



Sunday April 05, 2020
Blood Covenant
Part-1 : Understanding Blood Covenant

What does it mean to be in covenant with God? How does being in covenant with God affect our daily lives? How do we walk in the covenant we have with God, in everyday life?

This study will help us build confidence in God's faithfulness to His covenant with His people. We will gain understanding of God's provisions and blessings to us as part of His covenant with us. We will understand how to live as God's covenant people. We will also learn how to receive covenant provisions and blessings.

UNDERSTANDING COVENANT

A God of Covenant

The God of the Bible is a God of covenant. God is a covenant keeping God.

Deuteronomy 7:9

"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Psalm 89:34

My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

The word covenant refers to a serious and binding agreement between two parties. BIBLICALLY, COVENANT IS A SOLEMN PROMISE, A FIRM, UNBREAKABLE PROMISE, COMMITMENT OR AGREEMENT.

The Bible is a book of covenants. Two main covenants or testaments.

THE BIBLE THEREFORE COMMUNICATES GOD'S COVENANT TO US, IT IS GOD'S COVENANT WRITTEN DOWN FOR US.

Covenant Relationship

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH US IS RELATIONSHIP - for us to believe Him and be His friends.

God's relationship with His people is portrayed in different ways in the Bible. God is Father and we are His Children. God is King and we are His heirs and part of His



Kingdom. God is a Covenant-God and we are His covenant people, or people in covenant with Him.

COVENANT FORMS THE BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH WHICH HE HAS INVITED US TO BE HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AS HIS HEIRS, AS JOINT-HEIRS WITH JESUS, IS WRAPPED IN COVENANT.

The covenant was **ratified** (confirmed, endorsed, brought into force) by an initiating ceremony. **Redemption** is God's act of bringing into effect a covenant.

Covenants had **responsibilities (terms, obligations), promises (blessings, privileges) and consequences (curses)**. These were often words which were spoken out or written down.

Covenants often had a **sign (token)** of the covenant (e.g. circumcision in the Abrahamic covenant).

The Cornerstones Of God's Covenant

THE TWO CORNERSTONES OF GOD'S COVENANT ARE HIS WORD AND HIS NATURE.

God's covenant is strong because God is God who cannot lie, He is truth and He is absolutely faithful, merciful and compassionate in His nature. And because He is faithful and true, His Word is absolutely and completely reliable. His Word and His nature (who He is) are the two cornerstones to His covenant with us.

We see in the Old Testament that God's covenant is used synonymously, or as an equivalent to both His Word and His nature.

God's "covenant" is a relationship of love and loyalty between the Lord and His chosen people.

The Nature Of God's Covenant With Man

1) God, the Initiator And Keeper of the Covenant

Genesis 15:18 : "The Lord made a covenant with Abram."



God appeared as "a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp [flaming torch] that passed between those pieces" (Genesis 15:17).

Consider some of the verbs God states in relation to Covenant He makes:

In Genesis 6:18, "I will ESTABLISH my covenant...". The word "establish" includes in its meaning to accomplish, confirm, cause to stand firm, continue, decree, endure, make good, perform, uphold.

In Genesis 17:2, "I will MAKE my covenant between Me and you.."

In Exodus 6:5 "...I have REMEMBERED My covenant"

In Leviticus 26:44 "...I will NOT...BREAK My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God."

In Deuteronomy 4:13 "So He DECLARED to you His covenant...."

In Deuteronomy 4:31 "(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor FORGET the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them."

These verbs make it plain that God takes full and complete initiative in covenant making and fulfillment for the covenant He puts in place. God is absolutely committed to His covenant. We need to understand God's covenant nature and His absolute commitment to the covenant He makes.

2) Man enters in to God's covenant

Deuteronomy 29:12

that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today,

Jeremiah 50:5

They shall ask the way to Zion, With their faces toward it, saying, 'Come and let us join ourselves to the LORD In a perpetual covenant That will not be forgotten.'

"join ourselves" Hebrew '*lavah*' meaning to twine, unite, remain, hold tight to, abide with, cleave



God offers us His covenant, and we make the choice to enter into God's covenant. In doing so we are joining ourselves with the LORD Himself in that covenant.

I HAVE ENTERED INTO AND HAVE JOINED MYSELF TO ALMIGHTY GOD IN AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH HIM!

3) There are blessings and curses

Once we are in covenant with God, then we are to keep our side of the covenant, which is to follow His instructions and obey Him. Most importantly we are to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. He gives His all as part of His covenant blessings. He asks for all from us, as part of our commitment to His covenant.

