enables us to see our idolatry disguised in our going about to establish a righteousness of our own and rejecting His righteousness imputed. The day of His power is a blessed day in the life of the elect. It is the experience of that day when God enables his sheep to see another day when Christ hung on a cross to "*put away the sins of his people*" as the sinners hedge against yet another day identified in **Acts 17:31**. "*The Lord has appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead.*" These two days: (1) the day of his power in regeneration and conversion, and (2) the Day of Judgment by righteousness are inevitable. The first, by some: the last by all. Experiencing the first enables some to stand in the last.

I pray we can say as did David, "*The Lord has made with me an everlasting covenant?*" **How can I know?**

Look back with me to **2 Samuel 23:5**. Is it the covenant He made, or did I ratify it? Is his covenant with me personally, or just a blanket amnesty? Is it an everlasting covenant or a crisis reaction from God? Have I bowed to the terms of God's covenant? Is this covenant "*all my salvation*" or must I add my part? Is mine the salvation which is "*ordered in all things and sure?*" Or, is there a chance I might be denied or miss something? Is "*all my desire,*" as that of **Philippians 3:9**, "*to be found in him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith?*" Can I say, in spite of "*my house*" in disarray with doubts and fears and self righteous legalism, He has made with me an everlasting covenant? Is my hope in him alone whose blood ratified this covenant without my help? Is he "**the Lord my righteousness?**" If so, I am a covenant son.

V-18 ***In that day***” I will make a covenant for ***them***” (spiritual Israel) In V-18 God reveals the particulars of this covenant.

“I have covenanted with Israel to:

Break the battle in Israel. Hosea 2:18.

In this verse Hosea speaks of Israel in battle. In picture and type this battle is spiritual. It is a battle fought by ungodly sinners who know not the God against whom they fight. In types and pictures Hosea shows God’s elect to be engaged with bows and swords in battle against the Sovereign, Omnipotent God who has always loved them. These weapons are no match for those engaged against God’s enemy. All opposed to God will meet with the warfare described in **2 Corinthians 10:5**, *“the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* The design of every verse of scripture is to bring into captivity every thought of it to the obedience of Christ. This prophecy (**Hosea 2:18**) speaks expressly of Christ’s work to break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth.

Notice: It is called a battle, not a war. A war is fought and won or lost by a series of battles. An army may lose some battles and still win the war. If it loses the war the battle is over. There is an old and true saying: *“Better lost the battle than to fight another day.”* It’s better to lose a battle and live to fight again. This is the life of God’s people. We battle daily, **because** Christ ended the warfare at Calvary and broke the battle in his elect “In that day.” *Joshua (The Type) fought the battle of Jericho*, but it took many more battles to possess Canaan and end the warfare. **Isaiah 40:1** *“Tell Jerusalem (Elect) her warfare is accomplished.”*

The “obedience” of which Paul speaks in **2 Corinthians 10:5** is Christ’s accomplished work in winning the war by satisfying law and justice and establishing a righteousness which God freely imputes to his people. The war ended at Calvary for the elect but the battle has just begun.

God’s elect see the warfare ended when God engages them in covenant with him. It is here our bows and swords are broken.

The obvious question is what are the bows and swords with which we fight against God? Since God is Spirit and no man has seen God they can’t be literal bows and swords. The answer; since the weapons of the regenerate are not carnal, ours by nature must be carnal. **Read again 2Corinthians 10:5.** Here are identified these weapons.

“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” The first weapon is:

(1) The mind: *“casting down imaginations.” A darkened mind is a dangerous master. Not one thought, let alone every thought is brought captive to the obedience of Christ”* by the natural mind. Romans 8:7; *“The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can be.”*

(2) The affections: The affections are a product of the mind. Romans 7:24, *“The law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold unto sin.”* My very nature is carnal.

(3) The will: is in bondage to the mind and affections. It acts out what the affections desire and the mind values. Romans 7:24; *“I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me.”* Romans 7:19 *For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.* What a mess. Jeremiah 17:9 sums up our state by nature. *“The heart (mind, affections and will) is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it.”*

“As a man thinketh, in his heart so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7)

The will of man is enslaved to the affections of his heart. The affections of his heart are the product of a darkened mind. A darkened mind is the evidence of our oneness with Adam by nature. Our oneness with Adam by nature puts us at enmity with God. We thought God was like us, but God says, *“my thoughts are not your thoughts,” neither are my ways, your ways.*” The evidence:

Who would go to war with God but those with a deceitful heart who have not counted the cost?
Who with bows and swords would engage Sovereign God?

Luke 14:31 *“ Or what king, (all of us by nature, being ignorant of our foe) going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? “Or else, while the other is a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage and desireth **conditions** for peace.”* Then are the bows and swords broken. What will render our weapons useless? What will turn our hearts from engaging God in warfare? What will end our reason to *“go about, seeking to establish a righteousness of our own? What will cause us to “lie down safely?”*

Is it not the revelation of an accomplished work by the Lord Jesus Christ, who made an end of sin by his obedience, suffering and death on the cross to satisfy law and justice against those he represented? Is it not to see a holy and righteous God satisfied with the work of the God-man to establish the one righteousness which God freely imputed to all whose bow he breaks? Is it not to, “*all ye that labor and are heavy laden*” Is it not to see that only in Christ is there safety? It is in this day, the day of God’s power that sinners engage in covenant with God. They see the warfare ended by Christ, who “*made an end to sin*, for spiritual Israel. When we hear with the ear of faith, “*tell Jerusalem her warfare is accomplished*,” then do we lay down those carnal weapons, broken and useless and put on the whole armor of God, those weapons mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds over our minds, affections and wills.

Has God broken the battle in your life? Has he “*brought into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*?” He is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. How to know if the battle is broken with me? 3 ways.

It is in this day **V-18**, for those whose covenant is ordered in all things and sure, “*God will make a covenant for them (spiritual Israel) with the beasts of the fields, the fowls of the air and the creeping things of the ground.*”

There are three components to this covenant. “*In that day*,” God will:

Drive out our idols.

Draw out our affections.

3, Deliver us from evil.

Drive out our idols

To this lost religious world, these are fighting words. Who, they ask, would be so foolish as to worship an idol? Only the ignorant would bow down and worship a creature. Did you know that ignorance of, or non submission to the righteousness of Christ imputed for all salvation is idolatry? **Romans 10:1-4** we either worship a creature or the Creator. Failure to acknowledge this truth is evidence we still are in idolatry. In fact, idolatry continually plagues even the just. God warns us in **1John 5:21** “*Little children, keep yourself from idols.*” We are so prone to wander. The day of God’s power marks the beginning of the end of idol worship for his elect but God must daily drive out our idols. **Read Romans 1:18-23.** 18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth (Ignorance of truth) in unrighteousness; 19 ¶ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew*

God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools; ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.” This is God’s charge against all by nature.

Man, by nature takes what his Creator has created for his glory and given to man for his pleasure and use (the created world, including the animal kingdom) and fashions in his mind from that creation a god with which he is comfortable which dishonors God. **Romans 1:25** describes us as those who “*changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever amen*” This is the state and practice of even God’s elect before “the day of his power.”

And even after, idolatry continues to plague us. God’s covenant with spiritual Israel: I will daily drive out their idols until: **Ephesians 4:13**, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*”

In the day of his power, God covenants with spiritual Israel to drive out their idols. I believe the bow is broken when the sinner, by a radical change of mind, is convinced of idolatry. All by nature are idolaters. Man by nature will not accept a sovereign God’s rule over them but will instead bow down to an idol made like unto some creation of this God. Ancient Israel molded a golden calf for their god. The nation India even today reveres their cattle. Their people die of hunger while the cattle live. Idolatry is just as prevalent today as it was in Palestine.

Whatever replaces Christ and his work of accomplishment in our salvation becomes to us a god; fashioned so by a darkened mind by those who know not God. Ignorance truly is the mother of idolatry.

Read John 16: 8-11. “*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they believe not on me;*

10 of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

The Holy Spirit reveals first our idolatry. If we believe NOT on Christ, our god is an idol. The mind (our weapon) is **broken by the light of truth**. It is by truth God drives out idolatry from his people. The more we see of Christ’s work for us the less the beasts of the field, fowl of

heavens and creeping things of the earth will allure us. We ðlook unto Jesus.ö Not only does he drive out our idols, God will:

Draw out our affections.

In the day of Gods power, the affections of his people will be turned from creature worship to Creator worship evidence by repentance and true faith. In that day God will make a covenant for spiritual Israel to turn their affections from the shedding of rivers of animal blood, “*Which could never take away sins*” to “*a better sacrifice*, typified in this blood as Christ, who by *one offering hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*” Gods people will see that Old Covenant abolished by way of fulfillment in the death, burial and resurrection of the one sacrifice for sin, the Lord Jesus Christ. They will see all the types fulfilled by the Anti-type whose blood is that of the ðeverlasting Covenant.ö (Hebrews 13:20-21)

In the day of Gods power spiritual Israel has a new affection; their Creator, not the creature. In **Romans 3:10-15**, Paul describe us all before that day. *10 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: 11 there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood.”* Lost religionists love to shed blood. They love to give something to God. It obligates God to them. **This shedding of animal blood is our insistence on offering to our Creator something he has created to make us accepted before him.** It is a rejection of what he alone can give; his blood and righteousness as the whole of salvation. The enlightened mind is shown Christ to be the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believeth. They rest totally in the one sacrifice Christ made for sin. Why? Because “*by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*” Hebrews 10:14. **Therefore**, Psalm 51:17, “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: (not a bloody sacrifice,) a broken and contrite heart O God, thou wilt not despise.*”

Has the blood of Christ, which put away the sins of his people, cleansed your heart? If so he will make you to lie down in safety. He will draw out your affections to THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. God drives out our idols, he draws out our affections and he will:

3. Deliver us from the evil.

Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:13 to pray; “*lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*” There is much evil in the world today. Wars, crime, discrimination, loose morals and many more for which we need deliverance.

