

Lesson 3: God's Covenant with Abraham

Central Point: Jesus, the Guarantee of a better Covenant

- **Please Read: Genesis 12:1-7**
- Amazing, left the protection of his homeland to live like a stranger in a foreign country
- **Please Read: Hebrews 11:8-9**
- The wording, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse"
- This phraseology is what blood covenant is all about – becoming one with another
- **Question:** "Why does God find it necessary to enter into Covenant with man?"

The first covenant recorded in the Bible was between God and Adam and Eve when an animal was slain and its skin used as a covering for them in Genesis 3:21. Job had a covenant with God, a life keeping Covenant, when he finally got his mind on his Covenant instead of his problems. We can't get anything from God with self-pity which is selfishness in manifestation. God cut the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. The subject of blood covenant is huge in the Bible, without it there would be no salvation for mankind- PERIOD!

A blood covenant between two parties is the closest, the most enduring, the most solemn and the most sacred of all contracts, so here are some reasons for covenants.

- **Protection-** A covenant partner is bound to come to your aid when in trouble
- **Provision-** What is yours is mine and what is mine is yours
- **Posterity-** Descendants are covered and benefit from the relationship
- **Relationship-** A deep love, devotion and respect for each other

In **Matthew 25:40** Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." In other words what you do to them you do to me.

James 2:23, "And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

- The term "Friend" is not speaking of the loose term we use in our culture
 - o it speaks of a strong covenant relationship
- Blood covenant is the basis that God and the ancients entered into relationship
 - o It was through a covenant that God saved Noah and his family – **Genesis 6:18**
- Blood covenant is difficult for our western minds to comprehend
- Having a clear revelation of covenant is the foundation of having strong faith
- The Bible is divided into two God ordained covenants – Old and New

Now, in the Bible, the word covenant means a binding agreement between two parties. The Hebrew word for covenant is *Berith*. The Greek word is *Diatheke*. It actually means to “cut covenant.” So the two divisions in the Bible are about an Old Blood Covenant and a New Blood Covenant! By definition, it is an agreement to:

- “Cut a covenant by the shedding of blood and walking between pieces of flesh”
- **Please Read: Hebrews 8:6-13**
- **Question:** “What is the difference between the Old and New Covenant?”
- The Old Covenant between God and the people of Israel failed
 - o But God always remembered and kept His part of the covenant- **Exodus 2:23-25**
- Jesus cut the New Covenant with God the Father on our behalf with His own blood
- We as Christians are all blood brothers with each other and Jesus

Luke 22:20, “In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”

The blood covenant is a very sacred covenant. It is the most sacred covenant that mankind has ever known or has ever adhered to. Dr. Livingstone and Mr. Stanley were in Africa for many years as missionaries, and in all that time, they never heard of a covenant being broken.

- Marriage is considered the oldest of all blood covenants
- If someone in Africa broke the covenant, then his own family would find and kill him
- Covenants can’t be annulled, children through the 3rd - 4th generations would uphold it

Many Christians do not realize they have a Covenant with God. We have covenant with God and it is a blood covenant. God used the vehicle of blood because of its sacredness, the life of the flesh is in the blood. The blood is the sign of what is sacred, blood is not what makes the covenant sacred however. The sacred thing is the covenant itself, WORDS, are the most sacred things that exist. The power of life and death are in the tongue.

- Words of a human contract are to interpreted one way- much care over the wording
- The Bible records the both Old and New covenants, contracts of words ratified in blood
 - o They are legal documents upheld by the court of heaven
- Covenants have a blessing (obedience) and curse (disobedience) component with them
 - o Since the New Covenant between Jesus and the Father can’t fail- there is no curse
- The law of each covenant records the obligations of both parties must uphold
- Every covenant has a sign; for example covenants between people- a scar in their flesh
- Noah- it was the Rainbow, Abraham- circumcision, Israel- the ark of the covenant
- **Please Read: 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14** - Christians are marked with the Holy Spirit