



Academic Excellence

Covenant of Eternal Excellence Isaiah 60: 15; Deuteronomy 33: 26 - 27

Excellence is the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. It is synonymous with distinction, quality, high quality, superiority, brilliance, greatness, merit, caliber, eminence. It is a quality used to describe our God in many Scriptures (Deuteronomy 33:26, 2 Peter 1:17). The Spirit of God in believers is also called "**excellent Spirit**" (Daniel 5: 12). Interestingly, our covenant package with God includes excellence. "**...I will make thee an eternal excellency, ...**" (Isaiah 60: 15). As Christian students, we have this privilege manifesting in many ways. We will identify some of them and see the need for each of us to enter this covenant with God in the examination season at most of our campuses. Our covenant package with God has redemption, illumination, revelation, provision, preservation, and elevation.

1. **Redemption** (Isaiah 59: 19 – 20). Redemption from the power of sin is illustrated as redemption from the floods in the context of the covenant of eternal excellence. ***And the Redeemer shall come from Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*** That is foundational for God's covenant of eternal excellence with us.

2. **Illumination** (Isaiah 60: 1). In God's creation, He commands light against the darkness over the deep (Genesis 1: 2). In our redemption, God commands light against the darkness of our souls (2 Corinthians 4: 6). In His covenant of excellence, He commands illumination in us when He says "***Arise and shine, ... the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.***" The light that illuminates us is beyond that of our leaning, it is of God Himself.

3. **Revelation** (Isaiah 60: 4 – 5). Light reveals. The Lord commands us to "***lift up thine eyes... and see.***" This is the secret to the excellent spirit of Daniel, who could see other people's dreams and the interpretation of it. It is akin to seeing the focus of the exams and the right answers ahead of time. How we need this covenant blessing of revelation for our excellence.

4. **Provision** (Isaiah 60: 5 -10). In the covenant of eternal excellence, there are the covenant provisions for all the needs of the people entering into that covenant with Him. The promises that "***the multitude of camels shall cover thee***" (v6). ***...their silver and their gold with them...***" (v9) are connected with the abundance of provisions for every need. The Lord will meet all our needs for excellence according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4: 19) as we approach our exams with the covenant of eternal excellence.

5. **Preservation** (Isaiah 60: 11). "***Therefore, thy gates shall be open continually.***" This verse connects to our security as we enter the covenant of eternal excellence with God. When we enter into a covenant with God, we are trading our weaknesses for His strength and our insecurities for His mighty defense. In the covenant, we trade our failures for Divine excellency. Our excellence is His attribute in us.

6. **Elevation** (Isaiah 60: 12 - 15). We are elevated when God raises us from our despised state to enter a state of eternal excellency. It is only God that can promote us that way. The difference between our excellence and that of the other students that are not Christians is the "***covenant of eternal excellency.***" The excellence of other students without God is not eternal, it is temporal, it lasts only for now and it is corrupted. But the redemption that brings us into God's covenant is by the incorruptible blood of Jesus.

In conclusion, as our students approach the examination seasons, we ask that we explore the God factor that we have in our redemption covenant. While we do not encourage our students to leave their studies to face their service to God, we encourage the balance that will make us excel through God's covenant and God guided preparation for our exams. We invite all our members that are still outside the covenant of God's redemption to seek God at that foundational level. All our born-again brethren are required to hold on to God for this covenant of eternal excellency. And we shall excel to God's glory in all our campuses in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS!