

BLOOD-COVENANT

PART II

Hebrew Blood Covenant, - To be used with the 9-step covenant notes

The two (2) main Covenants we're going to look at in the Bible are, 1. The Covenant between God and Abram (Abraham); and 2. The Covenant between Jesus Christ and Believers. Let's first go to Genesis chapter 15 and read the whole chapter. In verses 1-7, God is telling Abram that his seed shall be as multiple as the stars in heaven. In verse 6, Abram's faith is accredited to him for righteousness. In verse 8, Abram asks God, "Whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" (The land in verse 7). Verses 9-18 is the enactment of the Blood Covenant, but there is something radically modified in this particular Covenant that is frequently overlooked and not seen on the surface; let's look again at verses 9-18. A Covenant is always "cut" between two (2) people, but notice in verse 12 that a "deep sleep" fell upon Abram. In the King James Version, the phrase "deep sleep" is translated from the Hebrew word: "Tardema" – Strong's # 8639 – meaning = a deep (supernatural) sleep, often a state of divine revelation and activity. This Hebrew word is only used seven (7) times in the Scriptures. (Genesis 2:21; 15:12; 1st Samuel 26:12; Job 4:13; 33:15; Proverbs 19:15; and Isaiah 29:10.) This is not a normal "falling asleep" or an ordinary state of rest as we experience during the night, but rather a deep, supernatural sleep brought on by the Lord God Almighty. The fact that Abram was in a deep sleep brought on him by the Lord God, means that Abram did not take part in the Blood Covenant ceremony, whereby God partook the responsibility of both Covenant partners upon Himself. This is an act of Divine Grace and is the reason Abram's belief or faith was counted to him for righteousness in verse 6. Look at the following Scripture passages – Genesis 22:15-19, especially verses 16-18; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:13,14; hence Ephesians 2:8,9. The same radical modification in this Covenant will also be seen in the next Covenant, that being, it was all God and none man. The only thing required of us is to receive the "Covenant Sacrifice" as our own by faith, and when this is done, as we'll see, is irrevocable; meaning that the Blood Covenant we enter by Faith cannot be broken or backed out of for any reason or circumstance what-so-ever. I know your probably thinking, as I did, "There goes the "Free-will". But no, not when we remember that everything, including our "Free-will", all falls under the Divine Sovereignty of Almighty God.

So now let's look at the second Blood Covenant; the Covenant between Jesus Christ and Believers. This Covenant is so intricately complex that it would require volumes upon volumes and years to dissect and anatomize each individual piece of this marvelous enigma. So, please bear with me as we cover the bare basics for this lesson. The life of our Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed in the four gospels that begin the New Testament, prophesied all throughout the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, depicted in the types, shadows and in the rich imagery of the Feasts, Festivals, Rites, and Sacrifices of the Old Testament. During the last Passover that Jesus ate with His disciples, He did something very interesting that wasn't done by Him or anyone during any previous

Passover meal. What that? Well, let's look at the three (3) recorded passages pertaining to the last Passover meal of Jesus, the first is in Matthew 26:17-29; the second in Mark 14:12-25; and the third in Luke 22:7-20. At this last Passover meal that Jesus ate with His disciples He instituted step # 8 of the Hebrew Blood Covenant ceremony – “Eating a Memorial Meal”. You see, the Passover meal and the Lord’s Supper are not the same meal as many think, although the Lord’s Supper was instituted at the end of the last Passover meal of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

How does one get “saved” and enter into this Blood Covenant? Read Romans 10:8-17. In this passage is explained the “Conditions of Salvation”. When the Name of Jesus Christ is lifted up by the preaching of the Word, the Holy Spirit draws people to God, (see John 6:44 with 12:32). When the Holy Spirit convicts you of your sinfulness and your need of Jesus Christ, you act on your “Free-Will” to choose to accept or reject the free gift of Salvation. Upon acceptance of Salvation through Faith offered by Grace; when one is truly converted from sinner to Saint, that person has entered into Blood Covenant with God by Jesus Christ. Once this happens in a person's heart, i.e.- he confesses his sins, asks Jesus to come into his life, and is truly saved or “Born Again”; God the Holy Spirit enacts step # 6 of the Hebrew Blood Covenant Ceremony by “sealing” us with Himself (the Holy Spirit) that indwells each Believer. (See John 14:16,17; Romans 8:9-11; 1st Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19,20; 2nd Timothy 1:14; and 1st John 2:27). The making of a scar in the Hebrew Blood Covenant Ceremony is the “seal” that testifies to the Covenant; In the same way, the Indwelling Holy Spirit is our “seal” that we have entered into the New Covenant, authenticating us, -(John 6:27; 2nd Corinthians 1:22) and securing us, (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30).

