



BLOOD COVENANT

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Grace for America

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A. Jesus: The Bread of Life

1. John 6:48 — I am the bread of life.
2. John 6:53, 55-56 - Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you...For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.
3. John 6:66 — From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.
 - a. Why did they walk away?
 - b. Did they think He was talking about cannibalism?
 - c. Did they think He was crazy?
 - d. Did they not understand what He was saying?
4. The answer to all three questions is NO.
The reason they walked away is that they understood exactly what He was saying
 - a. Jesus was saying: We must enter into covenant
And they were not ready for total commitment

B. God's Covenant with Abram

1. Genesis 15:1 ...the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.
2. I am thy shield — Exchange of weapons “Your enemies are My enemies”
3. 2 Chronicles 20:12 neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.
4. 2 Chronicles 20:15 ...the battle is not yours, but God's.
5. 2 Chronicles 20:17 ...stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord
6. Genesis 15:1...the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.
I am thy exceeding great reward — Exchange of Robes

“All that I have is yours”

7. 2 Corinthians 5:21 — For He [God] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus].

C. Covenant between Jonathan and David

1. 1 Samuel 18:3-4 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle [weapons]
 - a. Exchange of robes: "All that I have is yours"
 - b. Exchange of weapons: "Your enemies are my enemies"
 - c. Romans 8:16-17 — we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ
 - d. Genesis 15:2-3 Abram says to God: *Since You have not given me a son, my heir will be a slave.*
2. Abram's faith weakens and he sees the promise as something impossible.
3. Genesis 15:4-5 God repeats the promise of a son to Abram, and tells him that ...*his seed will be as numerous as the stars.*

D. Abram's Glorious Confession of Faith

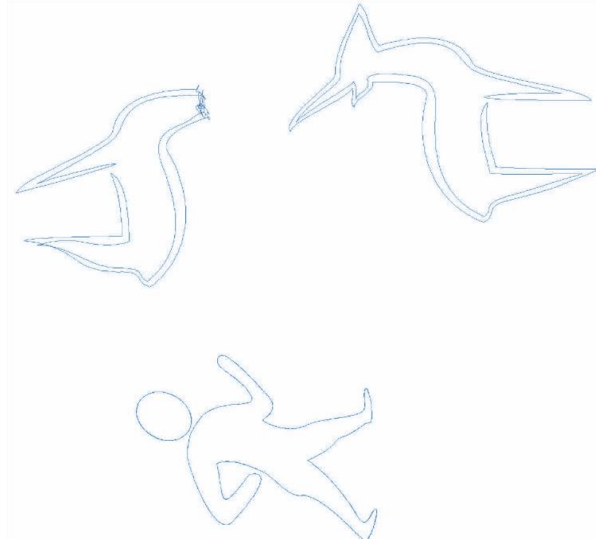
1. Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness.
 - a. *Believed* = אָמַן (aman) =
to be firm, secured, totally confident, resting completely
 - b. *Counted* = חָשַׁב (kashab) =
imputed, considered, accredited
 - c. *Righteousness* = צְדָקָה (tsedakah) =
righteousness of God (accepted by God).
2. It was by God's grace. All that Abram had to do was firmly believe.

It's all by grace!

3. Genesis 15:7-8 God tells Abram that He brought him from Ur to give him the land, and Abram asks, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?
4. Abram still doubts, and God says:
5. Genesis 15:9 Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.
6. It appears that God changed the subject and did not answer the question
7. But God precisely answered the question! God was saying: We are going to cut covenant!

E. Blood Covenant

1. One of the first steps in covenant was to kill an animal and cut it in two along the spine, and put one part opposite the other.
2. Genesis 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another...



F. The Attack of the Enemy

1. Genesis 15:11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
 - a. You can be certain that when you make a total commitment to the Lord, the enemy is going to come against you.
2. Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
3. 2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

G. God puts Abram to Sleep

1. Genesis 15:12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram...
 - a. What could Abram contribute to this covenant? Absolutely nothing, except his obedience.
 - b. So God puts Abram to sleep, thus declaring: *"I am going to do it all."*
It's all by grace!
2. Just as Jesus said at the cross: "It is finished." (John 19:30). Jesus did it all for us (Ephesians 2:8-9)

It's all by grace!

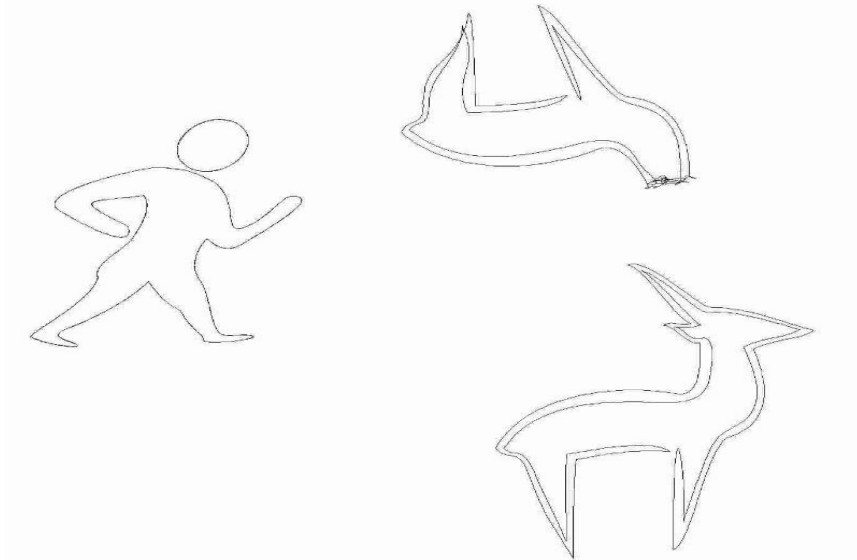
H. God Walks Between the Pieces

1. Genesis 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.
2. How did God manifest Himself in the wilderness?
 - a. A cloud of smoke
 - b. A pillar of fire
3. God himself walked through the pieces, and He, by Himself, made the covenant while Abram slept!

