

Bible Covenants

Overview of Bible Covenants

The Bible is a book of covenants. Some are made between God and man, while others were made between one man and another. Ultimately, God's word is His covenant with us, His children, signed first in the blood of animals, then in the Blood of His Son. God moves in our lives based on His covenant with us and He does nothing outside of that covenant. It is up to us to grasp and live the fullness of His covenant with us.

A. What is a Covenant

- 1) Definition
 - a) Webster: A formal binding agreement between 2 parties esp. for performance by both parties.
 - b) Legal: a solemn written agreement with financial penalties for non-performance.
 - c) Blood: The agreement is not sealed with signatures but with the co-mingling of each party's blood. The penalty for failure to perform is typically the death of the offending covenantee.
 - d) Vines Definition: to cut, to cut flesh
- 2) History of Blood Covenants
 - a) Stanley and Livingstone and the chief's spear.
 - b) Lone Ranger and Tonto.
 - c) History: The term "covenant" has fallen from usage within the church because it has been hijacked by the devil especially because of the term "witches' coven".
 - d) The purpose is to offset weaknesses with complementary strengths e.g., farmers and warriors.
- 3) How a Blood Covenant Works
 - a) Covenants are initiated in blood for the life is in the blood. Lev 17:11
Covenants are lived, fulfilled or sealed with the bodies. Rom 12:1
 - b) Covenant Negotiation
 - Parties agree to covenant terms and provide the best representatives from each side.
 - c) Preparation of the covenant articles
 - Get the covenant animals and cut them in half (Abraham's days) for a Blood Walk.
 - Prepare the wine and other elements (days of Jesus to the present day).
 - d) The Blood
 - Walk in the blood thru the middle of the (2) halves, quoting the covenant promises.
 - Quote the covenant promises and drink the wine, sometimes mixed with blood.
 - e) Covenant Exchange
 - a) An exchange of clothes, tools, weapons or other precious possessions signifying an exchange of strengths for weaknesses.
 - b) An exchange of names e.g., Abram became Abraham and Jehovah (Lord) became Gen 12:1
El Shaddai (The Almighty God, The God Who is more than sufficient). Gen 17:1

B. Adamic Covenants

- 1) The Original Covenant of God.
 - a) God created man in His image and gave him power over the earth. God gave life. Gen 1:26
 - b) Man, in and with his body, is to replenish the earth and subdue it. Gen 1:28
- 2) The Garden Covenant
 - a) God made a garden and gave it to Adam as a sustaining life style. Gen 2:8
 - b) Adam, in his body, is to tend and protect the garden and not eat the forbidden fruit. Gen 2:15-18
- 3) The First Blood Covenant
 - a) The covering for sin is blood (Heb 9:22); God covered man with the skins of animals. Gen 3:21
 - b) Man is to provide for his own by his personal labor in his body over the cursed earth. Gen 3:17

C. The Marriage Covenant

- 1) Marriage is the second Blood Covenant Vows are taken before God, in the Name of Jesus.
- 2) Husband and wife, forsaking others, to become one flesh. Gen 2:24
- 3) This covenant is initiated with blood from the hymen during the loss of virginity. The covenant is fulfilled, lived out, in the committed bodies of the couple. Gen 4:1

D. Abrahamic Covenants

- 1) God's initial covenant with Abram Gen 15:1-18
 - a) The sacrificial animals (v.9); The terms of the covenant. Ge 15:13-16
 - b) Passing thru the blood (v.17); Covenant partners. Gen 15:18
- 2) The everlasting covenant with Abraham. Gen 17:1-23
 - a) God's promise of multiplication (v.2); A new name, the father of many nations. Gen 17:5
 - b) The mark of the covenant, circumcision, cutting for generations to come. Ge 17:10-14
 - c) Abraham responds to the request of his covenant partner THAT DAY! Gen 17:23
- 3) The Power of Covenant Partnership with God.
 - a) God tests Abraham on the partnership. Gen 22:1-18
 - God asked a big thing of his covenant partner i.e., to sacrifice his only son. Gen 22:1-2
 - Abraham responds without question or hesitation; Abraham's covenant language. Gen 22:3-5
 - Abraham withholds nothing (v.10-12); God makes more covenant promises. Ge 22:16-18
 - b) Moses speaks to God, based on the Abrahamic covenant, to spare the people Ex. 32:9-14
 - c) Jehoshaphat prays covenant words so that God can save them from the enemy. 2 Chr 20:1-9
 - d) The lad David spoke covenant words going to face the enemy Goliath. 1 Sam 17:32-37,45-48

E. Covenants in the New Testament

- 1) Living under the Adamic Covenant.
 - a) God gave life as the Word became flesh. John 1:14
 - b) Jesus lived under this covenant as a man, providing a body of obedience. 2 Cor 5:21
 - c) Jesus, under this covenant, lived with power and authority over every thing on earth. Matt 8:27
 - d) Jesus brought us into the Jubilee of this covenant by sacrificing His body for us. 1 Cor 11:24
- 2) Heirs to the Abrahamic Covenant
 - a) As a Jew, Jesus lived under the blessings of this covenant with God providing for His needs and for His protection from birth. Matt 2:11-14
 - b) Jesus gave His body to seal the Abrahamic Covenant for us. 1 Pet 2:24
 - c) We participate in the Abrahamic covenant for Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law that the blessings of Abraham may come upon the gentiles. Gal 3:13-14
- 3) Covenant of the Body and Blood of Jesus
 - a) Body
 - His body fulfilled the Old Testament covenants for us so we can have their blessings. 1 Co 11:24
 - We have a right to all that is included in the inheritance which Jesus left for us. Rom 8:17
 - b) Blood
 - The blood of a lamb over the door protected the Hebrews from the angel of death. Ex 12:7-13
 - The blood of Jesus protects us from sins and from all their effects. (Rom 8:2) Col 2:13-15
 - Jesus shed His blood to initiate a new and better covenant Matt 26:28
 - ✓ We now serve the God of New Beginnings and Second Chances. 1 John 1:9
 - ✓ We have in the Name of Jesus all power and authority over the earth and over the heavenly realm (i.e., over demons and evil spirits). Matt 28:18
 - ✓ We provide the body in this new & better covenant of the New Testament. Luke 10:19
 - c) Communion
 - We have been redeemed from sin so when we sin, we don't have to die. 1 Cor 11:23-32

- If we eat His body and drink His Blood, we shall never die.

John 6:47-58