

Blood Covenant

Teacher Edition

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Lesson 1: Introduction to the Blood Covenant
- Lesson 2: First and Second Adam
- Lesson 3: God's Covenant with Abraham
- Lesson 4: Abraham's Faith Tested
- Lesson 5: The Exodus and the Passover Meal
- Lesson 6: The Old Covenant
- Lesson 7: The New and Better Covenant
- Lesson 8: One with Christ
- Lesson 9: Our inheritance in Christ
- Lesson 10: The Body of Christ

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Words in blue on are in the student's edition of this study. Underlined words are blanks on the student's outline.

All scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Blood Covenant

I. God's purpose in covenant

God's purpose in a covenant is to be in [a union with us](#)

The kind of relationship God wants with you is more than you might know. Not only does He want there to be a knowing of one another; He wants a binding union together. God wants the commitment that we will be together forever. God wants to be ours. God wants us to be His. God doesn't want to be tangled up in sin, which is anything outside of a covenant relationship with Him.

"The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant." Psalm 25:14

The Hebrew word for covenant is "[beriyth,](#)"

The word means "[alliance, pledge, agreement, treaty.](#)"

A covenant is more than an agreement or contract. A covenant is a joined alliance. A covenant is made when two or more parties enter into a binding relationship to one another. A blood covenant is the strongest contract that can be made and should not be broken unless there is a death.

II. Significance of a blood covenant

The type of covenant that God makes with people is a covenant in blood. Blood covenants are not as familiar in the United States as they are in other nations or people groups, but we have heard terms such as a "blood brother." An alliance made in blood is considered the strongest covenant that can be made, Each member mingling their blood to become one, offering their very life to enter into union with the other party. American Indians, African tribes, and even some gangs have used blood to symbolically form strong alliances that are never to be broken.

The significance of blood is the [life](#) it contains.

Leviticus 17:11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement." (NASB)

The Jews were instructed to drain blood from the meat of an animal before eating it. The blood of an animal flowed through its veins, causing the animal to continue living. Deuteronomy 12:23 "Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat."

Blood Covenant

The word for mankind "*adam*" comes from a verb '*adam*', meaning to be red, flushed, as to show blood in the face. The Hebrew word for blood is *dam*, similar to '*adam*'. This further emphasizes how life is in the blood and the significance of the blood in our atonement.

We also see life in blood after it is shed. Abel was the first man to be murdered and the first man to die by bloodshed. The Bible shows us that God took notice of the blood of Abel. Because of his shed blood on the land, the land was cursed.

Genesis 4:10

The Hebrew word here for Abel's blood is plural, referring to a flow of blood. Abel died from losing too much blood. Your body cannot physically survive without blood or your heart functioning properly to pump that blood.

With today's medical technology, blood can be donated. Transfusions can save a physical life where there has been a loss of blood or in treatment for diseases. The plasma, red blood cells, and platelets can also be used to cure certain medical conditions. The World Health Organization writes, "Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — the gift of life."

Jesus shed blood, physical life. The Bible says that His blood speaks, figuratively, better things than Abel. His physical life and the blood He shed had purpose- a purpose for redemption, the forgiveness of sin, reconciliation.

Hebrews 12:24

To plead the blood is not a phrase found in Scripture; however, the phrase means, "To make an appeal or entreat earnestly" based on His blood that paid for our salvation, our wholeness in spirit, soul, and body. The debt has been paid; we no longer owe. Therefore we are no longer slaves; no longer bound. There's no more condemnation.

Revelation 12:11 says the people would overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb. The blood of Christ is what we stand on to receive from God.

When someone uses the phrase "I plead the blood" they are making a covenant appeal on the abundant life available to us based on what Jesus accomplished at the cross.

A Hebrew verb used together with covenant is karath

The word means to cut

When these two Hebrews words are put together, it literally means, "to cut covenant." This term describes the cutting necessary for blood to flow.

Daniel 9:26 says the Messiah will be cut off, or “karat.” The Messiah will be cut for covenant.

In the Gospels the Bible says that Jesus was pierced with a sword, cutting Him so that blood and water flowed from His side. This fulfilled the prophecy in Daniel 9, but also in Psalm 34:20, where it was prophesied hundreds of years before that none of the Messiah’s bones would be broken. Instead of his bones being broken, his side was pierced, this prophecy giving significance to the cutting. A crucifixion was a slow, agonizing death. The person hanging would push up to get breath and eventually tire, dying of suffocation. Jesus and the two criminals crucified alongside him had been hanging for hours. The Jews did not want a body hanging on the Sabbath or to have to touch a dead body on the Sabbath, so they requested from Pilate that the legs of the crucified men be broken. Breaking their legs would cause a greater constriction of their breathing and accelerate their death (see John 19:31-37). The soldiers broke the legs of the two men hanging next to Christ; however, because Jesus had already died, the soldier took his sword and pierced the side of our Savior so that blood and water flowed out . Jesus was cut for covenant.

Zechariah 12:10 is another Scripture than makes mention of the Messiah who was pierced. “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

Blood is symbolic of entering into a covenant based on your entire life, all that you are, all that you have, and all that you could do. The only way to end a covenant was through death.

When a person enters into a covenant of blood, they are not entering into it lightly. The blood is symbolic of the giving of life itself to join with another in an everlasting bond of relationship.

III. Our purpose for studying the blood covenant

A. It’s important to understand and explain the purpose for the blood

The Jewish faith is bloody. Animals were harmed. Studying the blood covenant gives us knowledge and insight into the human condition and God’s salvation. We also should be ready to answer someone else when they have questions about the blood covenant so we can lead them their salvation.

I Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

Blood Covenant

- B. The blood covenant is one thread that ties the entire Bible together.

The Bible has two divisions – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word “testament” means covenant. The Old Testament refers to the covenant God made with mankind based on the blood of animals. The New Testament refers to the covenant God made with mankind based on the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

- C. The blood covenant sets Christianity apart from all other religions

There is no other religion where a righteous Savior dies to pay for the sins of the people and rises again. If there was another way, then there would have been no reason for Jesus to go through what He went through for our salvation. Jesus is the only way.

John 14:6 “...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- D. We can learn and then receive God’s covenant blessings.

Romans 8:17 “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

If you don’t know what is available to you, you can’t apply it. There is a covenant authority we can stand on and blessings we can claim when we know what God has provided for us.

- E. We can recognize how to better operate in covenant with other people

Our close relationships are often covenants that we have made with a spouse and family, some friends, some ministry agreements, and some business partnerships.

God’s kingdom operates differently from the world’s system. When we learn to operate the way God intended, we can live a much better life.

- Be able to understand it
- Honor it
- Strengthen it
- Protect it
- Restore it

IV. God's Covenant Will Not Fail

A. God initiated the covenant

God, not an imperfect person, initiated the covenant; therefore, it cannot fail.

The covenant between God and mankind was initiated and established by God, and mankind was given the choice whether or not to enter into it. The purpose of the blood covenant was to legally restore mankind's position with God. If a person chooses to enter into covenant with God, he will know the life found in God. If a person chooses to stay outside of the covenant at a distance from God, he will remain separated from life and know death.

B. God established the covenant

The covenant will stand because God established it without the help of a person. The involvement from a human being is whether to receive it or walk in it.

In the covenant, man's response contributes to the covenant fulfillment, yet man's action is not causative. God proposed the terms and a basis of union, not man (Vines Expository Dictionary). We responded to His action. Words used are "enter into, join, obey, observe, love."

C. God has the power to back the covenant

The Holy Spirit is the seal of our redemption in covenant. When a king would put a seal on a document, it identified the document as being authorized by the king. The Holy Spirit in us and on us is proof that we are authorized by God to receive salvation and represent the Gospel in the earth. The Holy Spirit functions as the executor of the covenant, working in power to confirm God's agreement with mankind.

The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the guarantee of our covenant inheritance. Our inheritance are covenant blessings we receive through Christ's death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit guarantees these blessings belong to us. Like when someone purchases a home, he or she puts down earnest money. Earnest money is money paid to confirm a contract. It shows the person is serious, committed, about the contract.

Ephesians 1:13 "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, the praise of His glory. See also II Corinthians 1:22 and Ephesians 4:30.

V. Covenant Types

Covenants have been made throughout history by many different people groups, not just the Jews. Sometimes blood was involved, other times just the exchanging of items and promises made.

A. Person to Person

Covenants being made between two or more people are entered into by mutual agreement.

1. Friendship

David and Jonathan, I Samuel 18, 20

David and Jonathan formed an alliance based on friendship. It was a covenant David later honored after Jonathan's death by bringing a descendent, Mephibosheth, into his palace and giving him an inheritance with kingdom privileges. II Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

2. Marriage

Marriage, Genesis 2:24

Marriage is a covenant where a man and a woman give up their independence to give themselves into a relationship with one another.

3. Governments

People groups like Abimelech and Abraham, Genesis 21:22-34

Abimelech and Isaac Genesis 26:26-29

People groups have entered into covenants for peace and protection (Genesis 21:22-34 Abimelech and Abraham, Genesis 26:26-29 Abimelech and Isaac). Tribes in Africa have been known to enter into blood covenants with one another for peace treaties between themselves and also to join together against common enemies. If you search Stanley and Livingstone, you can ready about their adventures and covenants made in Africa.

Some have entered into covenant to make trade with one another. American Indians were known to make treaties and traded items in covenant.

B. God to Person

The Greek word for covenant is [Diatheke](#)

Our English word for covenant usually signifies a mutual undertaking between 2 parties or more, each binding himself to fulfill obligations, but diatheke mostly signifies an obligation undertaken by a single person. This Greek word was used in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) for berith. This reinforces the concept that God created the covenant and human beings can choose to enter or reject His covenant.

V. CONCLUSION

In some cases, a covenant end is necessary; however, many marriages, friendships, businesses, and governments fail because the covenant relationship is not understood, honored, maintained, protected, or restored. Studying the blood covenant will help us to:

- Know God and His covenant blessings.
- Better recognize our covenants with people
- Realize how Christianity is different from other religions
- Comprehend how the Bible is tied together
- Be more informed and be able to teach about God's Word with others

Assignment:

- Read Genesis 1-4
- Read "The Marriage Covenant" handout

The Blood Covenant

Reading Assignment: The Marriage Covenant

MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT

Marriage is a covenant where a man and a woman give up their independence to enter a union with one another.

When we respect covenant:

- We respect our marriage and our spouse.

We love, honor, and cherish that person in our conversation and our behavior. We do not entertain the thought of a venture with another person because we love our spouse and we respect our covenant.

People who have been damaged or stolen from may have difficulty in relationships. This includes persons who have even stepped into sin and brought some dysfunctional behavior into their own life. They most definitely need God to make them whole so they have a healthy thought life, boundaries, and behaviors. They also need to establish boundaries and find accountability. Some even need deliverance from the possession or oppression of a demonic spirit.

- We respect someone else's marriage

When we respect God and covenant, we dare not try to separate even the affection that another person has for their spouse.

We don't intentionally flirt, which is tempting someone to sin. People who flirt are usually looking for value, approval, attention, and sometimes power. Let's be careful not to cause a brother or sister to stumble, even in their thought life.

We set some boundaries for what is appropriate and inappropriate. When someone is in need of nurturing or validation, let's send them to an appropriate source of help. Many affairs start in the soul.

- We express our respect for marriage to others, especially those of the faith.

We should teach a younger generation that the physical union of sex is a covenant act for a man and a woman that are in a marriage covenant. In the Old Testament, sex outside of marriage was deserving of death because of its transgression on covenant. The principle applies in the New Testament, that sex outside of marriage is a sin.

Blood Covenant

We respect the person, not even playing around with their affections. Even if the other person is asking for it, we treat that person like it was our brother or sister. We show them their value, even if he or she doesn't know their value – especially when he or she does not know their value.

We teach that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. The sexual appetite does not set the standard for what is right and wrong; God's Word is our standard.

We should not expect a naturally minded person to understand a spiritual concept without knowing the rebirth and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Our approach should be sharing the truth in love.

1. The two become one

Genesis 2:18-25

2. God is the joiner

Matthew 19:6

3. Death of one spouse concludes the covenant

Romans 7:1-3

There are no marriage covenants in heaven.

Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25

4. The significance of blood

Deuteronomy 22:13-17

Marriage is a blood covenant. God made females with a thin membrane called the hymen. The first time a woman has intercourse, the hymen is broken and there is a small flow of blood. The intended design was for a male virgin and a female virgin to marry and only experience physical union with one another.

When a person marries who is not a virgin, they are still entering into a covenant. That union is not any less of a marriage union.

ADULTERY AND OTHER SEXUAL SINS

Sex is not sin when it is between a husband and his wife. It is pure, loving and beautiful.

Adultery refers to a spouse who becomes sexually involved with someone else. Adultery is a covenant violation. In Malachi the term “deal treacherously” literally means “to break covenant.”

Malachi 2:14-16

Fornication is a Bible term that typically references sexual sin of people who unmarried persons or two persons who are not married to each other. Sex is a covenant act, whether you are married or not. Paul said that sex with a harlot is becoming one with her and then quotes Genesis “the two shall become one flesh.”

I Corinthians 6:16

Attraction is an appreciation for the beauty of another person, inside or out. Attraction becomes lust when the person thinks on having sex with a person he or she is not married to.

Jesus, in an attempt to show the Jews they could not keep the law perfectly, told them that lust was breaking the law just as much as committing the act of adultery itself. Therefore we know that any impure sexual thoughts, imaginations or fantasies are sinful.

Matthew 5:28

DIVORCE

Divorce is when a person decides to end the marriage covenant.

No one marries with the intention of getting a divorce. Just as there is a binding together of two hearts in love, there is a painful tearing apart when someone goes through divorce. Not only are two people torn apart, but their children, families, and friends can feel the pain of a covenant ripped apart. However, divorce is forgivable. God is merciful to us and He is able to restore our broken hearts through His merciful love.

Every divorce story is different and often very personal. There was most likely extreme pain experienced because of heartache, infidelity, abuse, disappointment, or failure. Do you know that God is merciful? God is poetically said to have collected all our tears into a bottle. He not only cares about our hurts, but He understands and wants to heal and restore our heart, soul, and body.

Psalms 56:8

Blood Covenant

1. God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:6

God knows the pain involved in the tearing of hearts that were once joined together.

2. Divorce is a sin, a sin that is forgivable.

Matthew 5:32; 19:6

3. Adultery is grounds for divorce unless there is restoration

When the Pharisees came to Jesus to test Him, they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" Matthew 19:1-9

Jesus replied that we should not separate what God has joined together.

The Pharisees continued to question Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" Jesus replied, "because of the hardness of your hearts." He said, "From the beginning it was not so."

Brother Kenneth Hagin said, "The love of God has never been to a divorce court." If a man and woman never hurt one another, there would be no divorce. Furthermore, if when they hurt one another but there was repentance and forgiveness; there would not be a divorce.

