

THE BRIDE'S
ROBE MADE
WITH
INTEGRITY,
COMPASSION
AND MERCY

SUKKOT 2016

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

- Roly, Amanda's husband for more than thirty-five years.
- Pastor Edward and Dalene Gibbens
Vanderbijlpark
South Africa

*There is no copyright on this material. However, no part may be reproduced and/or presented for **personal** gain. All rights to this material are reserved to further the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ **ONLY**.*

For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

P.O. Box 15253
Panorama
7506
Cape Town
South Africa

27 John Vorster Avenue
Platteklouf Ext. 1
Panorama 7500
Cape Town
South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 21 930 7577
Fax: 086 681 9458
E-mail: kanaan@iafrica.com
Website: www.kanaanministries.org

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

Kanaan International Website

Website: www.eu.kanaanministries.org

It's time for one of the annual cycle of Feasts.

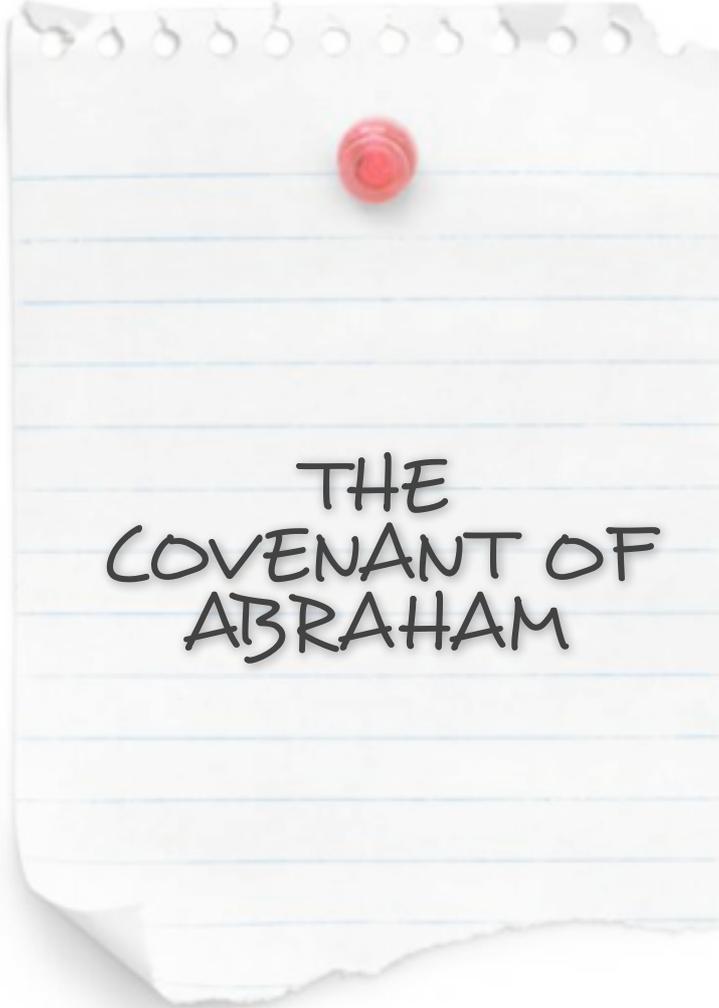
God destines that man will, in his *worship*, revolve around the Tabernacle during the course of the year being constantly reminded of the basic building blocks of our relationship with Him.

The Pesach/Passover allows us to think about our *deliverance* and to annually make sure that we are living as truly "free men".

The Shavout / Pentecost allows us to consider whether our diligence to study His Word and listen to the Holy Spirit are still at that level when we can safely say that we hear the Small Still Voice of God

This final set of Feasts, Sukkot / Tabernacles reminds us that we are the *Bride*. It is now time to consider whether our wedding robe is pure / unwrinkled and shining. The Feast of Trumpets heralds in this time of INTIMACY.

The trumpet is made of pure silver: *is your life reflecting the purity of an expectant Bride?*



THE
COVENANT OF
ABRAHAM

THE COVENANT OF ABRAHAM

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” --**Edmund Burke**

*The Body of Messiah (The Church) has a purpose and role to fulfill, in order to make a statement, cause change and be a light to the world. If you knew what role the Body of Messiah has to play in the world, **would you tolerate anti-Semitic deeds and words?***

Amos 5:24 *But let justice run down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream [flowing abundantly].*

A prophecy, do we see this happening before our eyes?

Zechariah 14:1-3 *Look, a day is coming for Adonai when your plunder, [Yerushalayim], will be divided right there within you. 2 For I will gather all the nations against Yerushalayim for war. The city will be taken, the houses will be rifled, the women will be raped, and half the city will go into exile; but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. 3 Then Adonai will go out and fight against those nations, fighting as on a day of battle.*

We have no more time for the lukewarm body of believers today!!

