

# LifeSpot ... A covenant in Christ

## Guaranteed victory

"Promises are made to be broken." It's a pathetic conclusion that often applies to us, but never applies to God. "Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." Joshua 24:14 (NIV). Hundreds of times in the Bible, God's promises are expressed as part of his covenant—his agreement, contract, commitment, and guarantee. It started when sin started. As soon as there was a problem, there was a promise. *I won't let this tragedy go on for ever. I'm declaring war against the enemy. I'll raise up a Conqueror from within humanity. He'll be wounded. But he'll completely crush the devil—and we will win!* See Genesis 3:15. Hallelujah! Praise God for his covenant promise.



## Everlasting contract



You've heard of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. But don't forget the contract behind both of them—the "everlasting covenant". Nine books of the Bible refer directly to an everlasting, or eternal, covenant. It's God's permanent guarantee of life—given at Eden; declared at Mount Sinai; renewed through Noah, Abraham and David; and made effective in the climactic death and resurrection of the Messiah. Human covenants are fragile, printed on paper and signed with ink. God's eternal covenant is signed with his own blood and printed on your life and mine. Hebrews 13:20, 21. God's covenant is our promise for life, our charter for the church, and our message for the world.

## The simple centre

*Old Covenant, New Covenant.* It can be confusing, but here's simplicity. The Old is the way God demonstrated his rescue plan in history, leading up to the death of Christ. The New is the expression of the rescue itself, when Christ came in the fullness of time. In both cases, the Cross is the centre. In old times, people saw Christ in shadows. Now, we see Christ in his brilliance. Once there were priests, a sanctuary, sacrifices. Now Christ is our Priest, our sanctuary, our sacrifice. "Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. . . . We have been made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once and for all." Hebrews 9:15; 10:10 (NIV). Can you see your privilege? As a believer, your qualification for Heaven is secured by Christ. It's God's New Covenant promise, and you can stake your life on it.



## Holy freedom

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Luke 22:20 (NIV). With these words, Christ took the precious law and promises of the ancient Scriptures and ushered them through his own person into a fresh and vital framework. The old system had been tarnished by thousands of man-made rules by which people tried to earn their right to Heaven. Christ inaugurated a new way free from condemnation, bright with holiness, and joy-filled in the presence of the Holy Spirit. "Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." Romans 6:22 (NIV). Are you finding your peace in this holy freedom today?