Jesus goes on to say "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Legally speaking, as a Jew, sexual immorality is a covenant violation and calls for execution. However, if they did not put the violator to death, sexual immorality is a covenant breaker; therefore giving the other one grounds for divorce. Divorce is not God's plan. However, divorce is forgivable. Adultery is forgivable as seen in the life of Hosea, the life of King David, and in the heart of God. Some couples that have gone through adultery have chosen to forgive and renew their vows.

Psalms 51

REMARRIAGE

If there is a new marriage after a divorce, it is a new covenant. For a new marriage to thrive, the soul ties from the old marriage have to die. If children are involved, the parents will need to set boundaries for how they will raise they will raise their children and honor a current covenant.

SUMMARY

Marriage doesn't complete us; God completes us.

We must learn to receive and walk in the love of God throughout our life. We must allow God's love and salvation give us wholeness in every area of our mind, emotions, and heart. You are one whole person and your spouse is one whole person. There is no such thing as a better half.

God does not condemn us. He saves us. He asks for our surrender. In our surrender, God will guide us whether we are single, married, divorced, remarried, or widowed.

We can enjoy our covenant relationships as we invite the Holy Spirit to come in and navigate them. There is a blessing in the marriage covenant and in love.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 2: The First and Second Adam

Review Lesson 1 and the reading assignment “The Marriage Covenant.”

I. God’s covenant with Adam

A. Adam was the first person to be in covenant with God

Genesis 1 and 2

God’s covenant with Adam included a close fellowship with God. It also included giving Adam authority, which involved naming the animals. Adam and his covenant wife, Eve, were told to fill the earth and subdue it.

Mankind finds fullness of life when in a dependent position in union with God. Because of God’s love, He would never force us, control us, manipulate us, abuse us, nor would He leave us without an option or a choice. For this reason of love, God gave Adam and Eve an option in the Garden of Eden. The option was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God wanted Adam to choose to stay dependent upon Him, but if Adam disobeyed God, it was a choice of independence. It was a choice of self-sufficiency. It was a matter of turning away from God, their life source.

There are several indicators of Adam’s covenant with God before the fall; however, there is a scripture in Hosea 6:7 that mentions the covenant he had before Adam broke it.

Hosea 6:7 “But like Adam, you broke My covenant and betrayed My trust.” New Living Translation

In other translations, the phrase used is “dealt treacherously.” In the Septuigent, the corresponding verb for “dealt treacherously” is “covenant breaking.”¹ (see Malachi 2:15)

Because the Spirit of God referred to Adam as a covenant breaker through the prophet Hosea, we know that God considered His relationship with Adam to have been a covenant from the start.

¹ Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, pg. 135

B. The sin of self-sufficiency

TEXT: *Genesis 3:1-5*

1. One with God

Mankind was created to be one with God. From the beginning, all that we are and all that we have and all that we do was IN HIM. Apart from Him we are nothing. He is our source of existence.

God is our life source.

Without God, we are incomplete.

The covenant is our being joined together with God.

2. The Lie

Genesis 3:5 “you will be like God.”

Adam and Eve wanted to be in control of their own lives.

They wanted to be self-sufficient, and they turned away from God.

Adam’s decision to disobey broke the covenant.

3. The Consequence of Sin

1. The price: death

Turning away from God was turning away from life.

Separation from God brought death

Genesis 2:16, 17 “dying you shall die”

Adam knew the consequences.

1 Timothy 2:14

Adam knew the price. Eve was deceived, which meant she really believed the lie. Adam was not, which meant he knew he was turning away from God and from life.

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”

Through Adam’s sin, sin entered the world and passed on to every person.

Blood Covenant

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2. The debt: owing life

a. The sin problem

Sin has separated us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God..."

b. Sin as master

Sin had control over mankind

Romans 6:16 "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

Sin became part of the human nature, causing sin to have a hold and a controlling, addictive effect.

c. Mankind was legally bound to death

Isaiah 28:15-18

Man was in covenant with death and had a pact with Shoel. Satan held us in his power because of the debt we owed.

II. The Covering

A. The blood

Life is the required payment.

When sin came in, our position in God was compromised.

Hebrews 9:22 "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin."

Life is in the blood; therefore, blood is required.

B. Atonement

Lev. 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

The Hebrew word for atone is "kaphar" and it means "to cover over."

The blood of animals could not remove sin or cancel the debt to sin, but the life given by the blood of animals could cover sins.

C. Adam

1. The need for a covering

a. Adam saw his need

Genesis 3:7

They saw they were naked; they saw their need for a covering. In their own attempt, they made an insufficient covering of leaves.

The leaves that Adam and Eve used would not have lasted very long. Apart from their tree, they also would have lost the vitality of their life, drying up and blown away.

Our attempts to cover our sin on our own are insufficient.

Isaiah 64:6a "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags..."

"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind." NLT

Blood Covenant

b. God's Response

Genesis 3:21

Blood was shed

God killed an animal to make coverings of animal skins for Adam and Eve.

2. Adam's Children

a. Abel gave from a heart of surrender

Genesis 4:3,4

Adam's children were taught to give a blood sacrifice.

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."

b. Cain gave from a heart of self-sufficiency

Genesis 4:3-5

Cain wanted to bring the work of his hands instead of obeying God and offering blood.

1 John 3:12 "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous."

Jude 11 "What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother..." NLT

III. The Second Adam

A. Adam was the first created man

God's covenant was with Adam, and Adam broke that covenant for Himself and for everyone that came in line after him, including Eve. The result was sin and death.

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned – "

B. Jesus was the second Adam

This term refers to Jesus being born as the second man being born without sin. Only this man, Jesus, chose to keep His covenant with God. In addition, He gave His spotless blood for God to create a new covenant. After dying physically and spiritually, Jesus was the first born from the dead, bringing us to new life in a new covenant union with God.

Romans 5:17 "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Assignment:

Read Genesis 15-17

Read "Hebrew Covenant Rituals"

The Blood Covenant

Assignment: Hebrew Covenant Rituals

HEBREW COVENANT RITUALS

The following rituals were practiced by the Hebrews in their blood covenants. These rituals have variations, but they usually will contain these elements. These rituals give us insight into God's covenant with us.²

1. Exchange Coats

Both partners would take off their coats and exchange them. They are symbolically saying "This is all of who I am and I give myself to you." They are choosing to love the other person as they love themselves.

2. Exchange Belts

The belt holds the weapons. When they take off their belts and give them to each other they are pledging their strength and protection. It is like saying, "If anyone attacks you, they are attacking me. Your battles are my battles and mine are yours."

3. Make Incision

The Hebrews would take an animal and cut it down the middle. They stand in between the pieces with their backs to each other. They walk through the bloody halves, making a figure eight, and come back to a stop facing each other. It is like saying, "We are giving up our rights. We die to ourselves." They now begin a new walk with their blood covenant partner to the death.

Jeremiah 34:18 cut a calf in two. From Vine's Expository of New Testament Words, we read, "In such a covenant the one passing through the pieces pledged his faithfulness to the covenant. If that faithfulness was broken, he called death upon himself, or the same fate which befell the animals."

² The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread by Richard Booker

4. Mix Blood

They would raise their right arms, cut their palms and bring them together so the blood would mix. The blood is the life, so it is symbolic of the intermingling of their life with another. It is like saying, "I'm in you and you are in me. We are one."

5. Exchange Names

They each would take the other's last name and make it part of their own name. This is why, in many cultures, the wife takes the name of the husband in marriage. They are identified as being in a covenant.

6. Make a Scar

The Hebrews would rub the incision to make a scar as a permanent testimony to the covenant. In some countries, ashes were rubbed into the scar to make it a gray color. The scar served as a sign or a reminder of the covenant. It was also known as a seal or a testimony of the covenant.

7. Give Covenant Terms

This is the part of the covenant where they would declare their union. They would state all assets and liabilities that are shared. If one would die, the other would take responsibility for the family and raise the children. They are one in responsibility, one in fortune, and one in debt. Everything that one had would belong to the other. It was like having a joint bank account. If I need it, I take it because it belongs to both of us. They also would state blessings and cursings of the covenant. Promises were given by oath and curses were warned if the covenant were ever to be broken. Their words were not taken lightly. They knew if they said it, they bound themselves to it.

8. Eat Memorial Meal

The bread would represent all that a person has come into the other. The wine would represent the life that is in one coming into the other. They were no longer two, but one. You in me and I in you.

9. Make a Memorial

The Hebrews would many times plant a tree and sprinkle blood on it as a living testimony for generations to come. Another possibility would be to write on a stone. Another would be to give a gift like a sheep that would be a reminder of the covenant. Children and grandchildren would choose if they wanted to continue the covenant.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 3: God's Covenant with Abraham

I. God cuts a covenant with Abraham

TEXT: Genesis 15 – 16

A. Sarai was barren.

Genesis 15:1-3

Barren: not producing or incapable of producing offspring; sterile. Unproductive, unfruitful. Without capacity to interest or attract. Lacking, destitute, bereft.³

Is there anything in your life that seems unproductive where you know God wants you to have results? For Sarai, she was unable to conceive a child. For others it could be a business that hasn't taken off, a vision that hasn't come to pass, a sickness that hasn't been healed, an addiction that hasn't been removed, or something else.

B. God makes a fourth promise for descendants

Genesis 15:4-5

Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 6-7; Genesis 13:14-18

Abraham was 75 years old when he first heard the promise (Genesis 12:4).

C. Abram believed God

Genesis 15:6

Our part in the covenant is to respond with dependent faith. Abram did more than believe God, he relied on God to the point of obedience. This is important to note, because our part in the covenant isn't in the making of the covenant; it is in our surrendered response to the God of the covenant – a surrender that not only believes, but acts.

Abram was considered righteous because of his reliant faith, not his works. The same has always applied under both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The just live by faith.

³ www.dictionary.com

Blood Covenant

Galatians 3:8 "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.'"

Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38

- James 2:21-23

Abraham's received right standing with God based on his obedient faith, not his own attempt to do the right thing. He put action to his faith.

Abraham was called the "friend" of God. "Friend" was known to be a covenant term. It was like saying, "You are my covenant partner."

- Romans 4:1-11

Abraham believed God and he was considered, or counted to be, as one who had received righteousness, or right-standing with God.

The covenant with Abraham was not based on works, but on reliant faith.

D. God made a promise

Genesis 15:7-8

Abram asked for legal proof of the promise for his descendants to inherit the land. Then God cut a covenant.

E. God cut a covenant with Abram

Genesis 15:9-21

- This covenant would be upheld through generations
- God asked Abram to gather the animals needed for sacrifice.
- Abram fell into a deep sleep, or trance. God spoke to Abram while he was in this state.
- God prophesied the future for Abram's descendants of growth as a nation, of slavery and suffering, and of a return. The purpose was a season for nation development and progression.
- Animals were cut into pieces and God passed between the pieces.
- In covenant, animals were cut in two and the covenant partners would pass through them, as if to say, "I will suffer the fate of these animals if I do not keep the covenant. See Jeremiah 34:18

Hebrews 6:13-18

God swore by Himself, no one greater to swear by. In other words, as though God said, "I will cease to be God if I do not perform this."

II. Symbolism

Review reading assignment "Hebrew Covenant Rituals"

A. God promises Himself

"I am your exceedingly great reward." All that I am is yours. Genesis 15:1

B. God promises to protect

God told Abraham that He would protect him. Genesis 15:1 "I am your shield."

C. God cut the covenant

Genesis 15:9-18

Vs. 18 "made a covenant" means "cut a covenant". The Hebrew word used is "karath" meaning to cut.

God told Abraham to get the animals and to cut them in two. Abraham placed the pieces opposite each other and waited for God's presence.

"A smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces."

This could be a figure of speech, a hendiadys, where one noun modifies the other, so that not two but a single blazing fire, the Shekinah Himself, passed between the pieces."⁴ In blood covenants made by man, both parties passed through the animals, but in this event, only God passes through. Here God has established the covenant. This covenant is not dependent upon the trustworthiness of a man but upon God Himself.

⁴ Spirit Filled Life Bible

D. God exchanged names

God's name is YHWH. He took part of His name and added it to theirs.

Genesis 17:5

Abram meant "exalted father." Abraham means "father of a multitude."

Genesis 17:15

Sarai became Sarah. Sarah means "Princess." Both meant princess, but the second had one of God's letters added to it.

E. Make a scar

Circumcision is a sign of the blood covenant (Genesis 17:10).

F. Make covenant terms

God promises the land of Canaan after making a covenant agreement with Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21, 17:7-8).

III. Beyond our limits

Genesis 16:1-16

A. Waiting is dependency

Abram and Sarai were discouraged. Not only was Sarai barren, not only had she most likely had gone through menopause; but it was also ten years since he first heard the promise. Abram was now 85 years old.

B. The purpose for a need

The purpose in Sarai's barrenness was for a miracle. What they could not do on their own, God would do. He was in covenant with them, so all God was, all He had, and all He could do was at their disposal.

You might feel barren; like something is impossible for you to do on your own. Having a need is a good place to be because that's the place God can do a miracle.

C. [Remember who we are in covenant with](#)

Instead of looking up to God, Sarai and Abram looked around at what they had. They had Hagar, Sarai's maid. Sarai suggested Abram give her children through her maid, Hagar. Abram did not protest. He agreed and he had relations with Hagar. Both acted in self-sufficiency instead of in faith.

Instead of looking at our limited resources and abilities, we need to realize who we are in covenant with. He has unlimited resources and unending ability.

D. [Self-sufficiency contradicts faith](#)

Ishmael was born out of their self-sufficiency. Ishmael represents the self-sufficiency of human beings, what we could call "flesh." Isaac represents faith in God's promise, what we could call "spirit." The flesh and the spirit are contrary to one another, as are the children of Ishmael and the children of Isaac, the Arabs and the Jews, even until this day.

God loved Hagar and Ishmael. Hagar was a misused woman. As a servant in those days, Hagar did not have a choice; she had to give herself to Abram. A son was born out of Abraham's sin. Sarai dealt harshly with pregnant Hagar, causing her emotional, mental and perhaps physical harm. Hagar was so distraught that she chose to flee from Sarai. God appeared to Hagar, promised to bless Ishmael, and sent them back to Abram and Sarai. God saved the lives of Hagar and Ishmael. Abram loved Ishmael.

Ishmael was given a prophetic name by the Lord before he was born. His name means "God hears" because God heard Hagar's affliction. God also hears us when we cry out to Him. When God refers to hearing in the Old Testament, it also refers God answering.

God has blessed Ishmael and the Arab nations. They have become rich because of the oil under their land.

God continues to hear the cries of the descendants of the Jews, the Arabs, and the non-Arabs. Many are coming to Christ today, and one day Jesus will answer the cries of people and return to rule the earth.

God was able to take their mess and continue to bless. If you have ever failed in your life, God doesn't fall off the throne. Whatever messes we make, God is able to restore and show His beauty in our lives.