Being that the Hebrew Blood Covenant can never be broken, reneged on, withdrawn, taken back, renounced, retracted, disavowed, or repudiated; the only way out is physical death from this earthly realm, resulting in the loss of rewards and a lower status in Heaven and the Ages to come from what was attainable, had the Believer not given up, acted in a self-damning manner, or despising and bringing contempt upon the Name of Christ. Let’s look at the following passages of Scripture from the many that support this, keep in mind the irrevocableness of the Hebrew Blood Covenant, and as we’ll see it is always a loss of physical life, Heavenly rewards, or social status in the Ages to come, and never a loss of one’s Salvation, which is a gift that is eternal, that is secured for you by God and sealed by the witness of the Holy Spirit. Another point is that, once you are baptized into the water, there is no possible way to “undo” the baptism. So it is when one is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, how can it possibly be undone? It can’t. Praise God!!! In the following Scripture references at first glance seem to imply that a person could lose his or her Salvation, but this study will show and solidify the security of our Salvation in Christ Jesus, (Matthew 7:21-23; John 15:1-7; Romans 1:20-32; 8:1-39; 1st Corinthians 3:11-17; 11:19-34; Ephesians 2:4-9; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 6:1-20; 10:28-31; James 2:1-26; Revelation 3:14-21; 22:18,19; Exodus 32:33).

There are a few scholars in Christendom who would have you believe that the Old Testament spiritual promises to Israel as a nation do not apply to us (Christians) today in and during this dispensation of the “Age of Grace”. But as we are going to discover, they couldn’t be more wrong. I must stop here and say that I believe there are specific

promises to Israel as a nation, specific promises to the Church, specific promises to individuals, etc... I also believe that some of the promises, as are some of the prophecies two-fold; meaning the prophecies are applicable to two different time periods, and the promises that were spiritual to the nation of Israel are applied to us (the Church) spiritually today as we shall see. We will not attempt to cover them all here at length, only the one made by God to Abram in Genesis chapter 15. It is the culmination of this promise, fulfilled by Jesus Christ, that we (the Church), are grafted into the Olive Tree, as explained by the Apostle St. Paul in chapter 3 of his epistle to the Galatians. Let us now read all of Galatians chapter 3. So, we see according to Galatians 3:29 that, "If we be Christ's, then are we Abraham's seed according to the promise." Now, if we are heirs according to the promise, wouldn't that mean that the spiritual promises to the nation of Israel are applicable to us (the Church) today? I believe it does, so you see therefore, that the physical Hebrew Blood Covenant Ceremony is applied to us Spiritually today.

We will now see how the physical Old Testament Hebrew Blood Covenant is spiritually applied to us (Believers) today by the enactment of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, that we enter into by Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. First, let's read all of Romans chapter 4. Now, I am going to list what is imputed unto us believers by Faith in Jesus Christ. Compare the steps #1 through #9 from the Hebrew Blood Covenant ceremony to those listed below and watch the physical become Spiritual and manifest themselves in your life. Once the glorious Truth of this lesson on the doctrine of the "Blood Covenant" becomes embedded in your soul and spirit, how much more wonderful, mighty, powerful, potent, effectual, energetic, and electrifying your Praise and Worship both corporate and private, will become.

Remember, it is nothing that we have done, or could ever do; it is all by God's Divine Grace. Just as God in Genesis chapter 15 partook the responsibility of both Covenant partners, so likewise Jesus Christ did the same for us and all who will believe and call on His Name – John 3:16. In the Hebrew Blood Covenant Ceremony, as you compare it with the following, would seem to indicate that we have a part to "play", and it may seem one sided that Jesus Christ did all of this for us, but we just have to remember it's all about God's Divine Grace, Mercy, and Love. HALLELUJAH!!! PRAISE GOD!!!

STEP #1: We have been given the Robe of Righteousness. 2nd Chronicles 6:41 = (The physical Levitical Priesthood has been given to us Believers spiritually = 1st Peter 2:9,10); Job 29:14; Psalm 132:16; Isaiah 1:18; 52:1; 61:10; Zechariah 3:4; Matthew 22:11; Luke 15:22; Revelation 6:11; 7:9,13.

STEP #2: The Old Testament "girdle" worn by the priests and prophets was figurative and symbolic, representing "Truth", of which has been given or revealed to us spiritually. Exodus 28:4; Leviticus 8:7; 2nd Kings 1:8; Proverbs 31:24; Isaiah 5:27; 11:5; 22:1; Jeremiah 13:1; Matthew 3:4; Ephesians 6:14; Revelation 1:13; 15:6.

