@ by Barnabas Fadope

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**Kingdom of God: Blood Covenant**

**Working Definition for this Study**

What is a blood covenant? An agreement or contract between two or more parties confirmed by blood which includes the following elements (not exhaustive):

* Initiator
* Confirmation by blood
* Terms/conditions
* Identity
* Relationships
* Sign of the Covenant
* Promises
* Privileges
* Consequences: (example: blessings or curses)
* Laws/Principles

The Hebrew word for covenant (***diatheke****) appears 33 times in the New Testament (NT); the Hebrew term is* ***berith***, meaning a contract or agreement, means to cut or divide. Therefore, “a person cuts a covenant.” Pacts or covenants were made by passing between cut pieces of flesh of an animal sacrifice. (See Genesis 15:12-21)

Every biblical covenant is a'**diatheke**' **covenant** being instituted by God the initiator, to humankind who has the liberty to exercise their free will to either accept, or rebel and reject God's **covenant** promises.

Old Testament (OT) Covenants:

* **Adamic Covenant**
* **Noahaic Covenant**
* **Abrahamic Covenant**
* **Davidic Covenant**

Focus of our study: God cuts a covenant with Abram

**Genesis** **17:1 -2**, When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God, walk before Me and be blameless, and I will make a make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”

**Genesis 17: 10-11,** “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 and you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and You.”

**The Need for a New Covenant and the Difference between Old and New**

**Note**: The **Old Covenant** was for a specific people in a specific place and time. The **New Covenant** extends to the entire world: By calling this **covenant** "**new**," He has made the first one obsolete. Also, there is no access to the Holy God without the shedding of blood.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**,”Behold, the days are coming says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, *My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them*,” says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days says the LORD; *I will put my law in their minds*, *and write it on their hearts*; *and I will be their God*, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man is brother saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

**Ezekiel 36: 26-27,** “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

But how is this going to happen because the Lord had stated previously: **Ezekiel 18: 20**, “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son.”

**There is a need for atonement**: That which blots out or covers the sins of mankind.

**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 atonement for your souls; *for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul*.”

**Hebrews 9:22,** “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission (forgiveness).”

**The New Covenant is a Blood Covenant**

**Luke 22:20,** (Jesus): “Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the *new covenant* *in My blood, which is shed for you*.”

**Mark 14:24**, (Jesus): “And He said to them, this is *My Blood of the new covenant*, which is shed for many.”

**John 6:53-54,** Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you, whoever eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him at the last day.”

*Understand that the Blood of Jesus confirmed all of the relationships and blessings in the New Covenant*.

 **Note**: The list below is from *Scripture Keys for Kingdom Living* compiled by June Newman Davis, Missionary Evangelist.

**Salvation**: God rescues or saves. Being born again is the rebirth of your human spirit; It is not just being saved from eternal damnation (eternal death); separation from God. It is also the restoration of the image of God; your purpose and your potential.

* **John 3:16; John 3:17,** “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”
* **Acts 4:12,** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**Forgiveness**: The act of having pardoned and forgotten.

**Colossians 1:14,** “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

 **Reconciled:** When you change your attitude and accept God’s provision, you change from hostility towards God to fellowship and love for Him

* **Colossians 1:20**, “and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross”
* **Romans 5:10**,”For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

**Redemption**: The contract on your life is paid in full, bought back from the power of sin and death.

* **Ephesians 1:7,** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.
* **Revelation 5:9,** "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain; and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

**Justification**: Declared or made righteous. You have been acquitted of guilt and sin; just as if you never sinned.

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

**Righteousness**: You are put back into right-standing (relationship) with God. How did God do this?

* **2 Corinthians 5:21,** “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
* **Romans 3:22,** “Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference”

**Sanctification:**  We are set apart unto God, at salvation and each day after, through the blood of Jesus.

* **1 Corinthians 1:30,** “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption”
* **Hebrews 10:14,** “For one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

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**Remission**: The debt and guilt of sin has been cancelled.

* Rom 3:24, “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

**Deliverance**

* **2 Corinthians 1:10,** “Who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will deliver us.”
* **Colossians 1:14,** “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

**Overcoming Power**:

**Luke 10:19,**  “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

**Revelation 12:11,** “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

**You are called to walk out the Blood Covenant (New Covenant) by faith**: Walk out your new life (in Him), *starting where Jesus finished*. Otherwise, you will not live your faith life well.

**2 Corinthians 5:7:** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” Let’s look at the Ephesian Prayers