[Read Galatians 4:21 – 5:26](#)

- Ishmael was born of a slave, Hagar. Isaac was born to a woman who was free, Sarah.
- Ishmael represents to be self-sufficient, which includes being self-righteous. As Christians, we could easily slip into a religious mentality if we ever get away from the dependency on God by faith. The Jewish religious leaders in Jesus' day were far from faith in God and lived based on good works. Human attempts at righteousness are bondage based on performance that will never be good enough. The religious will always be in opposition to those who have found a spiritual liberty.
- Isaac represents faith, being reliant on God to the point of obedience.
- Every person has known the struggle of trying to be in control. Faith is a return to the Father, recognizing our need for Him, and allowing Him to be our loving authority. Salvation is a release of self-sufficiency and control.
- Just like the Arabs and Jews still have physical conflict today, they also represent a spiritual conflict. It's a spiritual battle between faith and self-sufficiency that are always at war within us.

[Assignment:](#)

[Read Genesis 17-22](#)

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 4: Abraham's Faith is Tested

I. Isaac is Born

Genesis 17:1-17

A. God approaches Abraham on covenant terms

1. God reveals Himself as El Shaddai

Verse 1

- Abraham is 99 years old. It's been 24 years since God promised Abraham and Sarah a son.

As far as we know, there was no conversation between God and Abraham for the last 13 years. They were old back 13 years ago, and they weren't getting any younger.

- Ishmael was 13 years old.
- God calls Himself El Shaddai, meaning, "God Almighty." The name means, "All powerful." El is the singular form of Elohim. Shaddai is a compound word from "sheh" meaning "who" and "day" meaning "sufficient" to mean "the all sufficient one."⁵ He is the God who is more than enough. God is eternally capable of being all that His people need. God is telling Abraham of His power and ability to do what He promised.

If God is El Shaddai to Abraham, then God will be El Shaddai to you too.

- God tells Abraham to "walk before Me..." What an invitation, to live in God's presence. "And be blameless," a beautiful welcome to know Him.

⁵ Spirit Filled Life Bible

2. [God repeats His promise to Abraham](#)

Verses 2-16

- God says He will “make” His covenant between Himself and Abraham. He already made the covenant. The Hebrew word for “make’ in verse 2 is “nathan” #5414. It means to give, we would say, “to cause to receive.”⁶

God’s purpose in waiting was based on the aging process of Abraham and Sarah. Because it was impossible for Sarah to conceive and bear a child at this age, God got the glory in this story.

There are occasions where timing could be an issue between God’s promise and the fulfillment of the promise. However, if the promise has to do with your salvation and the new birth, there is no wait. If the promise has to do with any form of salvation in the atonement, such as physical healing, there is no wait. Jesus is our example, and Jesus did not make anyone wait to receive physical healing.

- God comes to Abraham on covenant terms, reminding Abraham of His promise to multiply Abraham exceedingly. The promise was clearly based on the covenant. According to the covenant, God swore by Himself, so there is a surety that God would perform the miracle. It was a strong bond.
- Abraham fell on his face, a sign of worship. Abraham recognized how great God is, and Abraham chose to honor God as his loving authority. Also, the last encounter that we know of, God dealt with Abraham’s self-sufficiency in his attempts to have a son with Hagar.
- God talked with Abraham.

If God talked with a man in the Old Testament, we can surely hear His voice under the new covenant, where the Holy Spirit is living inside of us.

- God changed their names

God added a letter of His name to their names. The most significant is changing Abram “Exalted Father” to Abraham, meaning “Father of a Multitude.”

⁶ Blue Letter Bible

Blood Covenant

- The promise was more than Abraham's descendants. God promised nations, more than one people group. God promised kings, people with authority and power that would come through his lineage.
- Verse 7 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you..." The word for "establish" is the Hebrew word "qwm" #6965, and it means "to raise up, to establish, to confirm, to stand, to be valid, to fix, to be proven, to be fulfilled, to be set." God gave a promise when He cut covenant with Abraham, and now He was preparing to fulfill that promise."

God will keep His promises to you too.

- Verse 8 God promised land to the Jews and He promised to be their God.
- Verse 9 God told Abraham his responsibility and his descendants responsibility was to keep the covenant. The Hebrew word for "keep" is "shamar" #8104 and it means "to keep, guard, observe, and give heed."
- Circumcision was an outward sign of the covenant with the Jews under the old covenant. It was a cutting of the flesh. The mark of the covenant would always be in the flesh as a sign of covenant. It was also symbolic of salvation and the new birth to come in Christ. Verse 14, the refusal to circumcise a male child was considered a breaking of the covenant and a cause for a Jew to be cut off from his people.

From New Testament scriptures we know that circumcision was done away with. It was fulfilled in Christ, and no longer required. Under the New Covenant we read about salvation being an inward work, in the making of a new spirit, or a new heart because of Christ's sacrifice (Romans 2:29). This new creation causes anyone of faith in Christ to become a child of Abraham.

3. [Abraham laughed](#)

Genesis 17:17 “Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, ‘Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?’”

Abraham fell down twice, once in worship and once at the idea that Sarah would be the one to birth the promise.

Verse 18

Abraham again suggests the son he and Hagar had, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!”

Abraham still believed that Ishmael was the answer.

Verse 19

“Then God said: “No”

“Sarah YOUR WIFE shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”

God went on to prophecy how Isaac would have twelve princes and the family would grow into a great nation.

Verse 21

God promises Sarah would have a son at the appointed time next year. Now God is giving a time.

Romans 4:19 “And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”

Sarah was barren, never able to conceive, and most likely, had gone through menopause. Also, at this age, Abraham was “dead.” The Greek word is “nekroo” #3499. It means to put to death, but it also means an impotent old man. Abraham was nearly 100 years old and he felt weak in his body, very possibly impotent at this age.

Romans 4:20-22 “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21) and being fully convinced that what He has promised He was also able to perform. And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Abraham never stopped believing that God would keep His promise, whether it was through Ishmael or another way.

B. [God protects Sarah](#)

Genesis 18-20

1. [Abraham intercedes for Sodom](#)
2. [God warns Abimelech](#)

Sarah is ninety years old. She is still a fine looking woman. Abraham tells Abimelech that Sarah is his sister, hiding the fact that she was his wife, for the preservation of his family, thinking he might kill him to have her.

God tells Abimelech in a dream that Sarah is another mans' wife and that he is dead for taking her. God then told Abimelech that he warned him so he would not touch her.

God had not yet visited Sarah to open her womb, however, God did not want her to be with Abimelech. Then God healed Abimelech and his wife and female servants, for God had closed up their wombs on account of Sarah.

C. [Isaac is born](#)

1. [The Lord visited Sarah.](#)

Verse 1

God manifested His presence to Sarah, and He did for Sarah as He had spoken.

2. [Sarah conceived at the set time](#)

Verse 2

God had a timing in Sarah's pregnancy and for the promise to be fulfilled.

[Isaac means "laughter" or "he laughs."](#)

Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me. She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

When God does a miracle, the joy of the miracle makes us laugh, especially when it was impossible for a human to perform it. You may need a miracle that makes you and everyone around you laugh because of the joy of receiving the impossible.

II. Abraham's faith is confirmed

A. God tested Abraham

1. Testing allow action

Genesis 22:1

The Bible in both testaments are filled with examples of being tested or proven.

It is easy to say that we are relying upon God, however, when faith is tested, we get to put action to our faith.

In some Bible translations, the word "tempt" is used instead of "test." God does not tempt us as if to draw us into sin, because God would never attract us with what is evil. James 1:13

When God tested Abraham, he wanted to give Abraham the opportunity to act on his faith. Faith without action is merely belief, not reliance.

Read James 2:14-22

2. Abraham's only son

Genesis 22:2

God told Abraham to take his only son Isaac with him to the mount of Moriah.

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Why did God say, "only son?" This is referring to the covenant son, the one God would bring Jesus through.

After Isaac was born, Sarah sent Hagar and Ismael out of their household.

Galatians 4:30 says, "... Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." The Jews were not children of Ishmael. The son God referred to was the covenant son that would bring forth Jesus.

The sons of Ishmael, the Arabs, are still free to receive Christ today, just as any Gentile, with Christ being the heir of Isaac. Like the Jews, we all have to come to Christ in faith to know eternal life. Even though Jews and Arabs are children of Abraham by birth, their lineage does not make them children of Abraham by faith.

John 3:16 God's only begotten son. Isaac was a type of Christ.

B. Abraham believed God

1. Abraham knew Isaac would return with him

Genesis 1:5 "And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.'"

Hebrews 11:17-19 "(19)concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense."

2. Abraham saw afar off

Genesis 22:4 "Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off."

It is believed that Jesus was also crucified on Mt. Moriah.

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it was glad."

Abraham knew more than we might think he did.

C. God provided the sacrifice

- Isaac's perspective

Isaac was old enough to carry the wood for the burnt offering, most likely a grown man.

- The sacrifice

Isaac knew a sacrifice was going to be made, but asked Abraham where the lamb was. Abraham replied that God would provide the sacrifice. When it came time to offer the sacrifice, Abraham bound Isaac and placed him on the altar. Isaac could have easily resisted, but he also must have had faith that God would provide.

- Abraham named that place "Jehovah Jirah" meaning "The Lord Will Provide."
- Abraham took the knife and raised it to kill Isaac
- The Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham

He says, "Now I know that you fear God; since you have not withheld your son, your only son [covenant son] from Me."

Blood Covenant

- God provided a ram

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. He killed the ram in place of his son.

Verse 15-18

A second time the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven saying, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son- blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The sacrifice was illustrative of Christ and of our faith in Him.

Galatians 3:7-8 "7) Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed. 9) So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."

D. Abraham's life instructs us about our faith

Hebrews 6:13-18

The writer quotes Genesis 22:15-18 and refers to Abraham's covenant promises.

Verse 15 "after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

Verse 18 "it is impossible for God to lie."

Confirms His covenant by His oath and His covenant.

Assignment: [Read Exodus 12](#)

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 5: The Exodus and the Passover Meal

I. God's Covenant with Abraham

A. The old covenant started with [Abraham](#)

There were other covenants that God had made with individuals. He was in covenant relationship with at least Adam and Noah, both of which included animal sacrifice.

The Old Covenant is the covenant that started with Abraham and continued with his descendants, including Christ Himself.

B. God knew the future of Abraham's [descendants](#)

[Genesis 15:12-18](#)

[They would grow into a nation underneath another government.](#)

[Genesis 15:12-18](#)

In Genesis 15:16, God foretold Abraham about his descendants being strangers in a land that was not theirs AND they would be in slavery. Also God said it would not be until the fourth generation that Israel would return to Canaan, based on 100 years per generation, *approximately* 400 years.⁷

The Lord ordered another 40 years of wandering before entering Canaan, one year for each day the spies were in Canaan,⁸ making 430 years. That leaves 390 years for the sojourn and the slavery from the cutting of the covenant with Abraham until the Exodus, which could easily fulfill God's original promise of four generations, approximately 100 years each.

The Exodus happened in spring of 1446 BC. In Exodus 12:40-41 the Bible tells us the actual time of wandering and slavery to Egypt was 430 years, to the day.⁹ There is a reason why it is mentioned that the timing was to the day. One reason for the timing was so the Amorites had a season to progress in their sin. There is also a prophetic significance for the timing of Isaac's birth and the amount of time before the Exodus.

We see these numbers again in Ezekiel 2 when Ezekiel interceded for the northern kingdom for 390 days and the southern kingdom for 40 days.

⁷ Acts 7:6

⁸ Numbers 13

⁹ Galatians 3:16-17; Genesis 9:29

Certain numbers are seen over and over again in prophecy that refer to the end times. In Revelation 12:11, we know that the last half of a seven-year period for the Jews, before the Day of the Lord, is 1,290 days. 430 + 430 + 430 is 1,290 days. From the time of the Exodus into the Babylonian captivity is 1,290 years. 430 years to the day was not a coincidence. As we study history, we can see how God showed us His hand.

So why did God wait for Isaac to be born? Prophetic timing.
So why did God prophesy four generations? Prophetic timing.
Did God know Israel would wander another 40 years? Yes.

God often has a bigger picture in mind than what we see on the surface.

God also told Abraham, 390 years before the Exodus, that his descendants would come out with many possessions, and we know the Egyptians gave gold and silver and possessions to the Israelites. Why prophesy this 390 days before the event? Because this is the material that would be used to build the tabernacle, the place where God would dwell with His people. It had significance!

C. [Abraham's descendants would wander and become slaves](#)

[Exodus 2:23-25](#)

[God caused Abraham's descendants to multiply](#)

[God remembered His covenant with Abraham](#)

[To "remember" doesn't mean that God forgot. It means God "prepared to act on."](#)

When the Bible says, "God remembered the covenant" it doesn't mean that He forget about it; it means He was preparing to act. There was a certain timing involved in the development of the world, God allowing the Amorites to grow, even in their iniquity.¹⁰ The time had been fulfilled and God was ready to move in the right timing.

God often refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when referring to the covenant. God confirmed His covenant with all three generations. This also is defining the line Jesus would come through.

¹⁰ Genesis 15:16

II. God calls Moses

A. There was a call to [leadership](#) on Moses' life

We all have a call on our life. We all can be in ministry. However, some are called to leadership and anointing to lead.

A brief timeline from Isaac to Joseph.

- Isaac became a man and married Rebekah.
- Isaac and Rebekah had two sons, Jacob and Esau.
- Jacob married two wives and had several sons by his wives and their concubines. The twelfth son was named Joseph.
- Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave due to his brothers.
- Joseph was put in prison on a false allegation.
- Joseph interpreted the Pharaoh's dream about the famine, so Pharaoh caused Joseph to be second in command and in charge of the harvesting and rationing of food.
- Jacob's family needed food and went to Egypt, where Joseph took care of his family and they multiplied.

At the time Moses was born, the Israelites were multiplying very quickly. Egypt had made the Israelites slaves. The Pharaoh at the time wanted to keep the Israelites from growing in number and began to kill their infant sons (Exodus 1-2).

Moses' mother, in order to hide him, put her baby son in a basket and into the Nile River. It was no coincidence that Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses and decided to raise Moses in safety and in freedom, unlike his Hebrew brothers who served as slaves.

Moses was nursed by his mother, which culturally, could have been up to age four. He was educated by the Egyptians, which included study in science, mathematics, and geometry. Egyptians were also known for understanding in astronomy, agriculture, and architecture. They also had knowledge in chemistry and preservation of mummies. They also appreciated art, metal working, and sculpturing.

Moses was also aware of his Hebrew roots and faith in Jehovah. The Egyptians and the Israelites were aware of his ethnic background as well. As he grew, he saw the forced slave labor of his brothers and sisters. Being one of them, it must have been especially difficult to watch. The day he murdered an Egyptian for beating an Israelite must have been his breaking point.

The day after the murder Moses tried to break up a fight between two Hebrews, and the response was, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

First of all, the Israelite slave knew Moses was in a position of privilege, but he was serving the enemy. He asked the question, "Who made you a

prince and judge over us,” not knowing that God actually had placed Moses in position to free them.

Secondly, Moses knew the secret of his murder was out and there would be punishment from the Egyptians. Pharaoh found out and sought to kill Moses, even though raised in the palace, he was still a hated Jew. In fear, and not knowing who he was, Moses fled to Midian and lived there for 40 years. He found a wife and started a family.