Isaiah 62:1-2 *For Tziyon's sake I will not be silent, for Yerushalayim's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out brightly and her salvation like a blazing torch. 2 The nations will see your vindication and all kings your glory. Then you will be called by a new name which Adonai himself will pronounce.*

In Jerusalem, recently leaders from every nation gathered to pay their respects to one of Israel's most notable leaders who had passed away. Is it not strange that while people use all sort of hate language against this nation and land, that their leaders would choose to come to pay respects to a Jew at this time!!!

Why am I raising these points? I suggest that the signs of the times are highlighting a question... Are you sure that you are a Son / Daughter of Abraham?

Some background

God created the world; He separated a *small piece of land*, which He called, *the Garden of Eden*. Mankind **lived in harmony** with God, with the animals, and with each other...but when man was **expelled out into the wide world**, all of that SHALOM and Holiness evaporated into the thoughts and desires that we *experience and that drive us today*: envy, greed, ambition, and so on.

Abraham

This man became the turning point in God's relationship with mankind. Abraham is thought to be a man who walked in an honest attempt to serve God.

- He lived within the confines of the world (as it was at that point in time).
- He had set himself apart, not by distancing himself, nor by wearing different clothes, nor having any walls or barriers, but by a lifestyle that was wholly different to that of the people of the region.
- He defended the prisoners (Lot and company). He spoke on behalf of Sodom.
- He showed exceptional hospitality to all who passed by.
- He indeed made mistakes, but always returned to God.

At a certain point in time when this relationship with God had matured, God cut a Covenant with him, and had set the wheels in motion to make good on the **promises**.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now [in Haran] the Lord had said to Abram, “Go away from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 **And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you [abundantly], And make your name great (exalted, distinguished); And you shall be a blessing [a source of great good to others];** 3 **And I will bless (do good for, benefit) those who bless you, And I will curse [that is, subject to My wrath and judgment] the one who curses (despises, dishonors, has contempt for) you. And in you all the families (nations) of the earth will be blessed.**

In-between then and now

In a nutshell, let’s start off with the Israelites having left Egypt. They then arrived at Mount Sinai, and after a lengthy period of time, they entered and took the land (*not quite, as they had left some enemies behind). After centuries, Y’shua (Jesus) was born, He had raised twelve disciples, restored the spiritual meaning of the Word of God, and then today we read of Paul and John’s teaching that we are a Tabernacle made of Living Stones, making us the true sons of Abraham.

John 8:31-36 31 So Jesus was saying to the Jews who had believed Him, **“If you abide in My word [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples.** 32 **And you will know the truth [regarding salvation], and the truth will set you free [from the penalty of sin].”** 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone. What do You mean by saying, ‘You will be set free?’” 34 Jesus answered, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin habitually is a slave of sin. 35 Now the slave does not remain in a household forever; the son [of the master] does remain forever. 36 **So if the Son makes you free, then you are unquestionably free.**



Sons of God/Abraham inherit the obligations and the benefits of the Covenant.

Genesis 17:3-9 3 Then Abram fell on his face [in worship], and God spoke with him, saying, 4 “As for Me, behold, **My covenant is with you, And [as a result] you shall be the father of many nations.** 5 No longer shall your name be Abram (exalted father), But your name shall be Abraham (father of a multitude) For I will make you the father of many nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 **I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.** 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger [moving from place to place], all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession [of property]; and I will be their God.” 9 Further, God said to Abraham, “As for you [your part of the agreement], you shall keep and faithfully obey [the terms of] My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.”

COVENANT IS WHERE THE TABERNACLE OF LIVING STONES ARE!!!

The Covenant is a promise, and **unconditional**, made by God. He is **faithful** to keep His side of the deal. The only condition is that we must be **obedient to the Commandments** that go with it.

Genesis 17:9 9 Further, God said to Abraham, “As for you [your part of the agreement], you shall keep and faithfully obey [the terms of] My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.”

The Covenant therefore forms a sort of WALL all around us. Quite like the walls around the “Old City” of Jerusalem.

There are legitimate openings, or doors to this city, **and for a good reason!** We are part of humanity, we will therefore go out and trade / mingle with the world. “Strangers” on the other hand can also enter the city.

We should be living in such a way, i.e. practicing brotherly love, ethical business practices, wholesome marriages, healthy family relationships and so on, that the world would want to enter in to learn / see / experience more of this community lifestyle that closely reflect the attributes of God.

When the stranger enters...

- 🕒 He **does not** have to bring *his* pagan ways or his idols with him.
- 🕒 He **does not** have to celebrate *his* feasts.
- 🕒 He **does not** have to introduce *his* cultural ways as a norm of society.

WE DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT THESE STANDARDS INSIDE OF OUR COVENANT WALLS

Instead **the stranger must:**

- 🕒 Rest on our Shabbat.
- 🕒 Celebrate our Feasts.

