

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Covenant to a Thousand Generations

Deu. 7:9 "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"

1 Chr. 16:15 "Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;"

Psa. 105:8 "He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."

The covenant referred to in the above scriptures is one that God has said that he will keep to a thousand generations. Ps. 105:8 equates those thousand generations to his covenant he would remember for ever. This makes the covenant an eternal covenant and the use of the term "thousand generations" does not mean a literal thousand generations, but it means a large indeterminate time that equates to for ever.

The covenant under consideration cannot be the covenant of the law that he made with Israel on Mt. Sinai. This covenant, according to Heb. 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." This covenant lasted until the new covenant of worship was established.

Further, this covenant cannot be the covenant of the law of sin and death made with Adam and ultimately all of mankind. This covenant only last until the time of the end of the world, or until the time of the new birth: Rom. 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

In addition, there were covenants that God made with Abraham, with David, and with the children of Israel that had limited time ranges. These are not the covenant that God made that last a thousand generations.

The covenant that last a thousand generations is one that God made before the foundation of the world and will last beyond this timely world. This covenant is spelled out for us in Rom. 8:29, 30: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did

predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Thus, the covenant that last for a thousand years is an eternal covenant – one that God made before the foundation of the world and last for ever as the glory world has no end.