B. [Moses made a choice for freedom](#)

[Hebrews 11:24-27](#)

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ because he preferred to endure the hardship of the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of the ^[a]Christ [that is, the rebuke he would suffer for his faithful obedience to God] to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt; for he looked ahead to the reward [promised by God]. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, being unafraid of the wrath of the king; for he endured [steadfastly], as seeing Him who is unseen.

[Acts 7:17-36](#)

In Hebrews we see Moses’ faith. He killed an Egyptian for beating a Jew. Before he killed the Egyptian, in his heart he had already let go of Egypt, the royal position, and the treasures. He was watching the slavery take place, and he hated it. He hated seeing people in bondage. When we see the people around us in bondage, are we bothered by it? Are our hearts stirred to do something about it?

C. [God called Moses to do something that was beyond his ability](#)

[Exodus 3:1-4:17](#)

God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and told him of the call on his life. He instructed Moses to return to Egypt and lead his Israelite brothers and sisters out of slavery. The Pharaoh had died and a new pharaoh was in his place.

Moses had a past of murder in Egypt. God called him to go right back to the place of his bloody and guilty offense. It was also a place where Moses lived in privilege while he watched on as his brothers lived in slavery. I’m not sure I appreciate the fear Moses must have had to face by going back to Egypt to face his history with the Egyptians and the Israelis. The fear of his rejection had to be crazy huge. No wonder God showed up in a burning bush, a supernatural event. No wonder Moses responded, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send." But he did it. Moses faced his fears, obeyed God, and risked his life to go back into Egypt and lead Israel out. His life was on the line.

He had a wife. He had a family. It takes humility and courage to face people, especially when we've done them wrong. Moses laid down his life for the chance for God to free His people.

D. [Moses' faith is shown in how he relied upon God](#)

[Hebrews 11:23-29](#)

People of faith are people who depend on God despite what emotions or reasoning is happening in their soul.

Moses' faith was greater than his fear. He knew God called him to lead people into freedom. He relied upon God's supernatural power rather than his own limited strength.

Acts 7:25 (Amplified) He expected his countrymen to understand that God was granting them freedom through him [assuming that they would accept him], but they did not understand.

III. **The Exodus**

As exodus is a [mass departure of people](#).

Not only did prophecy foretell the progression of history; but God also allowed the Israelites' experience to be an illustration to us of the freedom we have in Christ.

[Galatians 4:1-31](#)

Moses' first meeting with Pharaoh ended up with Israel receiving more punishment. The Egyptians had Israel making bricks, supplying the straw; however, after Moses' request, Pharaoh required they get their own straw but keep up with the same production (Exodus 5:1-19).

The Israelites complained that instead of delivering them, they made it worse (Exodus 5:20, 21).

A. [God sent ten plagues as demonstration of God's power](#)

[Pharaoh didn't want to let the Israelites go, and sin doesn't want to let you go.](#)

It was God's timing to send Israel out of Egypt.

Throughout the plagues, Pharaoh would not let go and God's people could not get free. Exodus 4-12

Exodus 3:19-22 (CH. 4-12) God foretold that it would not be an easy release.

Blood Covenant

Time after time Pharaoh would give permission for the slaves to leave, but then his heart would be hardened. He hardened his heart or what God had done had caused him to harden his heart.

In a similar fashion, sin has a captivating quality. It works to get a grip, at times allowing the victim to believe he or she is in control, and then it becomes a stronghold. If a person tries to get free in his or her own strength, he or she can't do it. We need God's help.

We have to let God soften our heart. Sin can cause us to lose our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

I Timothy 4:2 "...having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

Ephesians 4:19 "who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

God's help comes to us as our covenant partner.

The last plague was death to the firstborn male child in every family. If the Israelites would smear blood on their door and eat the lamb, the messenger of death would pass over their home.

The blood of animals could atone, or cover, mankind's sin. Death could not harm the Israelites because of the blood covering.

Plagues

1. Water turned to blood (Exodus 7:14-21)
2. Frog (Exodus 8:1-15)
3. Lice (Exodus 8:16-19)
4. Flies (Exodus 8:20-24)
5. Death to livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)
6. Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)
7. Hail and severe lightening, fire (Exodus 9:22-35)
8. Locusts (Exodus 10:12-20)
9. Darkness (Exodus 10:21-27)
10. Death of firstborn (Exodus 12:29, 30)

The last plague was the death of the firstborn child and the firstborn of all animals. This plague would be a tremendous loss for the Egyptian nation in population and in animal resources.

B. The only way to escape death was through blood

There was only one way to freedom
Exodus 3:19-22

The Passover illustrates Jesus
Exodus 13:2; John 3:16

C. The Passover was the first of many feasts to come.

Exodus 12

1. This meal was prophetic of Christ.
2. Following these instructions would cause the Angel of Death to pass over their home. Refusal to follow these instructions meant the death of the firstborn son.
3. The lamb was chosen on the 10th of Aviv, or Nisan, a Jewish month in the spring, and observed for four days.
4. The lamb was slaughtered on the fourth day.
5. The lamb was slain at 3:00 pm, between evenings.
6. The blood of the lamb was to be placed on the door posts and the lintel of the door to their home.

D. The Egyptians sent the Israelites out with treasure

Exodus 12:29-36

The Egyptians were so desperate to send the Israelites away so that they would not return, they sent them out with materials to start a new life.

Vv. 35, 36 God's word to Abraham was fulfilled when the Egyptians gave the Israelites silver and gold and clothing. Later on these materials would be used for the tabernacle.

IV. Jesus fulfilled in the Passover

II Corinthians 5:6-8

A. The Triumphal Entry was the 10th of the month Aviv or Abib,

After the Babylonian captivity Aviv was known as Nisan.

1. Jesus was God's firstborn, only innocent covenant Son.
2. Jesus was the Lamb of God. The lamb was without blemish.
3. Jesus was questioned by leaders for four days.
4. Jesus fulfilled prophecy of the donkey for the king.
5. Jesus was received by many Jews as the promised Messiah

Blood Covenant

6. They shouted Hosanna, which means, "Glory to God who saves us."
7. Jesus entered the temple like lambs were brought into the temple.

B. [Jesus participated in the Passover meal](#)

1. Jesus and the disciples ate the covenant meal together.
2. Judas was identified at the feast meal.
3. Jesus took bread and wine with the meal.

C. [Jesus was crucified on the fourteenth day of Aviv](#)

1. Jesus was crucified on the same day the lambs were being slaughtered in Jerusalem, the afternoon before Passover
2. Jesus was likely crucified on Mount Moriah, the same mountain where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac.
3. Jesus died at 3:00 pm (the ninth hour).

D. [Communion comes from the Passover meal.](#)

Communion is also known as the Lord's Supper

[II Corinthians 11:23-34](#)

1. Jesus illustrated His sacrifice with the Passover meal to His disciples.
2. He encouraged the continuation of communion as remembrance of His sacrifice.
3. Communion is an ordinance of the new covenant.
4. Communion used to be more of a meal.
5. Communion is a time of surrender and dedication.
6. Those who took communion without surrender of sin brought judgment on themselves.

[Assignment: Take communion at home](#)

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 6: The Old Covenant

I. The purpose of the Law

The purpose of the Law was to show mankind's inability to achieve righteousness by his own merit.

Galatians 3:24 "The Law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith..."

The Law was a list of do's and don't's to make the people knowledgeable of what was obedience and what was sin (Romans 3:10-20, specifically 19-20).

Romans 3:19, 20 "19) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Sinful flesh in its own strength trying to perform acts of obedience found itself falling short.

Our attempts at keeping the rules in our strength will always fall short

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We need help, God's grace, to walk uprightly.

Salvation cannot be earned by the hands of mankind. Our help must come from God when we totally surrender our will to Him – believing in His love we draw near to Him in faith

Ephesians 2:8, 9 "8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9) not of works, lest anyone should boast."

We join ourselves to God through Jesus by giving Him all of who we are and in return, He can be all He is in us.

The Old Testament shows God's grace through and through. His ability to take those past generations through supernatural miracles is a demonstration of His goodness and His power.

The Old Testament was also based on faith. Even though the Law was put in place, a relationship with God was still about love, trust, and dependency.

II. Israel Enters Into Covenant

A. The importance of the Old Covenant

The Old Covenant is important to learn about because it gives us deeper understanding of who God is, how God moves, and the rich meaning behind the New Covenant. Jesus, Paul, Peter and others preached from the Old Testament because it is valuable to us. It is still living and active for speaking into our lives.

B. God approaches Israel

God reveals the plan
Exodus 6:1-8

1. God revealed as Lord

Vv. 2, 3 The Israelites were at an end of themselves. With God as their Lord, they were in a position of surrender – joining themselves to the One who would make them complete. Jumping from their known security into the arms of a faithful God, for one moment feeling their emptiness before being flooded with His fullness.

2. Becoming one

Vs. 7 “You will be Mine, and I will be yours.” All of who the Israelites were and all that they had now belonged to God. In exchange, all of who God is and all He has now belongs to the Israelite people. God has bound Himself by covenant to them. If they could grasp the faithfulness of God, they would never fear an enemy, death, hunger, thirst, lack, or disease. Their shoes didn’t even wear out! They would know their Protector, their Provider, their Deliverer, their Redeemer, their Healer, their Shepherd, their Victory. God was not just THE Lord, He was THEIR Lord by covenant.

3. The promise of God

Vs. 8 God again promises Canaan to Abraham’s descendants. God is the God who declares the end from the beginning. God desired more than giving them land to possess – God desired to be known by them. In the presence of God, circumstances are not disappointments, but they are opportunities to trust the One who cannot fail.

B. [God's presence was with Israel](#)

[Exodus 13:20-22](#)

There was a pillar of fire at night, and a cloud by day. When the cloud would move, Israel would follow. When the cloud stayed still, Israel camped.

C. [God gives the Law](#)

[Exodus 20-23](#)

The Law was impossible to keep.

The Old Covenant was established by faith (Romans 4:1-9, 13 Abraham). Righteousness has always come through faith. The just shall live by faith (OT Hab. 2:4, Romans 1:17, Heb. 10:38). The Law brought guilt and condemnation to the one who did not rest in God's grace and atonement.

[Exodus 20-23](#) God gives the Law. The ten commandments were not written on stone until later. [Exodus 31](#).

D. [Israel agrees to the covenant](#)

[Exodus 24](#)

1. [Covenant terms](#)

[Vs. 3](#) *"All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do."*

There was an acknowledgment that it was God's Word they were submitting to.

2. [Covenant memorial](#)

[Vs. 4](#) altar

This was a reminder of the covenant.

3. [The blood sacrifice](#)

[Vv. 5-8](#)

The blood was necessary for atonement. Even the Law was given, the covenant union was based on the blood.

4. Memorial meal

Vv. 9-11

The memorial meal only included Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel. The meal was a covenant act.

They saw God's glory.

When Israel accepted God's covenant, the ten commandments were not yet given on stone. Exodus 31:18

Galatians 3:15-18

The Old Covenant was not based on the Law

The Law was added later, after the covenant was established.

The Old Covenant was based on promise

Ishmael was not the son of promise. Isaac was the son of promise. God gave His Word. God watched over His Word. God performed His Word.

Romans 4:1-9,13

The Old Covenant was established by faith

The Law was not the basis of what God established through Abraham and his descendants. Faith was the foundation.

Faith was counted for righteousness

There are two types of righteousness. There is a right-standing that describes a position with God. There is a right-walking that describes our surrender to obedience to God.

Galatians 3:19-25

The Law was a tutor

A tutor is a person who leads the student to understanding. The Law not only taught what was holy by God's standard of righteousness, but it also showed the need to surrender to His goodness and mercy. The Law was impossible to keep, causing everyone who tried to be found guilty. It was only by grace that we could be saved and have the empowerment to live free from sin.

Acts 13:38, 39 [NIV] "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses."

III. Psalm 23

Faith has always been resting in the faithfulness and goodness of God's love. Resting being a dependence on the One who created us. Reading the Old Testament from this perspective gives us an accurate portrayal of God under the Old Covenant.

Sheep are animals who need a shepherd. Without a shepherd, sheep will wander their own way and get lost. The lost sheep will die from starvation or thirst or by a predator. Is there any question to why God would use a sheep to illustrate a person disconnected from Him? Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10).

Reading assignment: "God's Dwelling Place"

The Blood Covenant

Assignment: God's Dwelling Place

A. God's dwelling place

The Hebrew word for tabernacle (miskan) means "dwelling place." God wanted to come near His people. God knew they were not complete without Him. That is how he created us to be – joined with Him. Apart from God we are lost. God wanted to be known by all of Israel.

B. Detailed instructions

Exodus 25-31

God gave Moses detailed instruction for the building of the Tabernacle.

Exodus 25:1-8 The freewill offerings of the people would provide the physical materials for the Tabernacle where God would dwell among His people. These freewill offering would also provide the physical materials for all the furniture and all the garment for the priesthood.

Most if not all of this material came from the spoiling of the Egyptians. The first mention of this was to Abraham in Genesis 15:14. It was told to Moses again in Exodus 3:20-22 and the actual occurrence took place in Exodus 12:33-36.

If what they freely gave came from God. He knew hundreds of years ahead of time how he would provide for His dwelling place. Our resources, our abilities, and our strength comes from the Lord alone. The very breath we breathe comes from Him.

Even what we have in our hands to surrender to God, HE has provided. It's the surrender God requires.

II Corinthians 9:10

God gave specific instructions. There is meaning in much of the instruction, but even following the instructions required surrender.

1. The furniture
2. The lumber and curtains
3. The garments for the priesthood
4. The anointing oil and incense
5. The skilled workers to sew, build, and sculpt

Blood Covenant

C. Atonement

God knew that no one could keep the Law perfectly. The Law pointed to our need for a Redeemer. The blood of animals could only cover man's sin.

1. Continual sacrifices

Exodus 29:10-46

The continual sacrifices, the evening and morning sacrifices, of animals made a way for God to be able to come near the people. Vs. 38-46

2. Annual sacrifice

Leviticus 16

D. Now God lives inside the born again believer

I Corinthians 6:19
II Corinthians 6:16
II Timothy 1:14
Romans 8:11
I John 2:27
John 14:15-16

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 7: The New and Better Covenant

I. The old covenant was not sufficient

Can you imagine being a Jew at the time Christ died? The disciples preached a new covenant that was better than the covenant the Jews had lived by for thousands of years.

A. Sin dominated the hearts of men and women

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

B. The blood of animals could only cover sin

Hebrews 10:4 "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

C. It could not give life

Galatians 3:21 "Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law."

D. It was weak and unprofitable

Hebrews 7:18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,¹¹

E. It could not deliver

Acts 13:39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

F. The Law showed us our need

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

¹¹ Romans 8:3

II. God had a plan

A. The motive for a new covenant was love

*John 3:16, 17 “For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

B. Jesus took human form

Jesus was born to die. It was the ultimate sacrifice. He counted the cost for our salvation and He considered that we were worth it.

