

THE BLOOD COVENANT – PARTS 3 AND 4

Part 3

Ephesians 2:19

For any person on earth to live outside the covenants of promise is the very definition of being hopeless and possessing no expectation in the world because everything God does with man is through His covenant

- Even those who have been born again can still be a stranger to those covenants because they have known so little about blood covenant relationship
- But through the blood of Jesus, we have been made fellow citizens of the saints and are members of the household of God; we are no longer of this world, but in the family of God, loved by Him and now one with Him

Blood Covenant History

There is no place in the world that has had so little revelation of the blood covenant than in the western world

- We have heard small bits and pieces of it here and there, but for the most part, it was never seen to have any great value and that is more evident in our culture and society now that at any other point in time; the growth of such things as hate, dishonor, disrespect, unfaithfulness and disloyalty between men are the very opposite of characteristics that define blood covenant relationship - sacrificial love, great honor, respect and reverence, unyielding faithfulness and complete loyalty to one another

But why have so many different cultures called such a sacred practice like covenant relationship heathenism?

- This belief began from a council formed at Laodocia with Augustine and several other theologians that ordered all believers to stop wearing phylacteries, or symbols, of the blood covenant. For believers, it was often a small leather pouch around the neck that carried such things in it as the commandments of God and the stories of their deliverance from Egypt
- It not only kept you in remembrance of your covenant relationship with God, but showed everyone else that you were in covenant with God
- And when they could no longer wear these phylacteries, then they began sewing threads of red in their dress and designing markers of the covenant to remind themselves of their covenant with God; this is even true with the American Indian, who have red mixed in with their clothing and their head dress because to the Indian, the color red was always seen as blood

But finally, the council at Laodocia banned the wearing of the phylacteries for so long that the remembrance by people and the showing of their covenant relationship wained and weakened among believers until it was basically forgotten. This began leading Christianity more toward becoming a religion rather than an intimate relationship with God

- Dry religion took the place of intimate relationship as it spread into Europe and unrighteous men began holding high place in churches; people were no longer allowed to read the Word as it was hidden away in monasteries. The Dark Ages were then ushered in and finally, the weakened religious version of Christianity made its way farther west, even into the United States

Now, in the Book of Revelations, when God is speaking to the church at Laodocia, He tells them that because they are lukewarm, He will spew them out of His mouth (3:14-16); BUT, He tells them that He stands at the door and knocks, and if they will answer Him, HE WILL COME IN AND SUP WITH THEM, WHICH IS A DIRECT REFERRAL TO THE BLOOD COVENANT (vs. 20-21)

- For so many years, we have used this in a context for only bringing unbelievers into salvation with Jesus, but this verse is not speaking to any unbeliever, but born again believers who the Lord says should have been remaining in the revelation of the blood covenant and never letting it slip

The very people who caused the blood covenant to be forgotten amongst Christians in centuries past is told by God that He will cut the covenant with them; He is saying, "I want to come in and cut the covenant with you, I desire to come in and be a strong friend with you, to live as one with you."

- And even though they were the people who caused much of the blood covenant relationship to be lost to believers and result in our part of the world having so little understanding of the covenant, He still gives them the opportunity to open the door, cut the covenant with Him and regain this priceless revelation and intimate fellowship with God which they had lost so long ago

James 2:21

This verse reveals that Abraham's willingness and obedience to sacrifice Isaac on the alter unto God showed Him that he was able to be God's covenant partner and His faith was counted to him as righteousness

- Now when it says that Abraham BELIEVED GOD and it was counted as righteousness, it does not merely mean that he believed what God said, but exactly what it means in Genesis when they cut the covenant - Abraham gave God UNQUALIFIED COMMITMENT.

- This means he believed God to the point that he would do whatever God asked no matter what the cost. He would not lay any qualification on what God told him to do, but would do it without question. When He gave this to God, he became the FRIEND of God and their blood covenant was sealed.

And when the Word says that God talked to Moses as a FRIEND (Exodus 33:11), this is because Moses went on Mt. Sinai and CUT THE COVENANT with God; then he came down among the people and cut the covenant before them. And when he did, he not only sprinkled the people with blood, but also the book with blood, showing that the covenant with Abraham was renewed; This shows that NOW THERE IS NOW PEACE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS COVENANT RELATIONSHIP; THERE IS STRONG FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THEM WITH NOTHING THAT CAN SEPARATE THEM.