We see in Leviticus 26 and in Deuteronomy 28, the pronouncement of blessings and curses of the covenant.. When you follow the instructions of the covenant you position yourself to receive the blessings of the covenant. Violating God's instruction 'breaks' the covenant and the blessings are forfeited. This means that God's people out of their own choice put themselves in a vulnerable place stepping outside of the covenant. At some point they bring themselves under God's judgment (punishment) for violation of the covenant. Until obedience and alignment to the covenant is restored, there is a breach, and covenant blessings may not be enjoyed.

4) God does not permit dual commitments

Exodus 34:14

(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

GOD IS LOYAL AND FAITHFUL AND HE CALLS US TO A PLACE OF LOYALTY AND FAITHFULNESS TO HIM.

God's covenant is a relationship of absolute love and complete loyalty between the Lord and His chosen people. He sees this covenant relationship as so precious that He will not tolerate anything in between. We must protect, keep and maintain our relationship with God.

GOD'S COVENANT NAMES

The God of the Bible is a covenant God. He is God who makes covenant. This is part of His nature, of who He is.

Exodus 6:3-5



3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty (*El Shaddai*), but by My name LORD (YHWH or *Yehovah* or *Yahweh*) I was not known to them.

4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.

5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

Yahweh, Jehovah, Yehovah and Jahweh. This is the name that God chose for Himself and by which He revealed Himself to His people. This was the name by which He related to His covenant people. So in this name, both God and His people were implicitly reminded and were reminding each other of the covenant that was between them.

YEHOVAH, JEHOVAH OR YAHWEH IS GOD THE ETERNAL, SELF-EXISTENT, IMMUTABLE (MEANING UNCHALLENGEABLE, ABSOLUTE, INDISPUTABLE) AND UNCHANGEABLE (WAS, IS, WILL BE THE SAME) ONE WHO KEEPS COVENANT. It is always used to refer to the Covenant keeping God.

Through time God revealed Himself with many Covenant names, each revealing a little more of who He is and what He would be to His people or what He would bestow on His people, what His people can expect because they are in a covenant relationship with such a One.

Jehovah-Elohim : the Eternal Creator

Adonai-Jehovah : the Lord our Sovereign, or Master-Lord

Jehovah-Jireh : the Lord will see or provide

Jehovah-Nissi : the Lord our Banner or victory

Jehovah-Rapha : the Lord our Healer

Jehovah-Shalom : the Lord our Peace

Jehovah-Rohi : the Lord our Shepherd

Jehovah-Tsidkenu : the Lord our Righteousness

Jehovah-Shammah : the Lord is Present

Jehovah-Saboath : the Lord of hosts

Jehovah-Mekaddishkem : the Lord our Sanctifier

Jehovah-Elyon : the Lord Most High

Jehovah-Hoseenu : the Lord our Maker

Jehovah-Eloheenu : the Lord our God

Jehovah-Eloheka : the Lord thy God

Jehovah-Elohay : the Lord my God

The God of the Bible has not changed through time. ALL THE COVENANT NAMES GIVEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT STILL HOLD FOR US TODAY!



Malachi 3:6

"For I am the LORD (Yahweh), I do not change;..."

HE IS STILL YAHWEH, THE GOD OF COVENANT. HE IS IN COVENANT WITH US AND WE MUST UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE AS COVENANT PEOPLE.

UNDERSTANDING BLOOD COVENANT

Blood Covenant - Meaning

The word covenant means a serious and binding agreement between two parties. BIBLICALLY, COVENANT IS A SOLEMN PROMISE, A FIRM, UNBREAKABLE PROMISE, COMMITMENT OR AGREEMENT.

The Hebrew for 'covenant' is '*berit*' (pronounced '*bereeth*') which means 'to cut a covenant' referring to a covenant that was made by passing in between pieces of flesh, which was the rite involved in making a blood covenant between two parties.

BIBLICALLY "COVENANT" MEANS "TO CUT A COVENANT." IT IS AN AGREEMENT THAT IS MADE THROUGH THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD.

A blood covenant is the highest form of covenant that could be ever made. The most powerful kind of covenant is the blood covenant.

When you enter into a blood covenant with someone it is binding until death, in some cases continuing even after your death to subsequent generations.

A blood covenant between two people is the strongest bond on earth.

WHEN YOU ENTER INTO A BLOOD COVENANT WITH SOMEONE YOU PROMISE TO GIVE THEM:

- 1) YOUR LIFE - all that you have is available to them if they need it,
 - 2) YOUR LOVE - you will do anything for them, at any cost
 - 3) YOUR PROTECTION - you will come to their aid and rescue at all times no matter what it costs you
- and so it will be, until either one of you dies.