Man owed a debt that he could not pay. A sinless life was required to pay the debt to release us from the prison of sin and death.

The only way Jesus could enter this world as a man was to be born into it as we were.

Philippians 2:5-8 “5) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus became our brother. He became familiar with us, our struggles with sin and the effects of sin. Even before His death, Jesus spent years ministering healing, deliverance, and another works by the power of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the will of God in our salvation.

C. The blood of Jesus removed the penalty of sin

Hebrews 10:10 “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

The blood of animals could only cover the sin of man. The blood of Jesus was the blood of a sinless man. Jesus was the only one who could die in our place.

Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Jesus was born with a spirit of life. He never sinned, so His spirit was not affected with sin and death like ours. He was a spotless sacrifice, the Lamb of God.

III. What Jesus Accomplished

A. At the cross

1. Jesus became sin

II Corinthians 5:21 "He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

He didn't just take sin upon Him; He became sin.

Numbers 21

In Numbers 21, we read a story that illustrates Jesus becoming sin for our redemption. A serpent was raised up on a pole and everyone who looked up was healed. The significance in the snake is the evil it represents. It is symbolic of Jesus becoming sin for us. The symbol of the snake on a pole in the medical community comes from this story.

Not everyone looked up, because some were not healed. Not everyone will look to Jesus, and many will reject His salvation.

2. Jesus became a curse

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.")

There was a blessing that came with keeping the Law and a curse that came with breaking the Law (Deuteronomy 28).

Jesus became a curse, then freed us from the curse of the Law. He became a curse by hanging on a tree, the cross. Hanging in the air, off the ground, symbolized being despised. If something had worth, it was weighty, gravity. The very death of hanging was a sign of Jesus becoming our shame, and giving us our worth.

To the Jews, when someone was crucified, they were concerned to be cursed by God (Deuteronomy 21:22, 23). Many of the Jews considered Jesus to be despised and punished by God Himself.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Hanging on a cross was a death that was extreme pain and suffering. The death on a cross was intended to be drawn out in length and suffering. The death was meant to deter others looking on from committing a crime.

Blood Covenant

Isaiah 53:10-12

“10) Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;

He has put Him to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin,

He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,

And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,

For He shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,

And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,

Because He poured out His soul unto death,

And He was numbered with the transgressors,

And He bore the sin of many,

And made intercession for the transgressors.”

Jesus bore the sin of man. He also took the sufferings of sinful man (Isa. 52:13- 53:9).

3. Jesus paid the price with His [blood](#)

Colossians 2:14,15 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Life is in the blood. The price of our ransom was the blood of a sinless man. Jesus' blood being shed redeemed us from death. Like a slave bought out of slavery, Jesus paid for our freedom.

B. Jesus Went to Sheol

1. Jesus was separated from [God](#)

[Matthew 27:45-46](#)

There was darkness for 3 hours. Jesus cried out, “My God, why have You forsaken Me?” The Greek word for forsaken means, “To abandon, desert, leave in straits, leave helpless, to leave behind.”

[Psalm 22:1](#)

In Psalm 22:1 it was foretold that Jesus would make this cry. Obviously a truth God wanted to us to comprehend.

[Luke 16](#)

When people died, they would go to a place referred to as Sheol. According to a story told by Jesus in Luke 16, Jesus, Sheol was divided into two compartments, Hades for those who were not

submitted to God, and a place called “Abraham’s bosom” for those who were submitted to God through blood sacrifice. When Jesus died, He went to Hades, died spiritually, and became the first born from the dead.

Colossians 1:18 “and He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Isaiah 53:8-12

2. Jesus descended

Jesus told His disciples that He would be raised (Matt. 26:32). Even though He knew He would descend, Jesus also believed God would raise Him.

Ephesians 4:8,9 8 “8) Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” 9 (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

When He died, Jesus said, “Into Your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke 23:48, Psalm 31:5

Jesus’ death was not only a physical death, but also a spiritual separation.

His blood paid the price, causing travail in His soul, spiritual death. Isaiah 53:11, Acts 2:22-31, Psalm 88:1-8, Psalm 71:20, 21

It was prophesied that Jesus would lead out the captives. When in Sheol, Jesus preached and souls were freed from the grip of death.

Zephaniah 9:11
Psalm 68:18

For a time, death and the grave had power over Him. He was paying our debt. He defeated hell and the grave, meaning He had something He overcame.

Psalm 49:15 “God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol; for He will receive me.”

Hebrews 13:14 “I will ransom them from the power of Sheol; I will redeem them from death. O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting?”

Blood Covenant

I Corinthians 15:54, 55 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Isaiah 25:8 "He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken."

C. Jesus Resurrected

1. Jesus raised by the power of the Holy Spirit

Once the price had been paid by the blood of Jesus, the way was made for God to raise His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord."

Romans 4:25 "who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."

Philippians 2:9-11 "9) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Acts 2:24 [Amplified] But God raised Him up, releasing Him and bringing an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in death's power.

2. Jesus came out of the grave and then ascended to the Father

John 20:17

Jesus told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father. She was probably overcome with emotion to see Him alive, knowing of His crucifixion. He probably felt a hug coming on.

Blood Covenant

Jesus ascended into heaven to sprinkle His blood in the heavenly tabernacle (Heb. 9:21-28).

1 Peter 1:2 “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”

Ephesians 4:9,10 “Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

IV. The Description of a Covenant in Christ

A. New

*Hebrews 9:15 5 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the **new** covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

B. Second

*Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a **second**.*

1 Peter 1:10-12 [Amplified] ¹⁰ Regarding this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace [of God] that was intended for you, searched carefully and inquired [about this future way of salvation], ¹¹ seeking to find out what person or what time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He foretold the sufferings of Christ and the glories [destined] to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that their services [their prophecies regarding grace] were not [meant] for themselves and their time, but for you, in these things [the death, resurrection, and glorification of Jesus Christ] which have now been told to you by those who preached the gospel to you by the [power of the] Holy Spirit [who was] sent from heaven. Into these things even the angels long to look.

C. Better

*Hebrews 7:22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a **better** covenant.*

Hebrews 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Reading Assignment: “What is the Significance of Water Baptism?”

What is the Significance of Water Baptism?

By Melanie Stone

If you don't understand the meaning of water baptism, you are not alone! Standing in a tank of water alongside someone who is getting ready to dunk you is not something most people do every day. Some people get water baptized simply because that is what the preacher said to do. Some people get water baptized because other people are doing it. However, when you understand the significance of water baptism, your decision to be baptized can be profound.

Water baptism is symbolic of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Our salvation includes eternal life; it also includes wholeness in spirit, soul, and body. Our salvation includes soundness in mind and emotions, peace in turmoil, physical healing, financial provision, and freedom from bondages, just to name a few. Water baptism is not just a natural experience; water baptism can be a miraculous, spiritual experience.

I have a pastor friend who had a skin condition when he was water baptized. When he came up out of the water, his skin had been instantly and miraculously healed! The rash he had was completely gone!

Where it all started

We read about water baptism in the New Testament, starting with John the Baptist, a prophet who foretold about the coming ministry of Jesus Christ. However, before then, immersion in water was not unfamiliar to the Jewish people. Prior to the life of Christ on the earth, Jews would immerse other Jews in water for times of purification or to convert a person to Judaism.¹²

When John the Baptist began his ministry, he was calling Jewish to be immersed in water, but it was for a different reason. John preached a message of repentance in preparation for the coming Messiah. This was a big deal for the Jews. At this time they were underneath the rule of the Romans. The Messiah was promised to deliver Israel from oppression and rule over them as their King. John was preaching it was time to get ready for the coming of their promised King (Read Matthew 3:13-17).

Jesus came out to John to be water baptized. John recognized and identified Jesus as the Messiah. John resisted baptizing Jesus, saying that he was in need of being baptized by Him. Jesus answered, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." This illustrated the death that Jesus would die for us. When John baptized Jesus, God confirmed Jesus as the Messiah by opening the heavens, sending the Holy Spirit, and letting the people hear His voice saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Imagine being on the bank of the Jordon River on that day! If you were a Jew, this event had great significance! This was your Messiah!

¹² Tevilah is the Hebrew word to describe immersions in a natural water source for purification or conversion. In ancient times a river was used, but later on a mikveh, a specially constructed pool, was used.

John was not the only one to baptize Jews for repentance. We read in John 4:1 that Jesus' disciples were also doing water baptisms. The Bible says they were baptizing more people than John the Baptist was. This was quite a movement before Jesus' ministry began, a preparation for to receive Christ's earthly ministry through repentance.

Public profession

After Christ rose from the grave, He instructed His followers to disciple and to baptize new converts. We refer to these verses as "The Great Commission."

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen

Water baptism became a public profession of our salvation. It symbolizes how we have conformed to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The general practice was to get baptized right after conversion; however, the timing is not a requirement.

There are several examples of water baptism in the New Testament. One Bible example is when Peter preached salvation through Jesus to the Jews, and three thousand were saved. Peter said in Acts 2:38, "*Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" In verse 41 it says, "*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*"

Other examples include Philip baptizing people after he preached salvation in Samaria (Acts 8:12) and to a eunuch in verse 38. Paul was baptized by Ananias in Acts 9:18 (Acts 22:16). Peter baptized Gentiles in Acts 10:47-48. Lydia was baptized in Philippi in Acts 16:15. The Philippian jailer was baptized in Acts 16:33. Crispus, a Jewish ruler of the synagogue received Christ and was baptized, along with his family, in Acts 18:8. We read in Acts 19 about believers who were water baptized.

Some of the examples show us that people were water baptized immediately, and for some they were baptized later. Here are some examples of how we see people getting water baptized today:

1. Some are water baptized immediately after receiving salvation.
2. Some get baptized later when they understand baptism better.
3. Others may have been water baptized before they had a full grasp of the experience, so they get baptized again.
4. Some were baptized or sprinkled as a child, but did not get born again until later in life, so they get water baptized at their conversion.
5. There are even those who knew the Lord, but fell away. They decide to get water baptized when they rededicate their lives back to God.
6. Others just feel a prompting of the Holy Spirit in obedience to participate in a spontaneous water baptism as a renewing of their surrender.

There are people who would disagree with some of the above reasons, but there is nothing in scripture that would prevent any of them. As long as a person understands his or her salvation is complete and finished the moment they receive Christ, they know going under water isn't changing that. Going under water is simply the profession of their surrender and celebration of their salvation.

What happens in our heart should cause us to give a public profession of our faith. In Matthew 10, Jesus tells us to shine our light and tell the world of our faith in Him.

Matthew 10:32-33 says, "32) Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33) But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

Part of our surrender to the Lord is telling other people about Him. Obedience to identify with Christ in water baptism has significance, and I encourage you to step out and do so. However, you will not lose your salvation if you do not publicly profess your faith by water baptism or going forward at an altar or shouting it on a street corner. When you are saved, you will want to share salvation with someone else, and you can share Christ in different ways. Don't live in fear of losing your salvation or being denied by Christ if you are not water baptized.

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward work.

Water baptism is meaningful to our salvation, but it is not the substance of our salvation. It's a sign of our salvation. Water does not save you; Jesus saves you. Going under water will not change your heart. If a person goes under the water without the change of heart, that person has not received salvation; he or she has only gotten wet!

Salvation comes by receiving forgiveness through Christ and surrendering to His Lordship. Being sprinkled as a baby will not save you. Being dedicated by your parents does not save you. A change of heart does not take place in you because of the life lived by your parents. Salvation is a decision each person has to make on their own.

Furthermore, we cannot be saved by doing religious works, like going to church, reading our Bibles, or getting water baptized! Salvation is an inward work. Water baptism is an outward expression of what has taken place on the inside of our hearts.

That outward expression could also be meaningful as a proclamation of what Christ is doing in our hearts later in life. I was first water baptized when I was nine years old. I had received Christ at a very young age, and I understood water baptism was a way to share my salvation with others. As I got older, my relationship with Christ deepened after I learned more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came to me and revealed a deeper meaning of scriptures in Romans about my surrender to the Lord. It was the Holy Spirit that led me to be water baptized again as a teenager. I had a fresh revelation of God's love for me, He was asking me to dedicate my life to Him, so I gave Him my life out of love. I was water baptized again at Open Bible Christian Church in Dayton, Ohio, and it was an unforgettable moment between my Lord and me.

Identification with Christ

The scripture the Holy Spirit had quickened to me are found in Romans 6. Here the Apostle Paul explained water baptism in comparison to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is something that should be personal to each of us, a willing surrender to a love that is like none other. Our Father loves us and invites us to relationship with Him (Read Romans 6).

Let's remember that Jesus came to identify with us in our sin so that we could identify with Him in His life. He entered the world in a similar way to our entrance. He was born of a woman. He chose to leave the glory of God's presence to become a human being so He could identify with us. He lived on the earth to share the human experience. He identified with our struggles, our world, and our death - dying in our place. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Our salvation is when we identify with Him, and His life, His resurrection, and experience the Holy Spirit.

When we go under the water

We identify with His death when we are put under water. This illustrates His sacrifice to willingly offer His life through dying on a cross. Thankfully we don't have to die a death on a cross because Jesus did that on our behalf. However, we die to ourselves like Jesus did when He took our place, praying, "Not my will but Yours be done." The plunge into water is illustrative of our conformity to His death by surrendering our life to His Lordship.

Salvation doesn't come from doing good works or saying a prayer. Conversion comes from the reliance of faith, putting ourselves in a position of dependency on God through Christ.

Colossians 2:12 "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

Romans 10:9, 10 "9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The decision to die isn't a temporary decision. It's a decision to give Christ the rest of our lives, all of it. He bought us with a price so we are no longer our own. Thus, death, a finality, an ending of self. As a result of our death is a daily surrendered life to our Lord.

Living water or running water, such as a river, also illustrates the purification from sin. While it is not a requirement to be water baptism in flowing water, we don't want to lose the significance that goes along with the washing forgiveness Christ offers.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Blood Covenant

When we rise from the water

We identify with the life of Christ when we come up out of the water. Jesus did not stay dead or in a grave. Once the price was paid for sin, God was able to raise Jesus from the dead. When we come up out of the water, it is symbolic of the new life we have in Christ. Not only were we conformed to His death, but we are also made alive together with Him.

II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Romans 6:5 "For if we have been UNITED TOGETHER in the LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, certainly we also shall be in the LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION."

Romans 8:10, 11 "And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:1 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

Ephesians 2:5 "even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 2:6 "and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"

Covenant with God

Sin separated us from a union with God, our life. The way to reconcile with God and enter back into that union could not be accomplished on our own. We were outside of God's sphere. It was impossible for us to reunite with God because we were all guilty. Jesus came to be one of us and die our death. When we surrender to Christ, we enter a union with Him. In our union with Christ, together with Christ, we can be reconciled to God.

Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

It is through our covenant union that we can know God, and I mean we can really know God. We can experience Him, His life, His power, His love, His anointing, His healing, His provision, His salvation! Water baptism symbolizes the end to our own ways and our new life in union with Him.