Isaiah 41:8

Here God is not only talking about His friend Abraham, but to His offspring Jacob; This covenant is to all the seed of Abraham and this is the very reason that the covenant they cut included an incision from a man's reproductive organs rather than a man's wrist

- This signifies that it was not just a bond between the two of them, but with all his offspring, physical and spiritual; and today, we are Abraham's seed and heir to all the promises of God, which are yes and amen (Galatians 3:29, 2 Cor. 1:20)
- Now He is speaking to Jacob, telling him "you are the seed of my great friend Abraham and just as I was with Him, so shall I be with you. Do not be afraid or dismayed, i will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

2 Chron. 20:7

Here in this chapter, the people of Israel made a temple unto God FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE; This means that they made a temple for the Lord, not just because He is God, but for all the different names by which He covenanted Himself to them - Jireh, Rapha, Shalom, Shama, El Elyon, El Shaddai, etc.

Every time He told them who He is, He was not just describing a title, but cutting a covenant with them, swearing by Himself to be everything they would need Him to be and the ultimate expression of this is when He revealed Himself to Moses as "I AM".

- This chapter also shows the passion with which God takes up the cause of His people; as their covenant partner, He does not leave them to themselves when the people cry unto God, telling Him that they cannot possibly defeat the great army against them

- But the response of God is one of the most well known for any spiritual battle we fight in faith - “The battle is not yours, but God’s!”; He is telling the nation of Israel that the moment their enemies come up against them, they come up against the One they are in covenant with; to attack the people of God is the same as attacking the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; now He tells them that this battle is in His hands and they will see their enemies struck down and destroyed

Job 1

The book of Job is always one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible

- Job was perfect and upright because he walked in the covenant and kept all God told him to do
- However, every time that he thought his sons had sinned, he got up and offered sacrifices to God in their behalf over and over and over again; **JOB DID THIS CONTINUALLY**, indicating that he was not making those sacrifices **IN FAITH**; this means they would not have pleased God because you cannot please God without faith
- Still today, so many believers misunderstand the book of Job and attribute all that he suffered as the acts of God against him **BECAUSE THEY KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE BLOOD COVENANT**; God and Job were in covenant with one another before these attacks ever happened and it is impossible for God to break His covenant at any time for any reason; Job was operating in unbelief and because he did this, God told Satan that Job was in his hands; **THIS IS THE MOMENT** that gave Satan the opportunity to attack him
- So many believers today, when they get worried for themselves or someone they know, offer prayers for them one day but instead of standing on their covenant promises and trusting God to fulfill them, they immediately fear again and nullify their prayers through doubt and unbelief
- But the moment we pray to the Lord in faith, then the only thing we need to do is stand steadfast in our faith and refuse to allow unbelief to undo anything we have trusted God for

Everyone who reads the story of Job must know this – **THAT GOD DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO STRIKE JOB DOWN**; when Satan said that if He removed His hedge from him that Job would curse him, God said, “behold, he is in your hands,”; Satan did not even know that he was already in his hands; Job was not walking in faith, which allowed him to be vulnerable and open to the attacks of the devil

- When the attacks began, Job knew exactly what to do because he fell down and worshipped God; Job’s covenant was one that protected his life, but all that he went

through was because he did not walk in faith nor stand on the promises of his covenant; instead, he worried, complained and did everything that prevented his breakthrough and deliverance; he listened to his friends, who spoke evil of God and caused Job to go further into unbelief

- He knew to worship God in the beginning, but when the attacks happened, he stopped sacrificing before God and did not consider the promises of his covenant; Job should have done just like Abraham did, who did not consider the circumstances or the problems, but stood fast on the promises of God; he refused to doubt God but chose to believe that everything promised to him would be fulfilled

If Job had faithfully confessed his faith and stood on the promises of God, that attack could have ended the moment he would have done it; not only that, but when they attack was done, God displayed his passion for his covenant with Job by going to Job's friends, telling them to get a sacrifice and HAVE JOB PRAY FOR THEM; this shows that their prayer had no chance to be heard if someone God did not honor or have fellowship with was praying for them

Then, the moment Job got back on the promises of God and began walking in faith again, God turned his captivity, Satan could not touch him and he received far more in return than he had before the attacks began

One of the strongest passages in Job that shows he could have avoided these attacks at any point during this tribulation is seen in the end of the book in chapter 42; here Job is speaking to God and telling Him that he did not understand and was not speaking the right way; then in verse 4, Job says to God that "I will speak to you, which means I WILL DEMAND OF YOU and You will DECLARE UNTO ME; all along, Job could have made COVENANT DEMANDS of His covenant partner and Satan would have been defeated the moment he did

- In the moment of any attack in our lives we are never to act like Job and continually speak of the problems nor confess our defeat, but to do just what God spoke through Isaiah in 43:26 - "PUT ME IN REMEMBRANCE, LET US PLEAD TOGETHER (SAY THE SAME THING)
- Every time we face a problem, we are not only to come to the Father in prayer, but take the promises of our blood covenant and PUT GOD IN REMEMBRANCE of them; He will immediately honor the promises we remind Him of and faithfully manifest all that we confess in faith;
 - o Reminding God of our promises allows God and us to say the same thing, which forbids Satan to bring any division between us. This means he cannot cause harm or defeat to come near us

Why are people today willing to stand on the promises of God for a moment, but then turn like Job and focus instead on the fear and doubt in the middle of the circumstances?