The blood covenant ceremony was to announce the 'terms' or words of the covenant, and then to ratify/seal the covenant.



IT IS RATIFIED (COMES INTO EFFECT) AND IS SEALED WITH BLOOD - MEANING LIFE FOR LIFE. This covenant is backed up by your life and any violation of this covenant will cost life. The one making a blood covenant does so at the expense of life.

Blood Covenant With Abraham

Abraham believed God

God called Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Abraham believed and obeyed God. God accounted Abraham as righteous, and worthy of entering into a covenant with Him.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

God Himself passed between the pieces

God established a blood covenant with Abraham unilaterally. God Himself passed through the sacrificed animals. Abraham simply received the covenant and stepped into it by faith.

God Himself **ratified** (confirmed, endorsed, brought into force) this covenant at this initiating ceremony.

Genesis 15:17-18

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram,...

Change of names denoting new identity and new nature

Genesis 17

Circumcision A Sign of Covenant

Genesis 17:10-11

10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Sign or seal



There were blessings promised to Abraham and to all his descendants as part of the Abrahamic covenant.

Abraham - A Friend of God

The ultimate purpose of God's covenant with us is relationship - for us to believe Him and be His friends - as Abraham. Abraham was called a friend of God (James 2:23)

Genesis 18:17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

God reveals to Abraham what He was planning to do. This is fellowship and friendship, the ultimate purpose of a covenant relationship. Here we see an example of intercession based on a blood-covenant relationship with God.

Abraham's Test - The Call To Give All

This covenant required that Abraham walked in obedience and faith.

Genesis 22:1

Blood Covenant With Moses And Israel

During Moses time God gave them the Mosaic Law, the Tabernacle and the Mosaic Priesthood, and we also see seven main feasts were instituted. God gave Moses the Law and established it as a blood covenant.

Exodus 24:7-8

7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

The law of Moses - ten commandments, the rituals, the priesthood, etc. were the terms of the covenant.

Moses and then the Aaronic priesthood became mediators of this covenant.

The blessings and curses of the Mosaic covenant were given, as we see in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.



The Mosaic covenant (often referred to as the "Old Covenant") was established as a blood covenant.

NOTE: Some people see the Mosaic covenant as part of the Abrahamic covenant. However it is very clear in Galatians chapter 3 and 4, and from the book of Hebrews that the "Old Covenant" has ended, replaced by the New Covenant, and the Abrahamic covenant and the New Covenant are currently in force.

The Sacrifices And Feasts that God gave Israel were continual reminders of His covenant.

PEOPLE OF THE BLOOD COVENANT

We look at the Old Covenant and how it affected the daily life of people. How did being in covenant with God affect their everyday life? These insights help us to understand how God would seek to work with and amongst us as people of the New Covenant.

The people of Israel were very aware that God had established a blood covenant with Abraham. They recognized the blood covenant through Moses and the book of the covenant with God's instruction that were given to them (Exodus 24:7-8).

They were people of the covenant and God had promised to work with them and through them in a special way.

A Special People

Exodus 19:5

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

God Draws A Distinction

Overtaken With Blessings

Deliverance

Protection

Healing

Blessing and prosperity

Victory over enemies

Covenant People In Community

They were given instructions on how to live together in community, taking care of each other, welcoming the stranger, caring for the poor, orphaned and widowed.



They had specific instructions on how they were to live, eat, observe (sabbaths Exodus 31:16, feasts) and customs they were to follow.

They knew God was with them when they had to fight against enemies.

The Shepherd Who Killed A Warrior

David believed in his covenant keeping God

1 Samuel 17:26,36

26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

Jesus to those under the Old Covenant

A Daughter of Abraham (Luke 13)

Children's Bread (Matthew 15)

COMMUNION AT END OF SERVICE

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday April 05, 2020
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Exodus 6:3-5; Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 89:34*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) *Discuss the meaning, nature and aspects of Biblical covenant - the covenant that God makes with us.*

2) *We enter in to God's covenant - what does this mean, based on Deuteronomy 29:12; Jeremiah 50:5?*

3) *Review the covenant-names of God and what that means to us as people in a blood covenant with Him? What should our expectation be of our covenant keeping God in view of the covenant names He has given to us?*

4) *Looking at the Old Testament, what insights can we draw about living every day life as people in a blood covenant with God.*



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.