If you would like to be water baptized, please talk with the leaders in your local church to let them know of your interest. Be blessed!

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 8: Positioned in Christ

I. The New Birth

When you believe and receive Jesus as your Lord, you are made NEW in SPIRIT. There is a change as we go from dead to alive, from dark to light, from bound to free.

We are three part beings. The spirit is who we are. The soul and the body are what we have.

II Thessalonians 5:23 "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

All three have been affected by sin or a separation from God. All three have been distorted from the upright nature of God. The new birth is the new life God gives us in our spirit when we receive His redemption. The soul and the body are not immediately changed with a person gives their life to Christ.

A. The spirit is immediately changed

The new birth describes the change that takes place in our spirit, our innermost being, when we receive forgiveness of sin and make Jesus our Lord. It's a regenerating, a recreating of our spirit in nature. We also use the word "heart" to refer to our spirit, not the heart organ that pumps blood, but the heart of a person, our core being.

We use the word "salvation" to refer to the new birth; however our "salvation" includes the new birth and so much more. Once we are reconciled to God in covenant, all His covenant blessings belong to us. All things that pertain to making us whole in spirit, soul, and body are part of our salvation. For example, physical healing is part of our salvation. The anointing or power from the Holy Spirit to overcome is part of our salvation. Other aspects of salvation may manifest at the time of the new birth; however, the actual definition of the new birth is the change in our spirit.

II Corinthians 5:17 "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Jesus mentions the new birth when He speaks with Nicodemus. He uses the phrase "born again."

John 3:3 "...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (vs. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.")

God is the one who takes a dead spirit and gives it life. We can't give life to ourselves; we don't have that power. When we come to God, offering our self to Him, He then does the work.

Ephesians 2:1

*"(1) And you He **made alive**, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**,*

(2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

*(3) among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature** children of wrath, just as the others.*

*(4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were **dead in trespasses**, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), (6) and **raised us up together** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus.**"*

God is the one who makes us alive. Other translations use the word "quicken." In the same way that God raised Jesus from the dead, God transforms your dead spirit with His life. It's new in the sense of being made new, being recreated. You are still you, just changed.

The change in nature happens immediately, even though you may not feel anything. You may not notice a difference right away, but once you are reborn, that new life will begin to transform. You may or may not feel emotion when you are born again. You may or may not sense anything spiritual happening to you at the time of your conversion. However, your obedience and God's promise is the confidence of your salvation.

We cannot earn the new birth by our good works. We are acceptable to God because of Christ and Christ alone. If we were to earn life by working for it, then we would have a hand in our rebirth, thus giving us some power or control over it. The key to faith is the turning away from self-sufficiency and receiving God's grace, which is His power to save us.

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Our faith is a response to give God control, to make Him our Lord. There is an initial surrender at conversion that is a life long decision to submit to His Lordship.

B. [The body doesn't become born again](#)

The new birth takes place in the spirit of a person. The body does not immediately change when you first become a Christian. Your physical appearance does not change. Your age does not change. Your race does not change.

In some cases, when someone first receives Christ it is because of a miracle received. God has performed a healing or wonder in their body, they recognize God is real, and they choose to accept His Lordship. This person has received salvation in his or her body resulting in healing; however it is not the new birth that brings change to the spirit of a person.

Our bodies have been affected by sin resulting in physical death, sickness, deformity, aging, and unholy desires. Jesus didn't come to condemn us; He came to save us. He came to show us the Father's love and mercy, giving us the opportunity to escape wrath and judgment.

Through Christ, He gives us the victory over sin. God doesn't just expect us to perform self-discipline; He gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep our body under. We should be careful to follow the Spirit's leading as far as what to listen to, what to look at, and what to do. Our obedience is met by His power. We cannot please God with our works, but He is please by faith. Our faith is our reliance on His power and taking those steps of obedience.

In addition, we will receive a new body after our earthly body physically dies. If we are physically alive at the time of the rapture, we will receive a new body at that time.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 “(50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

C. [The soul goes through a process of transformation](#)

As we previously stated, the new birth is a change in the spirit of a person. The new birth does not refer to the body. It also does not refer to the soul, which includes our mind, will, and emotions. The soul does not receive a new creation at the time of the new birth.

However, God will bring the soul through a process of change. Our will can change. Our will is our “want to.” God aligns our “want to” with His “want to.” As we mature, God’s life, which includes His desires, will become our desires. This doesn’t mean we’re never tempted again, but it does mean that He transforms our desires.

God brings our emotions through transformation. People can experience damage in their soul as an effect of living in a fallen world. Emotionally they become unstable, and those emotions can negatively affect behavior, decisions, and their wellbeing. Emotions can also be unhealthy when a person is allowing those emotions to rule over their heart. This is when a person is being controlled by their emotions instead of by their spirit.

God also brings the mind through a process of renewal. The way we think, what we think, how we think are all areas God wants to transform.

Romans 12:1, 2 “(1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

D. [The spirit is to rule the flesh](#)

The flesh refers to the soul and body, the parts that do not go through a new birth. The spirit is to rule, or be in charge, over the flesh.

II. **Becoming one with Christ**

A. **Jesus is the only covenant way to [right standing with God](#)**

On our own, we are unimaginably deficient in the sufficiency needed to attain right standing with God.

Jesus Christ is the only human being that ever attained a right standing with God by offering His sinless, spotless life to pay the penalty of sin.

The only way for us to come to God is through Christ. When we surrender to Him, we enter into covenant with Him and God. He reconciles us in a covenant relationship with God.

John 17 is a recorded prayer Jesus prayed to God about the covenant union He came to establish. It is clear that Jesus is the go-between. He is one with God. When we enter a union with Christ, our brother, we become one with God too.

Jesus is in right standing with God. He was made righteous. We are together with Christ, in union. Therefore, we are made righteous through Him.

In addition, the wonderful, life-giving, overcoming ways of God can be experienced as we embrace our right standing and yield to right walking. Higher and higher we'll go in God. The more like Him we'll become. The more spiritual truth we will comprehend. The more of God's glory we'll experience. The more impact we will have on the world Jesus came to die for.

Ephesians 2 made us alive together, seated us together, raised us up together.

We've been set in the family, adopted in. It's a position we've been given, not earned. Once we are positioned in the royal family of Christ, we are instructed to live in that relationship with Christ. In that relationship, to be close with God is to yield to His holiness in our way of living. If a Christian makes a choice to sin, even though they have a position in the family of God, sin will have an effect on the intimacy of relationship.

B. Conforming to His death

The way for salvation was made; however, not everyone will receive it. The only way to receive the new birth is by identifying with Christ in His death, meaning surrendering control of our own life.

Galatians 2:20 "Therefore I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Our life is no longer our own. We were bought with a price, the blood of Jesus.

Our choice to obey is our privilege to yield to Him in a loving, trusting relationship. God wants our response to be a willing surrender to His love, not an obligation in fear.

C. Raised in His life

When we yield our life, God is able to raise us to new life in Christ. When we identify with His surrender, we also identify with the glory of His life.

We also know a power to overcome, a power to receive God's blessings, a power to minister power to others!

III. Jesus died for everyone

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, not a nation. He said his descendants would be a multitude, like the stars in the heavens and the sand of the sea.

God's plan all along was to bring salvation to all people, not just the Jews. The human being who would become one of us was born into a family, a family where the descendants came from Abraham and David (the Messiah was prophesied to come through the line of David). The genealogy shared in Matthew and Luke both lead to Joseph, a man engaged to be in covenant with Mary, a virgin. When the couple went to Bethlehem (in Judea to the city of David)¹³ it was because the Jews were required to return to their birthplace for a Roman census because he was of the lineage of David. Jesus was born in the same city as David,

David was a small shepherd boy from a small town and last in line from his brothers. God made him a king. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Jesus also will be made a king.

Joseph was the descendent of David. Joseph was the one who had to return to Bethlehem. Mary was special. She had favor. One reason Mary may have been chosen to carry baby Jesus was because of who she made a covenant promise to – Joseph, a descendent of David.

A. The word "seed" is singular.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ."

The point is that the one Seed God refers to when addressing Abraham was referring to Christ.

The significance is that Christ was to be born as a human sacrifice as well as a son born in the covenant family line of Abraham, a Jew. He was the Seed God promised Abraham and all of humanity.

B. Abraham was to be the Father of many nations.

Genesis 12:3 "... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The Greek word for "families"¹⁴ here refers to people groups, clans, or tribes. All groups of the earth – people in all nations.

¹³ I Samuel 16:1

¹⁴ Hebrew mishpachah, #4940

C. We become spiritual children of Abraham through faith.

Through the new birth, Jews and Gentiles can enter into the family of God. Through a spiritual adoption, we become children of God and children of Abraham. Descendants of faith.

Romans 8:15-23, Galatians 4:5, Ephesians 1:5

IV. The seal of the New Covenant

When blood covenants are made, a scar is made as a reminder and a testimony to the covenant. Circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant. In Romans 2:29 it speaks of a circumcision of the heart.

Romans 2:29 "But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is one from men but from God."

The heart, or spirit, has died, and a new spirit has been recreated. The Holy Spirit comes to live within the recreated spirit of a person.

Colossians 2:11-13

The Holy Spirit is the seal of the new covenant. He is our witness that we are born again.

Romans 8:16, II Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13, 14, Eph. 4:30

V. Jesus our high priest forever

Hebrews 7:21-25 Jesus is continually making intercession for Christians so if we do sin, there is forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:18 "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin." Jesus' blood took sin away, not merely covered sin like the blood of animals.

I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This was written to Christians. Thank God for His grace!

Reading assignment: "In Christ Scriptures"

Read John 17

In Christ Scriptures

Compiled by Melanie Stone

The following are scriptures from the New Testament which convey the relationship and privileges we have with God based on our union with Christ. The phrases used are “in Christ, in Him, in the Lord, in us, of Christ, of Him, by Christ, by Him, by whom, by Me, in Me, from whom, with Christ, with Him, through Jesus, through Christ, through Him, in His name, in My name.”

These scriptures tell us who we ARE in Christ, what we can DO in Christ, and what we can HAVE in Christ.

In Christ we are in a covenant union with God

He who eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, abides **in me**, and I in him. – John 6:56

I am the door. If anyone enters **by Me**, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. – John 10:9

At that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you **in Me**, and I in you. – John 14:20

That they all may be one; as You, Father, are in me, and I in You; that they also may be one **in Us**: that the world may believe that You sent me. – John 17:21

I in them, and You in me, that they may be made perfect **in one**; and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved me. – John 17:23

Therefore, my brethren, you also are become dead to the law **through the body of Christ**, that you may be married to another - to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. – Romans 7:4

For **of Him** and **through Him** and **to Him** are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. – Romans 11:36

So we, being many, are one body **in Christ**, and individually members one of another. – Romans 12:5

God is faithful, by whom you were called **into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ** our Lord. – 1 Corinthians 1:9

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** are all things, and **through whom** we live. – 1 Corinthians 8:6

Now you are the **body of Christ**, and members in individually. – 1 Corinthians 12:27

Blood Covenant

That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles **in Christ Jesus**; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. – Galatians 3:14

For you are all sons of God through faith **in Christ Jesus**. – Galatians 3:26

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one **in Christ Jesus**. – Galatians 3:28

That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth- **in Him**. – Ephesians 1:10

Which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. – Ephesians 1:23

For **through Him** we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. – Ephesians 2:18

In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord: (22) **in whom** you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:21, 22

For the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature **of the fullness of Christ**: – Ephesians 4:12, 13

For it pleased the Father that **in Him** all the fullness should dwell, – Colossians 1:19

For **in Him** dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. – Colossians 2:9

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the substance is **of Christ**. – Colossians 2:17

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you **in Him**, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Thessalonians 1:12

Now he who keeps His commandments abides **in Him**, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. – 1 John 3:24

By this we know that we abide **in Him**, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. – 1 John 4:13

Whosoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and **he in God**. – 1 John 4:15

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone who loves Him who begot loves him who is begotten **of Him**. – 1 John 5:1

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true, and we are **in Him** who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ**. This is the true God and eternal life. – 1 John 5:20

In Christ we have new life now and for eternity

In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. – John 1:4

That whoever believes **in Him** should not perish but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes **in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life. – John 3:15, 16

As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father: so he who feeds on Me will live because **of Me**. – John 6:57

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection, and the life. He who believes **in Me**, though he may die, he shall live: (26) And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? – John 11:25, 26

For **in Him** we live and move and have our being; as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' – Acts 17:28

Therefore we were buried **with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. – Romans 6:4

Now if we be died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live **with Him**: – Romans 6:8

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God **in Christ Jesus** our Lord. – Romans 6:11

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death. – Romans 8:1, 2

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells **in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells **in you**. – Romans 8:11

For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** all shall be made alive. – 1 Corinthians 15:22

Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. – 2 Corinthians 5:17

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak **in Him**, but we shall live **with Him** by the power of God toward you. – 2 Corinthians 13:4

I have been crucified **with Christ**: it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. – Galatians 2:20

Blood Covenant

For **in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. – Galatians 6:15

Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together **with Christ** (by grace you have been saved). – Ephesians 2:5

Buried **with Him** in baptism, in which you also were raised **with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (13) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together **with Him**, having forgiven you all trespasses; – Colossians 2:12, 13

If then you were raised **with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. – Colossians 3:1

For you died, and your life **is hidden with Christ in God**. (4) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear **with Him** in glory. – Colossians 3:3, 4

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring **with Him** those who sleep **in Jesus**. – 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together **with Him**. – 1 Thessalonians 5:10

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live **through Him**. – 1 John 4:9

In Christ we have right-standing

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world **through Him** might be saved. – John 3:17

Jesus said unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except **through Me**.' – John 14:6

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus**: – Romans 3:24

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath **through him**. – Romans 5:9

And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** we have now received the reconciliation. – Romans 5:11

But of Him you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption: – 1 Corinthians 1:30

That is, that God was **in Christ** reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. – 2 Corinthians 5:19

Blood Covenant

For he made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God **in Him**. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

Just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: – Ephesians 1:4

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; – Ephesians 1:7

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **in whom** also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, – Ephesians 1:13

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**: – Ephesians 2:6

Finally, my brethren, be strong **in the Lord**, and in the power of His might. – Ephesians 6:10

And be found **in Him**, not having mine own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through the faith **in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith: – Philippians 3:9

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins: – Colossians 1:14

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things** by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; – Hebrews 1:3

In Christ we can do what He wants us to do

And these signs will follow those who believe; **In My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; – Mark 16:17

The man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all **through Him** might believe. – John 1:7

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide in Me**. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides in Me, and I in him**, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. – John 15:4, 5

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. – John 15:7

You did not choose Me, but I have chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatever you ask the Father **in My name**, He may give you. – John 15:16

Blood Covenant

Through whom also we have access by faith into this in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. – Romans 5:2

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified **with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. – Romans 6:6

Yet, in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him** who loved us. – Romans 8:37

We then, as workers together **with Him** also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. – 2 Corinthians 6:1