It's all by grace!

I. The Walk of Death — Dying to Self

1. The two persons entering into covenant would stand between the pieces and walk a figure eight “8” through the pieces (See Jeremiah 34:18-19).



J. Blessings and Curses

1. After walking a figure “8” they would end face-to-face between the bloody pieces, and they would declare blessings and curses over one another.
2. Blessings if they honored the covenant. — Deuteronomy 28:1-14: “as this animal gave its life, I will give my life for you.”
3. Curses if they broke the covenant. — Deuteronomy 28:15-68 “May this happen to you and more if you break this covenant.” (See Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 27:11-13, Joshua 8:30-35)
4. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

*Halleluyah!
Jesus took the curse for us!*

K. Cutting Covenant: Mingling the Blood

1. They would cut their wrists (or palms) and clasp their hands so the blood would flow from one to the other. The blood poured into a cup and both drank from it. (among the Hebrews they would drink wine from the same cup, since it was forbidden to drink blood.)
- 2.

“My life and your life are becoming one”



3. Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.
4. Matthew 26:27-28 And He took the cup [one cup], and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

The Lord's Supper is a Covenant Meal!

L. The Mark of the Covenant

1. They would rub dirt on the wound so it would leave a permanent mark. This was an identification and remembrance that they were in covenant.
2. Isaiah 49:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands...
3. The marks on Jesus hands are a constant reminder that He shed His blood for us and that we are in an eternal covenant with Him.

Glory to God! The mark of the covenant

4. Colossians 2:11: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands [circumcision of the heart]
5. Ephesians 1:13 ...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise
Sealed = σφραγίζω (sfragidzo) = mark of ownership for security or preservation
6. The Lord is saying to you: (See John 10:27-29) “You are Mine, You belong to Me.”

M. Exchange of Robes

1. Symbol of possession: “All I have is yours.”
2. 1 Samuel 18:3-4 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant... and Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – For He [God] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus].
4. Jesus put on our filthy rags, so we may put on His robe of righteousness
5. Romans 8:17 We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

N. Exchange of Belts

1. Symbol of Strength (Where the weapons hung) “All my strength belongs to you”
2. 1 Samuel 18:3-4 And Jonathan stripped himself of his girdle
3. Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power
4. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me
5. Acts 1:8 ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you

O. Exchange of Weapons

1. “Your enemies are my enemies. I fight all your battles”
2. 1 Samuel 18:3-4 Jonathan stripped himself of his sword, and his bow
3. David against Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:26 who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?
(*Uncircumcised* = someone not in covenant)
4. 1 Samuel 17:46-47 This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee ...for the battle is the Lord’s (like Jehosaphat – 2 Chronicles 20)

P. Exchange of Names

1. The name is symbol of authority, of identity
2. Genesis 17:5 God changed the name of Abram to Abraham and He put part of His name in the name of Abraham.

יְהוָה = JEHOVAH אַבְרָם = Abram אַבְרָהָם = Abraham

3. God also took the name of Abraham, and after that He is called “The God of Abraham”
4. Similarly, Jesus took our name and He is called “the Son of man,” and we are called Christians.
5. John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23, 24, 26 – Jesus said: All that you ask the Father in My Name, that will I do.

Q. The Covenant Meal

1. The covenant concluded with a meal of bread and wine which they fed one to the other (“You are taken all that I am.”)
2. Now a new relationship begins based on love. This kind of unconditional covenant love is called:
 - a. חֶסֶד (hesed) in the Hebrew, normally translated “lovingkindness” or “mercy”
 - b. ἀγάπη (agape) in the Greek, normally translated “love” or “charity”
3. This is the type of love that says: “I will never leave you, I will never forsake you.”

R. The Passover: Threshold Covenant

1. Exodus 12:23 For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.
 - a. pass through = עָבַר (abar) in the Hebrew, normally translated “pass” or “went through”
 - b. pass over = פָּסַח (pasakh) in the Hebrew, normally translated “pass over” or “hop” i.e., cross the threshold and enter the house and into a threshold covenant.

S. The Covenant is Eternal

1. Genesis 17:7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. (See Ezekiel 16:59-63 — Grace)
2. Galatians 3:15 — Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.
3. We are participants in that covenant: Galatians 3:29 – And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

T. The Covenant is Eternal

1. 2 Samuel 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?
2. 2 Samuel 9:7 And David said unto him [Mephibosheth], Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.
 - a. *kindness* = חֶסֶד (hesed – covenant love)

U. Now they are called Friends

1. Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.
 - a. *friend* = רֵעַ (reya) = acquaintance, friendly
 - b. *friend* = אָהָב (ahab) = friend, covenant partner
2. Isaiah 41:8 ...the seed of Abraham My friend.
3. We enter into an everlasting covenant with God by surrendering our lives to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And every promise in the Bible is for you!

V. Sealing the Covenant

1. We are going to ratify that we are in Covenant with Almighty God by partaking of a Covenant Meal (The Lord's Supper)