STEP #3: Cut the Covenant. We know that Jesus Christ was our Passover Lamb, and from a reading and study of the graphically detailed accounts of the crucifixion recorded in the gospels, that Christ's physical body was not cut or split down the middle

leaving two symmetrical parts, (see, Psalm 34:20 with John 19:36). So how does step #3 apply to us today? Easy. If we look back at the Old Testament model of the “Tabernacle”, and look beyond the physical to the spiritual application of the construction materials and furniture of the Tabernacle and see what each piece figuratively and symbolically represents, we see that the “veil” or “curtain” separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary of the Tabernacle and also in the Temple represent Christ’s body. The veil was typical of Christ’s “flesh”. When the flesh of Christ was torn (not split down the middle) on Mount Calvary, the veil of the Temple was torn, so now, we as priests can come boldly into the presence of the Father. Exodus 26:31-35; 2nd Chronicles 3:14-16; Matthew 27:50-51; Mark 15:37-38; Luke 23:44-46; Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-20; 1st Peter 2:5. (Look for the upcoming “Tabernacle” study.)

STEP #4: Raising the right arm and mixing blood in the Hebrew Blood Covenant Ceremony is representative of the putting off of our old nature and putting on the nature of our Blood Covenant partner, who is Christ Jesus. Psalm 40:3; Ezekiel 11:19; Romans 6:4; 7:6; 2nd Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:15; 4:24; Colossians 3:10; 1st Peter 1:3-6.

STEP #5: The exchanging of names takes place when we are “Born Again” by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. This is also the “seal” mentioned in step #6 of the Blood Covenant. We are now, upon being “Born Again”, called “Christians”. According to Acts chapter 11, verse 26, “And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” An excerpt from “The New Complete Works of Josephus” – Jewish Antiquities, Book 18, Chapter 3.3. “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth, with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day.” See also: Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22; John 14:6.

STEP #6 The making of a scar takes place when we begin to yield ourselves and our lives to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. This is called the “Circumcision of the Heart” by St. Paul in Romans 2:29, and Colossians 2:11. Just as the physical sign of the Hebrew Blood Covenant that Abraham entered into with God, was the circumcision of the flesh of his foreskin (see Genesis 17:10 – 27), so then is the change in our character and way of life that is the out showing of the “Circumcision of the Heart” made on our heart by the Holy Spirit. Genesis 17:10-27; Joshua 5:3; Acts 15:1; 16:3; 1st Corinthians 7:18; Galatians 2:3; 5:2; 6:12. Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:29; Colossians 4:11.

STEP #7: The giving of the Covenant terms takes place when we hear the preaching of the Word of God, are convicted by the Holy Spirit, drawn to Salvation by Grace through faith in Christ, and act on Romans 10:9,10,13. Romans 10:9-17; 8:9-17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:9,10; Romans 12:1,2; Luke 14:33; 18:29-30; Philipians 3:8; Romans 6:11; Galatians 2:20; 5:24; Colossians 3:3; 2nd Timothy 2:11-13; 1st Peter

2:24.

STEP #8: The eating of the memorial meal is applied to us today as we partake of the Lord's Supper as He instituted at His last Passover meal before His crucifixion. (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1st Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:24-34). This is one of only two Sacraments, or Ordinances of Protestant Christianity; the other being water Baptism by full, complete, submergence, which is an outward sign of inward grace. (Romans 6:1-7; Ephesians 4:4-6; especially verse 5). Both Sacraments are fully symbolic and physical confessions of our Faith, whereby we follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Look for the upcoming Baptism study).

STEP #9: The planting of a memorial is applied to us today by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. This was done outside the walls of Jerusalem atop Mount Calvary or in the Hebrew tongue – Golgotha. Both words, Calvary –(which is Latin); and Golgotha –(which is Aramaic, a variation of Hebrew), mean “the skull”, or “the place of the skull”; and refer to the place where Christ was crucified, Matthew 27:33 Luke 23:33). Whether it is called “the place of the skull”, because it was a place of execution, or a place where skulls were found, or because the site resembled a skull, is a matter of conjecture. The tree was the cross; it was planted on Mount Calvary by the Roman method of execution, Crucifixion. The one to be crucified was laid on the Cross-, which was preassembled on the ground. After the victim or criminal was nailed hands and feet to the cross, the cross was then lifted up and dropped into a hole dug in the mountain by the Roman soldiers. Look at the “Psalm of the Cross” – Psalm 22 verse 14. This is the reason, “all His bones were out of joint”. The Biblical and Secular historical, documented accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, by the witness of the Holy Spirit, will always be a testimony to our Blood Covenant.

Now, lets look at two familiar verses of Scripture and I'm sure you will see them in a new light – John 15:14 and 15. Here we are called “Friends” by Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Messiah, my Lord and my God!!! HALLELUJAH!!! PRAISE GOD!!!