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak **in Him**, but we shall live **with Him** by the power of God toward you. – 2 Corinthians 13:4

For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:10

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure **of Christ's gift**. – Ephesians 4:7

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. – Ephesians 4:16

For you were once darkness, but now you are light **in the Lord**. Walk as children of light. – Ephesians 5:8

I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me. – Philippians 4:13

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born **of Him**. – 1 John 2:29

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk **in Him**: – Colossians 2:6

And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image **of Him** who created Him: – Colossians 3:10

Make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, **through Jesus Christ**, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. – Hebrews 13:21

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, **to whom** belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 4:11

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are **in Him**. – 1 John 2:5

In Christ we can have what He wants us to have

For where two or three are gathered together **in My name**, I am there in the midst of them. – Matthew 18:20

And whatever you ask **in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask anything **in My name**, I will do it. – John 14:13, 14

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send **in My name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. – John 14:26

And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, 'Whatever you ask the Father **in My name**, He will give you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing **in My name**. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. – John 16:23, 24

In that day you will ask **in My name**, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you: – John 16:26

These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. – John 16:33

And if children, then heirs- heirs of God and joint-heirs **with Christ**; if indeed we suffer **with Him**, that we may be also glorified **together**. – Romans 8:17

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not **with Him** also freely give us all things? – Romans 8:32

Nor height, nor depth, nor any created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is **in Christ Jesus our Lord**. – Romans 8:39

For who has known the mind **of the Lord** that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind **of Christ**. – 1 Corinthians 2:16

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds **through Christ**. – 2 Corinthians 1:5

And we have such trust **through Christ** toward God. – 2 Corinthians 3:4

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God **through Christ**. – Galatians 4:7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**. – Ephesians 1:3

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will: – Ephesians 1:11

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge **of Him**: – Ephesians 1:17

Blood Covenant

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**. – Ephesians 2:7

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith **in Him**. – Ephesians 3:12

To know the love **of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:19

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus**. – Philippians 4:7

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory **by Christ Jesus**. – Philippians 4:19

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. – Colossians 2:3

And you are complete **in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power: – Colossians 2:10

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge **of Him** who called us by glory and virtue: – 2 Peter 1:3

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will **abide in Him**. – 1 John 2:27

Now this is the confidence that we have **in Him**, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. – 1 John 5:14, 15

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 9: Inheritance in Christ

I. David and Jonathan's Covenant

I Samuel 18:1-31

I Samuel 18:1-4

David was in a position of submission to Saul. Saul invited David into an audience with him. When David had finished speaking with Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul (verse 1). Saul brought David into his home.

Jonathan had a faith in God, meaning he was surrendered to God and His plan. He was next in line to be king. Jonathan knew who he was, yet he most likely had an understanding that David was God's choice to be king, assuming that David shared the prophecy the Prophet Samuel with Jonathan, his covenant brother. Jonathan entered into a covenant with David, uniting the two families. Jonathan took his robe, the robe of the prince, a sign of his identity, and gave it to David.

I Samuel 20:12-17

Jonathan and David knew Saul could turn on David, so they worked out a plan for Jonathan to communicate David's need to run. Jonathan also made a covenant with David that included his protection for himself, and also for his descendants.

I Samuel 20:30-31

Saul had found out that Jonathan entered into covenant with David, and Saul was furious that Jonathan had shared the throne and his kingdom benefits with David. It was a necessary legal transaction, but it was also a heartfelt, knitted friendship. It showed Jonathan's willing heart to enter into a union with his covenant brother. Saul said to Jonathan, his intended heir, "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, not your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

A. Covenant Rights Extended

1. Mephibosheth's Identity

II Samuel 4:4

Mephibosheth was lame in his feet. The story of how it happened is found in II Samuel 4.

Mephibosheth is Jonathan's son, the king's grandson. When Mephibosheth was five years old when the news spread about the

downfall of King Saul and Jonathan. Mephibosheth's nurse was terrified they would be coming after the family, so she took Mephibosheth and fled. In her haste, Mephibosheth fell and became lame. More than likely he broke one or both of his legs and the legs were never set right to heal.

Mephibosheth was positioned for royalty; however, he instead grew up in hiding. He grew up and lived in Lo Debar, the backside of the desert. He could have had the best care for his injuries if he was in the kingdom, but he was left in a place of lack. His destiny was drastically changed.

Lo Debar is made up of two words. "Lo" is the Hebrew non-negotiable "no-that-means-no."¹⁵

Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names proposes that Lo Debar means "without pasture," meaning a desert.

2. David's Search

a. David's Promised to Jonathan

[I Samuel 20:15-16](#)

b. Jonathan's Death

When Saul and all his sons died, David was heir to the throne through his covenant with Jonathan. It was not only God's plan, it was a legal, binding agreement. Now David was possessing Jonathan's inheritance. There were three reasons why David ascended to the throne:

1. Saul was self-sufficient and God wanted a king that demonstrated the reliance of a heart after God.
2. Samuel had anointed David as God's choice.
3. Jonathan entered into a binding covenant agreement that gave David legal right to the throne as if he were blood family.

c. Jonathan's Son

[II Samuel 9:1-5](#)

Jonathan was killed in battle, and David remembered the covenant promises between him and his friend. Everything David had was from Jonathan's inheritance. David searches for anyone related to his dear friend, Jonathan.

¹⁵ Abarim Publications

David was a man of honor, honoring God and covenant. He honored Saul because he was God's anointed. David also understood he entered into a kingly covenant, and he appreciated what that meant. He honored Jonathan and he delighted in honoring Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. One characteristic God mentions about David is that he is a man after his own heart.

Honor the one with an anointing, even when they mess up. If you judge a leader who failed, be careful. It's God's responsibility, not ours.

d. [Mephibosheth's Blessings](#)

[II Samuel 9:6-13](#)

Ziba was enjoying the kingdom life as a servant of Saul who David showed kindness. Ziba knew Mephibosheth existed, but hid that truth from David. He had been in hiding since age five. All of his family had been killed. He hid for fear of being killed too. David found him and the first thing he did was to tell him not to be afraid. Because of his deception, David made Ziba a slave to Mephibosheth.

You are going to own everything Saul and Jonathan owned. You are going to sit and eat at the king's table. He brought him to Jerusalem, the city known for God's presence.

II Samuel 9:8 "Then he bowed himself, and said, 'What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?'" Mephibosheth did not have high self-esteem. He didn't even refer to himself as human. He referred to himself as a dog, and not just a dog – a dead dog.

Love your enemies. Pray for your enemies. God did the same for us when we were at odds with Him.

B. [New Covenant Privileges](#)

Jonathan was a type of Jesus. Jesus provided a new covenant with us, a legal transaction so that all that belonged to Him and the Father was now legally ours.

Jesus gave up glory to come live with us. When he died, we received His inheritance – all that belongs to His Father in glory. It was God's plan for us. He wants us to walk in His glory now on the earth. He wants to bless us for our good, but also to expand His kingdom on the earth.

Mephibosheth was a type of us. He once was an heir to the throne, but found himself outside the kingdom because of death. He was crippled. We too, were originally designed to know the glory of God, but because of sin and death, found ourselves outside of God's kingdom. We were crippled because of sin. But Christ, in His grace, came searching and found us. He brought us in and said everything that I have is yours. He ate at the king's table and we have fellowship with God as well.

II. Joint Heirs with Christ

We are joint-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

A. Jesus an Heir

Hebrews 1:4 Jesus received a position above the angels through inheritance.

There must be a death before an inheritance can be received. Jesus died that death, but God raised Him and restored Him to glory.

Hebrews 9:15

Psalm 110:1 says that Jesus would be lifted to seat at the right hand of God and that He would make His enemies His footstool.

We have been seated together with Christ.

Ephesians 2:5-6 He raised us up together and seated us in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

It is a position of covenant authority over all God's enemies, principalities, powers, might and dominion. Paul prayed for us to have a revelation about who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Our authority comes from being one with Christ, positioned with Him. Everything we do must be done in His name.

John 14:13

Mark 9:41

B. Brothers

Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Jesus Became One of Us

God had given authority of the earth to mankind. Mankind sold out to the devil and sin. To put Himself in the position to pay the price for sin for us, He had to send His Son to the earth the way we all come into the earth. He entered the world as a baby, taking on the same earthly form as we have.

2. Jesus Identified With Us

Jesus became our sin and our curse (II Corinthians 5:21). He was tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). He died our death.

3. Jesus Was Reborn Spiritually

Jesus died and was separated from the Father. Jesus is the firstfruits of those who will receive salvation. He is not ashamed to call us His brethren, being born again – an opportunity we have as well.

4. We Have the Same Father

Jesus died and God gave Him new life. We can only enter this covenant if we die – to self. We can only partake of the inheritance if we die to self. It is harder for people of means to turn from dependency on self to dependency on God, but to know more of God's glory, we must know more of what it is to suffer and die to self.

There are approximately 140 expressions of being "In Christ."

TEXT: Romans 8:11-17

a. We were slaves to sin.

b. Jesus gave His blood so there can be forgiveness of sin.

Jesus paid the price, so we are no longer slaves to sin. As we choose to follow after freedom, any suffering from denying our own carnal desires is also working God's glory in us.

God's forgiveness is complete. God will never bring them up again; He chooses not to recall our past sin.

Hebrews 8:12

Blood Covenant

- c. [Jesus is the Son of God, and we become born again into God's family.](#)

The Bible also gives an illustration of adoption. Another way of understanding our family relationship is seen in our adoption as sons and daughters of God.

- d. [Since we are the children of God, then we are also heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ Jesus.](#)

Jesus received an inheritance.

[Hebrews 1:4](#)

There must be a death before an inheritance can be received. Jesus died that death, but God raised Him and restored Him to glory.

[Philippians 2:6-11](#)

Now Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.

[Hebrews 9:15](#)

The Father delivered up His own son to accomplish a new covenant in His blood so that we could walk in this new life and inheritance God wanted for us.

[Romans 8:32](#)

Prodigal son's father. Always ours, but we had to return. Jesus made that possible. Father watched and waited for the son, then RAN to meet him.

[Colossians 1:12-14 inheritance](#)

[Ephesians 1:11-14 inheritance](#)

[Acts 20:32 inheritance](#)

The inheritance allows us to live and experience the purpose for which we were created.

III. [Knowing What Belongs to Us](#)

A. [Definitions](#)

1. [Covenant](#)

[Diatheke: "A disposition of property by will or otherwise." \(Vines\)](#)

[Hebrews 9:15-18](#)

2. Inherit

Kleronomeo: "To receive by lot." Lot means, "to possess." Literally "to receive possession." (Vines)

You cannot earn an inheritance. It is what belongs to another and is given because of a death.

If we do not know what it ours, then how can we possess it? Many Christians are suffering because of ignorance – they do not know what their covenant blessings are.

Illustration: A man is an heir of his uncle. His uncle dies, and leaves an inheritance to his nephew. Unless someone tells the nephew about what was written in the will, how will the nephew know what his uncle wanted him to have? If he doesn't know, how will he claim what belongs to him?

The Bible is a will of the testament of Christ's blood. The Holy Spirit is the executor.

Part of Christ's inheritance would be the lost that he died for. Psalm 2:8 "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."

Part of the inheritance we have as Christians is to claim these lives that Christ has died for. The world is ours to win!

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20

B. God Belongs to Us

Under the old covenant, Israel was given an inheritance through covenant. The promise was the land of Canaan. Each tribe had land given to it, but to the tribe of Levi, no land was given to it. God told them, I am your inheritance. I belong to you. I give myself to you. His presence is the glory we long to have.

Psalm 73:26 "...God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 142:5 "...You are my portion in the land of the living."

C. Covenant Blessings

Hebrews 8:6 “(Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

All the blessings of God are from His glory. God wants us to know His glory.

1. We were created to know His glory.
2. We fell short from knowing His glory.
3. Christ is within us, a hope of knowing His glory.

If we cannot receive God’s love and forgiveness, then we are not in a position to receive from Him. If we cannot receive forgiveness, then we are still in pride and trying to attain His righteousness by our good works. Any Christian who thinks he can stand on his own two feet, take heed lest you fall. However, from a fallen position, you can see your need for His grace.

These are things that are given to us, not earned. These are things that we can grow in. These are things that go along with the glory that we have been restored to.

Forgiveness (I John 1:9)

Righteousness (II Cor. 5:17)

Eternal Life (John 3:16)

Dominion over sin and addictions (Romans 6:14)

Authority over Satan and his kingdom (Eph. 1:18-23)

The Holy Spirit and Power (Acts 1:8)

Wisdom and Knowledge (Col. 2:3)

Healing (Matthew 8:17)

Provision (Phil. 4:19)

Protection (I John 5:18)

Success (Josh. 1:8)

Strength (Phil. 4:13)

Love (Romans 5:5)

Blood Covenant

Joy (John 15:11)

Peace (Phil. 4:9)

Patience (Gal. 5:22)

Gentleness (Gal. 5:22)

Goodness (Gal. 5:22)

Faith (II Tim. 1:7)

Meekness (Gal. 5:23)

Self-Control (Gal. 5:23)

Boldness (Eph. 3:12)

Deliverance (Ps. 91:15)

Long life (Ps. 91:16)

Guidance (Prov. 3:6)

Comfort (II Cor. 1:4)

Companionship (Heb. 13:5)

Help (John 16:7)

Victory (I Cor. 15:57)

All good things (Rom. 8:32)

IV. God's Possession

So what does God get out of the covenant? He gets us.

One reason why some Christians are not receiving their covenant blessings is because they are not keeping their part of the covenant – dying to self. All that I am, all that I have, all that I can do belongs to Him. He wants 100% of me, not 99.9% of me. I cannot hang onto anything that isn't surrendered to Him.

[I Corinthians 6:9-10](#)

[I Corinthians 15:50](#)

[Galatians 5:19-21](#)

Blood Covenant

The rich, young ruler couldn't give up what Christ knew he depended upon – his money. In covenant, the things that I possess are God's. If He asks me to give away money, then I do it because it belongs to both of us.

We are God's possession. I Peter 2:9 a people for God's possession. (Psalm 33:2)

We were bought with a price. We are not our own. I Corinthians 6:20

I Peter 1:18-20

Redeemed (bought). Don't compare this to a controlling, manipulating experience you may have had. We belong to Him for freedom and liberty to be who He created us to be.

Luke 9:23 I must die daily by denying selfish ambitions and desires, and picking up my cross by obeying Him.

Galatians 2:20 God wants us to surrender ourselves and find ourselves complete in Him with His strength and ability to live as overcomers in this life.

The purpose for my being blessed is not to drift back into independence again. Some Christians, as they mature, get into self-righteousness and judging others.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Lesson 10: The Body of Christ

I. One With Christ

A. We willingly enter a union

The covenant is a union, a binding relationship where we have communion with one another and we belong to one another. We have joined together to be one union. It's a relationship that has a nearness, a close fellowship, a tightly knit bond.

B. God is the authority in the union relationship

We enter the covenant as we honor God as our caring authority, gracious Creator, and everlasting Father. Every union needs a head, one that leads the other; otherwise the union results in confusion and strife. In our relationship with God, He is the source of life, the Almighty One, and we submit and rely on His grace.