Exodus 12:48-49 48 If a stranger living temporarily among you wishes to celebrate the Passover to the Lord, all his males must be circumcised, and then he may participate and celebrate it like one that is born in the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat it. 49 The same law shall apply to the native-born and to the stranger who lives temporarily among you.

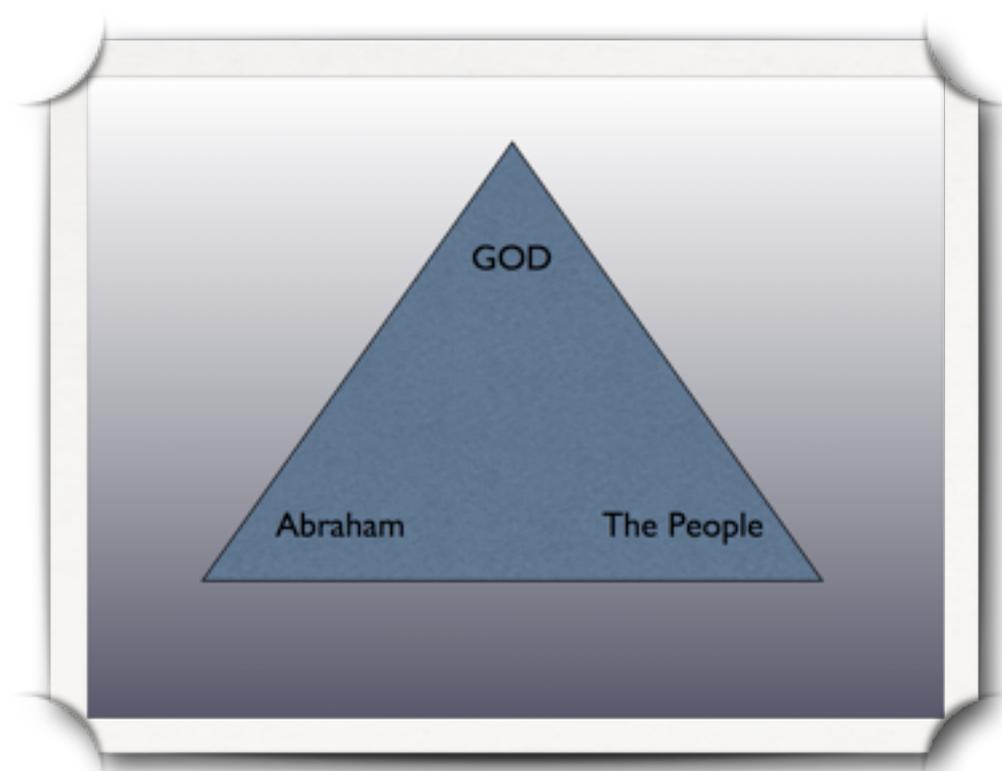
We are expected to **guard** these walls and these gates.

However, the enemy will not always come in *through the gates*... They will attempt to fly over (drones, spy planes, and so forth) or tunnel under the walls, or may attempt to disguise their intentions. *Watch carefully how the warfare today follows this pattern.*

NOW LET'S THINK ABOUT THE CALLING TO BE A BLESSING

"And all of the families of the earth will be blessed through you..."

The first two blessing are part of a triangle.



But this third one is different... Somehow Abraham will be a blessing to **all** nations. And you and I, as sons and daughters of the Covenant, are **now also carrying that calling**. Please note this blessing and calling to bless is passed down to the descendants.

Genesis 28:14-15 14 *Your descendants shall be as [countless as] the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and all the families (nations) of the earth shall be blessed **through you and your descendants**.* 15 *Behold, I am with you and will keep [careful watch over you and guard] you wherever you may go, and I will bring you back to this [promised] land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

A) Because Abraham as well as you and I, **LIVE IN OBEDIENCE** and apply God's Word in Spirit and Truth, others are blessed. What this thought expresses is the promise that God will **justify all people by faith**, just as He did for Abraham.

Galatians 3:7-9 7 So understand that it is **the people who live by faith** [with confidence in the power and goodness of God] **who are [the true] sons of Abraham.** 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, proclaimed the good news [of the Savior] to Abraham in advance [with this promise], saying, **“In you shall all the nations be blessed.”** 9 So then those who are people of faith [whether Jew or Gentile] are blessed and favored by God [and declared free of the guilt of sin and its penalty, and **placed in right standing with Him] along with Abraham, the believer.**

In simple terms – we will be blessed, rain in due season, health, and so on. Anyone who notices this, and automatically seeks to join into the Covenantal family will also be blessed!!