The key is in Hebrews 11:1, which shows us that faith comes through God's Word fed into our hearts; by hearing, reading, and meditating upon the promises of God

- However, one of the most critical truths in this verse still remains unclear and indistinct to many Christians - GOD'S WORD IS THE COVENANT; so FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE COVENANT OF GOD!
- Countless men have only looked at this verse before and thought in their minds, "I'll have more faith if I read the Bible. If I want greater faith, I just have to read the Word of God more." But we have been so far removed from living a covenant lifestyle that we do not consider the Word of God and the promises of our blood covenant as one in the same
 - Men have seen the Bible as a book of religious doctrine and tenants of faith for a particular religion; but since the Word of God was written, it was ALWAYS to be read and interpreted through a blood covenant context.
 - If we did this, we would refuse to doubt or question the promises of God; we would never doubt God's faithfulness to fulfill everything He has sworn to do

The moment we look at the Bible as our blood covenant with God that holds record of every promise guaranteed by God, we will boldly stand on those promises and refuse to accept anything less than God's best in any area of our lives

- We will defeat the devil at every turn and God will have free access to bring every promise to pass; we reject defeat and only accept victory over our enemies
- Then no promise in the Bible will remain a question mark in our minds again, enabling us to not only confidently believe the words of our covenant, but most of all, the One who promised them

Part 4

Eph. 2:8-11, 19

The blood covenant is also known as "the covenant of strong friendship," and a covenant of such deep intimacy, loyalty and honor

- This covenant bond could never have been authored or devised by the mind of mere men, but could only come from the Almighty God

- Spiritually dead men could never have come up with the desire for such unbreakable love, loyalty and commitment
- Yet even with the gross perversions men have come up with over centuries toward the blood covenant, it still contains the foundation of the divine because they still know the sacredness and indescribable power that covenant relationship holds

The blood covenant was the means that God chose to communicate and commune with man after the fall of Adam

- Everything we have from God and the intimate relationship available to all mankind through Jesus is can only be fully understood and exercised through the blood covenant
 - From handshakes to the way we wear our jewelry and rings around our finger in marriage, marks of the covenant are seen all throughout our society; the covenant relationship is even seen in sayings like “blood is thicker than water,” and “there’s bad blood between them,”

In the book of Isaiah, Yahweh told the people of Israel that He cannot forget them and “He has engraved them in the palm of His hand”, signifying their covenant relationship; nothing could possibly separate them and no matter what, they would not be abandoned (Is. 49:15-16)

- His loyalty to do this could never be questioned “because HE SWORE BY HIMSELF to fulfill the covenant; therefore, if the Word of God or one word of that covenant ever failed, God would no longer be God for there would be failure in Him

One of the clearest revelations of covenant relationship in our society that has been so sorely taken advantage of and misused is the covenant of marriage

- This is the primary reason that divorce is so rampant throughout our culture, even within the Body of Christ. Men and women consistently abandon one another at the slightest sign of trouble or difficulty rather than upholding their oath to one another and solving the problem in love
- But if they would recognize before they get married that they are entering into an indissoluble covenant of love and permanent commitment, they would never see their relationship the same again; they would seek to serve each other in love and their marriage would thrive day by day

The Abrahamic Covenant

Some people today think that since we are in the New Testament, we are not under the Abrahamic covenant, but we are the seed of Abraham and we still operate in that covenant

- But now it is a new covenant with better promises; it no longer has any curse attached to it and we have abounding grace to live the abundant life through Jesus

Abraham's covenant was the first covenant that pertained to all of life and godliness; it was also the first one to pertain to all the seed after him and ultimately, to all the nations of the earth; when Job died, his covenant died with him, but Abraham's covenant includes all those who receive Jesus as Lord

Romans 4:16-21

The very key to operating in the covenant is faith and the **ONLY WAY WE CAN EVER HAVE FAITH TO OPERATE IN THE COVENANT IS WHEN THE REVELATION OF THE BLOOD COVENANT IS ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS**

- We can have unshakable faith in the promises because we know that every one of them is based on an eternal covenant forged with us by an unchanging God;
- And because God never changes, His Word is **EXACTLY** the same, forever settled in heaven (Psalms 119:89)

Abraham's understanding of covenant relationship enabled him to take Yahweh at His promise, which empowered him to refuse to consider his dead body, the deadness of Sarah's womb or any circumstance that faced him

- Because of this, he had hope when he faced a completely hopeless situation; biblical hope is never mere worldly wishing, but unyielding **EXPECTATION**, the certainty that any promise God has made must come to pass
- And when we learn to meditate on the Word of God with a blood covenant mindset, we build up a supernatural hope and expectation in our hearts; **THEN**, when this fervent expectation is in us, we apply our faith to that hope and see the promises of God manifested in our lives