There are a variety of ways to try to express our relationship:

- We're on a team with God. He's the coach.
- We're in a marriage with God. He's the husband.
- We're in a merger with God. He's the president.
- We've agreed and entered into a treaty with God. He's the king.

C. We can have union with Christ

Jesus died to pay the ransom to redeem mankind. We enter into a union with Christ when we conform to His death, which we do through submission to His benevolent Lordship. We become one with Christ.

It's not just about us anymore. It takes a surrender, an end, to our independence to choose a union with Christ. We're not our own anymore. We belong to Him. He belongs to us.

First He created us, so we belong to our Creator. There is a possession in what we create. I paint a painting. That painting is mine. God created us. There is an authority there. Legally it's called intellectual property. It's mine. God's creation belongs to Him. I Corinthians 10:26.

Second, He redeemed us. He purchased us with His blood. We're not our own. We belong to Him. Not like a slave, but as a redeemed son or daughter. I Peter 1:18-19.

D. [Because of a union, God raised Jesus so God can raise you](#)

God raised Jesus from the dead, giving Him new life, both physical and spiritual. For those who choose to enter into covenant through surrender, they also can be raised to new life.

John 17:5 “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

We were always intended to know God and His glory. Sin separated us from that glory.

Jesus knew God’s glory before He entered into a human body.¹⁶ He also knew of His upcoming death and what that would mean for the human race. He knew He would soon return to sharing in God’s glory, and He prayed the same for us.

E. [Union with God in Christ](#)

In our new life, we are reconciled to God through a union relationship. We become one with God.

II. [Intimacy in Covenant](#)

TEXT: [John 17](#)

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Covenant isn’t just about our position in covenant; it’s about the communion, the fellowship, we have in covenant.

It’s not just about the legal side of the covenant; it’s also about the relationship side of the covenant. God has a heart. He gave us a heart.

A. [We Belong to God](#)

John 17:9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

This is love.

To enter into a blood covenant, one must let go of his independence so that he can take hold with another. The purpose of a covenant is a binding together as one. All that you are, all that you have, and all that you can do are no longer your own. However, all that your partner is, all

¹⁶ Philippians 2:1-11

that he has, and all that he can do now belong to you as well. Our covenant partner is God. He wants us to trust Him with all of us and He in turn will give us all that He is.

B. We Are One With God

John 17:10 "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them."

John 17:11 "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."

Jesus was already one with God. He was praying that we would be able to enter into covenant with God and be one as He was one with Him.

Jesus is the head, and we are His body. We're that joined together. And we enter into this trinity. We begin to walk in a delegated authority, not as divine gods, but as ones authorized to take our place of dominion in the earth. We're supposed to carry out His mission. HIS mission.

Sometimes we get so caught up in what we have compared to what someone else has. When we do this, we fail to recognize that it all belongs to Him.

C. Joined Through Jesus

John 17:20-26 "May they be IN Us (vs. 21)."

John 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."

He prayed for those alive then, and those who would be born and chose His salvation in generations to come. What we need to realize is that we are one with people that have gone before us. There should be an attitude of honor and unity with these people that we will one day meet. We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for them. We are a continuation of them.

Read verses 21-26

We must be born again. John 3:3-8

Before regeneration, we were outside of God. We had turned away from dependency on God, doing things our own way. Turning away from God, we turned away from the life found in God. Death is the result. When we turned back to God through dying to self, we entered back into relationship with Him through Christ, thus, back into life.

There is no way back into covenant with God except through Christ. It is only through Him that we have position over sin, the enemy, and over the curse. All we do must be done in Him and in His name.

Joint heirs – JOINED heirs.

III. Positioned in His Body (The Church)

Not only are we in covenant with God through Christ, we are one with each other legally and relationally.

When we receive Christ, we enter His kingdom. Go through the blood of Christ to become part of Him, part of His body. Our unity is what makes a dwelling place for God.

[Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

19) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22) in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Greek sunarmologeō 4883 “to fit” or “frame together”

A joint is where two bones not only come together, but are fitted together.

Used in building and body. In Eph. 2:21 and 4:16

Verse 22: several pieces being put together to build one thing. To construct. (4925, synoikodomeō).

[1 Peter 2:5 \[Jesus is the cornerstone, verse 4\]](#)

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

[Matthew 18:20](#)

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

GATHER (synago, 4863): “to gather, to collect.” “To assemble together, to join together, to meet.” “to come together.”

God is love, and He works by love. It’s a spiritual principle. If Satan can hinder love in Christ’s body, Satan can hinder God. If Satan can cause strife, He can work against God through people.

Intimacy brings multiplication. Satan works to destroy relationships because of the multiplication they bring.

- Satan doesn’t just destroy a marriage, he destroys a family.
- Satan doesn’t just destroy a pastor, he destroys a church.
- Satan doesn’t just destroy God and man, he destroys the world.

John 10:10 Jesus came to bring us life. Life is a result of love.

A. [Walk in love](#)

Love God. Love each other. Two commandments. Covenant talk.
Commandments. Everything rests on these two things.

God's covenant of blood is God's covenant of love.

How will they know we are Christians? By our love.

Marriage – love

Friendship – love

Christ dying on the cross – love

Us forgiving each other, staying in relationship with each other – love.
Covenant.

Love is what knits us together. There is a knitting, a welding, a joining, bind, a gluing together that God does between the brothers and the sisters.

[JOIN \(kollai, 2853\): “to glue or cement together.” “To unite, to join firmly.” “To keep company with.” “To cleave to.”](#)

[JOIN \(proskollao, 4347\): “To stick to” A strengthened form of kollai.](#)

[JOIN \(sunzeugnumi, 4801\): “to yoke together” of marriage.](#)

[JOIN \(sunomoreo, 4927\): “To border on” like when someone adds on to a house. Acts 18:7 “joined hard to.”](#)

[KNIT TOGETHER \(sumbibazo, 4822\): “to cause to coalesce, to join or knit together.”](#)

[Coalesce: “to grow together or into one body \(the two lakes coalesced into one.” “To unite so as to form one mass, community \(the various groups coalesced into a crowd.” “to blend or come together \(their ideas coalesced into one theory\).” Synonyms: Unite, combine, join, amalgamate, fuse, blend, merge.](#)

Stay planted. You don't continually uproot and move from place to place.

BIND: You bind yourself to another person. Bond servant – I willingly join myself to you. Those who are bond or in bondage to addiction, sin, are attached and controlled by it. Joined to it, a negative thing. However, when you bind yourself to a person in marriage, or a healthy church, it's a positive thing.

Blood Covenant

KNIT

Colossians 2:2 "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;"

*Colossians 2:19 [someone in opposition with God]
and not holding fast to the head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows the increase that is from God.*

Ephesians 4:16 knit together by what every joint supplies...

JOINED

I Corinthians 1:10

*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly **joined** together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Here the word JOINED means "to render complete, to perfect." We are interdependent on each other, dependent on the Lord.

*Ephesians 4:16 joined and knit together
Colossians 2:19 joined and knit together*

ONE

Galatians 2:28... you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Philippians 1:27

*... that you stand fast in **one** spirit, with **one** mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*

Philippians 2:2

fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Colossians 3:15

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in **one** body; and be thankful.*

Covenant thing. One way the enemy works against a church is to break covenant through getting out of love, which is a transgression of covenant. Guard your covenants. Guard your marriages, guard your

families. Satan loves affairs in the church because He comes against covenants.

Church of love and power. Satan wants to break people's ability to trust. If Satan can hurt you, Satan can cause your heart to close up. Churches should be a place of love for trust so people will be open to receive. Satan is so twisted where if he can get into this trusted place and hurt you, he will get you to close up, withdrawal, or even take his side and hurt the church. If it's just about the power, and not the love and care for people, it's breeding ground for trouble. It's grounds for human trouble, but it is also grounds for spirit trouble.

Matthew 24

Faith to move mountains, the power of God at work, then right into forgiveness. Unforgiveness causes a breach in covenant and it will hinder the power of God.

Offense will affect the anointing.

Offense is a covenant issue. The Bible talks about leaving your gift at the altar to reconcile with your brother, and then come make your offering. If we want to have the presence of God grow stronger in the house, then we need to be pursuing a corporate unity, teamwork.

You want the anointing or the power of God? Walk in love with one another.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

The enemy will get us to focus on things that aren't as important as the kingdom.

A step out of love is a step into sin.

It's hurting one another. When they touch you, they touch the apple of His eye.

When someone hurts you, they hurt the body. They hurt the cause of Christ.

If you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto Me.

B. [Walk in Honor for Spiritual Authority](#)

Authority is a negative word for some people. God delegates authority for our good – in families, in the work place, in government, and in the church.

There is power in unity, legally. Showing respect for one another is powerful. Showing honor for spiritual authority is powerful.

We often steer away from this truth about honoring spiritual authority because there has been such a misuse and abuse of it over the generations; however, the truth remains. You honor people in authority – your parents, your spouse, your employer, your civil leaders, and God will extend honor and favor and blessing to you.

It has everything to do with honoring God and recognizing position. It's in the Word. Honor my prophets and do them no harm. Ministers are worthy of double honor. Even if King Saul were to fall because of his failure and error, David refused to let it be by his hand. David killed a lot of people. But Saul was his king.

The anointing flows when there is honor for God's delegated authority.

[Psalm 133](#)

*1) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
2) It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
3) It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore.*

Elijah

There was a principle at work. Take care of the prophet and God will take care of you.

Paul before priest

Sorry, I didn't realize you were the high priest. Honor for God's delegated authority. The priest was deceived. He didn't have the revelation of the Christ that Paul had. He wasn't born again. He was steeped in the rules and performance of religion. But he had authority.

Honor for one another, especially those in authority. Worthy of double honor. How do you treat another pastor? How do you treat your pastor? How do you treat a missionary?

Pray for them. Give to them, not in a weird way.

Church Splits

There is one church. There are times when God will move people out of one local church and into another. He has purpose. Sometimes it is because the church has grown so much that some gifts are not being used, and those gifts could be used somewhere else. That's a positive reason.

Sometimes God moves people for the purpose of spiritual growth. There are churches that only focus on winning the lost, and they do that very well. When God wants to grow a person, they often need to be in more of a teaching church or a church that moves in the gifts of the spirit. Churches that reach the lost often feed other churches.

Sometimes the church isn't healthy. God will move people on if they are in a place where sin is at work or there is a false doctrine.

Sometimes it is because the people are working against God's purpose in the church, and God will prune them from that house vision and place those people in a place where they won't be in disagreement.

However, sometimes people leave on their own accord and it is against God's plan. It is based on selfishness, offense, or pride. The foundation of a church split is often dishonorable. The church split is built on someone else's foundation and people and money are siphoned off, stolen, from another ministry. Church splits that have a foundation built on another person's foundation may start off good, but unless there is repentance, they do not last. There is a usually a character problem that is going to show up later. Often it's a pride issue, sometimes a spiritual pride issue. There's nothing new under the sun. We know more about the word, we know more about the Holy Spirit, we know more about people, we're better at ministering to the people, etc. There has to be repentance. Humility. Pride is blocking their recognition of their deception.

It also opens up a door for the enemy to come in and trouble households. Even if the church continues on, families begin to experience strife and divisions – children against parents, spouses against each other, those who refuse to be born again.

Church issues. If you served on a staff at a church and that pastor or church is going down, may it not be by your hand. Church splits often happen because someone feels the church isn't healthy and they need to come in and save the day. "Not by my hand." That pastor was my authority. He gave me opportunity. He gave me influence. Now I'm going to turn around and use that influence to take away from that spiritual leader? I'm going to assume the role of an under shepherd to lead sheep away from that shepherd or that ministry? I'm going to lead resources and finances away? If it happens, it won't be by my hand. The foundation will be one of dishonor. You may have relationships, but you lack integrity. Unless there is repentance, eventually that house will fall apart. It's disgraced.

One pastor we read about came in to a congregation that was once a church split. He led the church into repentance and blessed the pastor that the former pastor had transgressed against.

This is God's way. The world can explain it away all day long, but not to God.

Leaders often get off themselves. They get weird. Even if they prosper in finances or influence, often their families fall apart. There is a price to pay.

Disunity is like divorce, it cause separation with Christ's body. Church splits are like divorce. There is mercy, but there is also consequence. There is pain. There is a tearing apart.

It is a breach in covenant. It's a covenant issue.

Unity is power. The corporate anointing flows when people come together in love.

C. [Be submitted and obedient](#)

Live a holy life

Sin in your heart will hinder you and it will hinder what God wants to do in a church. Some churches that are made up of a lot of people are often filled with people who are carnal. There is mercy for people who don't know any better. However, sin can destroy the church's effectiveness.

Being judgmental and not accepting people where they are at can be worse. So we love them where they are at, and we show mercy to bring people up a level. If people are in rebellion and refuse to come up a level, they need correction. If they are humble, they will receive it. If they are not proud, they will leave.

[Ephesians 5:3-14](#)

Financial negligence

People who don't tithe or be obedient to give offerings are neglecting their responsibility to God. it will hinder the anointing.

God says you are stealing from Him. You are also hurting your church, your pastor and the staff. You expect your pastor to somehow meet his or her own need while trying to care for the people. It takes the pastor out of the word and prayer. It wears them out. Expectations to see results but you tie the hands of your leaders to do their function in the body.

Churches with a strong corporate anointing are churches where people participate and give.

Serving negligence

It's not the pastor's job to do the work of the ministry. The pastor's job is to equip the saints for the ministry. The pastor's job is to deliver God's word, but not every word. You need to feed yourself and grow yourself too.

Do your part. If you don't, you put a burden on others.

Attendance negligence

Communion, when you come together. I believe you can take communion at home too, but when you come together to share this covenant meal. It was more than a cracker and shot glass of grape juice. It was a covenant meal.

Even if we aren't breaking bread every time we come together, we are coming together.

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.

Koininia fellowship – covenant thing

I John 1:7

FELLOWSHIP (koinonia, 2842): "fellowship, association, community, communion, join participation, intercourse." "The share which one has in anything, participation. "Intercourse, fellowship, intimacy." "A gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship."

Galatians 2:9 right hands of fellowship. This is your power that you are joining together with someone else.

Build together into one building

One body

Knit together

Welded together

Joined together

The enemy will try to isolate you.

The enemy will try to busy you. Distract you.

Where your treasure is, your heart is also.

Where your time is, your heart is also.

Hebrews 10:24, 25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Summary

God is always there, ready and willing to move in our congregations. The anointing is always there to tap into. It's up to us what we do to foster love, harmony, agreement.

1. Embrace the place where God has planted you. Don't uproot yourself.
2. Embrace authority
3. Embrace values and vision
4. Embrace one another
5. Embrace grace. Overlook the small stuff.

We hope that through this course you have a deeper understanding of the blood covenant - how the testaments are tied together, the reason Jesus is the only way to salvation, as well as benefits God promises us by being positioned in Christ.