B) When we role model a lifestyle that reflects His attributes, as well as living in obedience to His Commandments, people will try to emulate this behaviour. Simply put, when we **do the deeds of Abraham** we *set an example in place*, which **sets us apart** from the rest of the community. We speak words of encouragement, praise, honest critique, when we say “this is my son in whom I am well pleased”, when we touch - as in the example of Isaac when he says: “Come near and kiss me, my son.” We show commitment when we help those in need.

C) We teach and do. By our actions we show people what it means to be a blessing to their community.

- Take for example the city of Sodom, how Abraham interceded for them.
- Another example is the capturing of Lot, and how Abraham came to their rescue and then released all of the people with their assets.
- Take the meeting with Melchizedek: an immediate recognition of the king of Salem’s position and the giving of the tithe.

These examples **reveal our ministry calling!**

As Paul has stated:

Ephesians 2:5-6,13-18 5 ... even when we were [spiritually] dead and separated from Him because of our sins, He made us [spiritually] alive together with Christ (for by His grace—His undeserved favor and mercy—you have been saved from God’s judgment). **6 And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places,** [because we are] in Christ Jesus, But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 13 But now [at this very moment] in Christ Jesus you who once were [so very] far away [from God] have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace and our bond of unity. **He who made both groups—[Jews and Gentiles]—into one body and broke down the barrier, the dividing wall [of spiritual antagonism between us],** 15 by abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the hostility caused by the Law with its commandments contained in ordinances [which He satisfied]; so that in Himself He might make **the two into one new man, thereby establishing peace.** 16 And [that He] might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile, united] in one body to God through the cross, thereby putting to death the hostility. 17 And He came and preached the good news of peace to you [Gentiles] who were far away, and peace to those [Jews] who were near. 18 For it is through Him that we both have a [direct] way of approach in one Spirit to the Father.

End Time Revival and the Role of the Jews

The original seed of Abraham, the Jews of today, will still, *as part of this role*, play one of the biggest roles in drawing people to God. In the passage we read that in the end-times each Jew will lead ten men to God.

Let's try to do some math:

- An estimate of 12,000,000 Jews in the world, each bringing ten souls that equals a harvest of **120,000,000!!**

Zechariah 8:23 Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'In those days **ten men** [as representatives] from all the nations will grasp the robe of a Jew, saying, "**Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.**"

D) We possess the gates of those who hate us.

The blessing that we are to share is an example that **we show to** the rest of the nations that *we take leadership in every sphere* of business, sport, and academics and so forth, so that others can see that we indeed do **possess the gates**.

Have you ever considered how many Nobel prizes have been won by this nation?

Genesis 24:60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, Become [the mother of] thousands of ten thousands, **And may your descendants possess (conquer) The [city] gate of those who hate them.**"

The world that we live in shows **terror as a norm**, lies as a **daily occurrence**, false **witness** as the **golden standard**, **biased reporting** by the TV and newspapers.

****NUGGET!**** Consider this. When you become a BLESSING to others (for example, develop a drug for some rare sickness or invent the cell phone) you also become a threat for those who are NOT blessed. This then calls for a high degree of integrity in the manner in which we handle the honour / riches / power that goes with this blessing.

OUR CALLING

If you accept *your role* as a reborn son of God, you automatically have **access to the obligations and benefits of the Covenant**. And then you must accept that you **have a calling to be a blessing to all nations!!**

How does YHVH equip you to be a blessing?

- 🕒 He becomes your *shield*. (Look at **Psalm 3:3, 91:4, 119, 114 AND 84:11**)
- 🕒 He becomes your exceedingly *great reward*. (Consider the reward of the Order of Melchizedek.)
- 🕒 He promises you a *land-potential*.

- He promises you a *legacy of descendants*.
- As soon as you fully understand this Covenant, you can **ONLY** bless others.

How then can you accept or justify any action / words / deeds that come in any form of **curse against any one single person who is a son of ABRAHAM?**

Martin Luther King, responding to someone who was outspoken against Zionism, said; if this is what you believe I must tell you that are busy with Anti-Semitism.

If we realize that we have been blessed abundantly through the work of Messiah, to become a son of Abraham / God, then we should, if we are grateful, *want to bless others*. Consider for a moment the blessing that God expects every father to “say” weekly over his family:

Numbers 6:22-27 22 *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* 23 *“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall **bless** the Israelites. Say to them:* 24 **The Lord bless you, and keep you [protect you, sustain you, and guard you];** 25 **The Lord make His face shine upon you [with favor], And be gracious to you [surrounding you with lovingkindness];** 26 **The Lord lift up His countenance (face) upon you [with divine approval], And give you peace [a tranquil heart and life].’** 27 *So Aaron and his sons shall **put My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them.**”*

If God desires that you are blessed, and includes you in this Covenant, surely your heart should always be set to *bless and not curse...*



SHALOM.

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation¹

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

¹ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבַרְכֶּךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שָׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.