Hope deals in a realm that is unseen, just the same as faith, but when the promises of God are meditated on in our hearts, we build up bible-based hope so we can apply faith to it and walk in victory

- It doesn't matter how hopeless a situation we face in life, there is nothing that can overpower the supernatural hope inside us and our faith that gives it substance

Genesis 17

Yahweh came to Abraham and the promise He made to him was one He knew that would enable him to keep his faith; One of the strongest things God told Abraham was "I am El Shaddai"; and

the moment Abraham knew WHO HE WAS MAKING COVENANT WITH, this is what enabled him to honor and reverence the One who made the promise; he was then able to walk by faith and be fully persuaded that He would perform those promises to him

WE CAN NEVER HAVE MORE FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD THAN WE HAVE HONOR AND REVERENCE FOR THE ONE WHO MADE THEM;

- The only way we can walk by faith according to the promises of the covenant is to have a clear and deep understanding of who the Almighty God is, all of His nature and character; once we have this in our hearts, we will never doubt the promises of God because we refuse to doubt the One who made them

This is why Abraham could walk in obedience to God when he was told to sacrifice Isaac; He was not walking around in doubt and fear like so many people today would have been,

- He told those who traveled with them that “both he and the boy would go worship God and return,” displaying his faith from the moment they approached the mountain; furthermore, the book of Hebrews says that Abraham had already received Isaac “raised from the dead in a figure” (12:17-19)
 - Abraham already had that supernatural hope operating in him, so when he spoke by faith and walked in obedience to God, he was provided a sacrifice to offer and both he and Isaac returned, just as he said they would

Not only was Abraham walking in faith, but ISAAC HAD JUST AS MUCH FAITH IN THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND ABRAHAM;

- He was not fighting Abraham or telling him that he had not heard God correctly, but willfully allowed Abraham to tie him down to the alter and even raise that knife into the air without attempting to stop him at all
 - Here is a 20 year old boy who is being tied down onto an altar to be sacrificed unto the Lord by his father and he is not even attempting to get away, but WILLINGLY allowing his father to tie him down and run a knife through him;
 - Over many years, he has seen Abraham walk in such an intimate blood covenant relationship with Yahweh that he knows when his father says that they will both return, even if he has to die, he is going to ultimately come back down with Abraham
 - HE WAS JUST AS SURE THAT GOD WILL FULFILL HIS COVENANT PROMISE AS ABRAHAM
 - Both Abraham and Isaac came off the mountain, showing the faith of Abraham and Issas as well as the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

After we have looked at the faithfulness of God to a man that walked in faith as a blood covenant partner to God, we can now look at Jesus, who came to Earth as the seed of Abraham, and see what God will do in the life of a man who walks up rightly by faith in the new covenant

- All the power, authority and glory demonstrated in Jesus' life and ministry, is evidence of what God will do in the life of any of His children who walks in covenant with God and exercises faith in all of all God's promises made to him
 - Jesus promised us that in the new covenant, we would walk this Earth with power and authority, going and doing the same works He did while He was here (Luke 10:19, John 14:12)
 - Now that He is seated at the right hand of God and is **WAITING FOR HIS ENEMIES TO BE MADE HIS FOOTSTOOL** (Hebrews 10:13), the devil is no longer to be defeated by Jesus defeating him, but for every son and daughter of God to exercise the same power and authority over the devil that Jesus used
- We are to walk this Earth just as our Savior, making the devil His footstool at every moment of our day while we rule and reign as kings
- We are never to be praying to the Father asking him to do something about the devil's attacks against us, but to clothe ourselves in the full armor of God, stand by faith in Christ Jesus, and exercise our authority in Him to turn his attacks into nothing

Now in our new blood covenant, we are not only born again, but have been given a glorious inheritance that covers every area of life to enjoy **THROUGHOUT** this life

- In a natural will, the heirs receive what the testator has decided to leave them when the testator dies; in our new covenant, not only has Jesus, the testator of the new covenant, died, but He has been raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God.
- He now mediates our new covenant, guaranteeing every promise of God and ensuring that the Word is performed in our lives; our inheritance is able to be partaken of at a moments notice and is **NEVER** to be begged or pleaded for
 - Walking in our divine inheritance should be one of the most unhindered acts of faith in our lives because our inheritance is not something coming to us, but is already ours to enjoy; it should be as simple for us to walk in healing, receive our needs met and defeat the devil at any point in time as it is for us to walk outside and get into our own car and drive it
 - But no believer can be forced to partake of what they have been given; they must know that it is theirs, ask for it in faith and then freely partake of it, confidently expecting that no one and nothing can prevent them from it; Now we are free to live the abundant life and walk in deep covenant relationship with God