I believe the intent here is toward a specific sin; that of thinking and acting upon the presumption that our abstinence from or adherence to the law could recommend us to God.

In the day of his power God will make a covenant for spiritual Israel to walk the walk and talk the talk. If the mind is enlightened to truth and the affections are planted in grace, the will, motivated by grace and gratitude will walk by faith and not sight.

In the day of his power spiritual Israel will experience the grace of God in their life. They will be made to see all their salvation conditioned on Christ and fully accomplished by him alone. They will experience to their account the imputation of his righteousness as that alone which enables God to justly accept them in the beloved. Forever removed is any room for boasting on their part for any part of salvation. And yet, as was with the disciples, sometimes we are prone to think our actions or abstinences recommend us to God.

Again God uses the animal kingdom to break the sword of self-righteousness.

In **Acts 10** God gives illustration to this truth with Peter's meeting with Cornelius.

In Lydia Peter raised from the dead one named Tabitha. Afterwards he tarried many days at Joppa with Simon the tanner. A Roman centurion named Cornelius a devout man had a vision and sent for Peter to interpret it for him. While in Joppa, Peter has a vision. Pick up the story in **Acts 10:9- 16**. 9 ¶ *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:*

10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12 Wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

Under the Mosaic Economy some animals were designated unclean by God and forbidden as meat or offerings by Israel. Immediately sinners by nature take obedience to this commandment from God to merit his favor. They engage in taste no, touch not, handle not for fear of punishment or promise of rewards from God.

They miss the purpose of the law, to stop the mouth and point them to Christ.

The lesson to Peter and all spiritual Israel is stated in **Matthew 15:11, 16-20**. "*Are you yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth*

into the belly, and is cast out into the draught. "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, blasphemies: V-20. "These are the things which defileth a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."

The lost religionist always equates salvation with his obedience to the law. This enables him to look on the outward appearance and not on the heart. We, who know God, know he looks on the heart. And what does he see, a heart deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. It is this sin, this evil for which we must be delivered daily. And it is this need God has covenanted to deliver us from in the day of his power, which I believe begins at regeneration and conversion and continues to our death. Peter's refusal; to eat what God had cleansed is akin to rejection of Christ's righteousness imputed. Deliver us from this evil.

In the Everlasting Covenant of grace God the Father put us in Christ. In the day of his power he makes a covenant for us with the beasts of the field, the fowls of heaven and the creeping things of the earth. **Notice the covenant is for us** but it includes the animal kingdom.

God gave man dominion over all his creation. The animal kingdom was given him for food, for service, for pleasure and for sacrifice and the fear of man was put in him. What God created for man's good was soon employed by man for his detriment. **(1)** First he fashioned an idol from God's creation. **(2)** Then, although God ordained and commanded the sacrificial system to show the sinfulness of and answer to sin, man failed to see it. Their delight was to sacrifice the blood of bulls and goats. They failed to see through the types and pictures him who would make the one sacrifice for sin. They missed Christ. **1 Samuel 15:22** *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.* **(3)** Then they made their adherence to and abstinence from certain laws they themselves made to be their righteousness before God. In the day of his power, EVERY justified sinner is made to abandon creature worship, his mouth is stopped (justifying himself,) and he is brought in guilty. But his guilt gives way to gratitude when he *"beholds the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."* We see the Anti-type of all the types, not a beast or fowl but a Lamb slain from eternity whose shed blood and righteousness imputed *"takes away our sin."* Our mantra now is; **Romans 14:17** *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; (doing) but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."*

Spiritual Israel's security is in Christ and not some bloody animal sacrifice.

God covenanted on behalf of his elect that in the day of his power he would "Break the Battle." This he does when he drives out our idols, draws out our affections and delivers us from the evil of self righteousness legalism.

Has God engaged you with him in this covenant? Has he broken the battle in your life? Have you sent an ambassador to him who comes against you and your bows and swords with ōmighty weapons of warfare seeking his terms of peace? Has he made you accept his terms and lie down safely in Christ, pleading only his righteousness imputed? Has he broken your bow of legalism and your sword of self righteousness? If he has this prophecy is fulfilled in you.

Lord, drive out our idols, draw out our affections and deliver us from evil.

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