

BLOOD COVENANT #1

Previously we mentioned the topic of our being 'In Christ'. It is the high privilege that is ours when we place our life in Him. We trust in Jesus and choose to obey Him. However, it would not be possible without a blood covenant. It is an agreement and union between two parties where resources, assets and liabilities are held mutually. Promises are made to one another which are taken seriously, even unto death. One modern example of blood covenant is the marriage between a man and a woman. The word *testament* is another word for covenant. Middle Eastern cultures are more familiar with covenants as are such groups as the American Indians. In this article, we will present an overview of various aspects of covenant, then in another message we will go back into more detail on some of the points and how they relate to Jesus and his bride. After this series is finished I expect we will all have a greater depth of understanding of God's promises to us because of the covenant and our confidence in God will grow!

Why does anyone enter into a covenant? There may be several reasons, but one is the fact that they see some benefit for themselves. For example, a weaker group may see the need to align themselves with a more powerful group in order to live in safety. Later we will see how God, because of his loving kindness and desire for friendship, chooses to make a covenant on behalf of mankind.

Blood Covenant Details (Covenant in Hebrew is *Berith*...to cut)

Exchange of Clothes Robes or coats were a symbol of a person's identity and position. Jesus took our filthy rags and gave us a robe of righteousness.

'Jesus takes nobodies and makes them nobilities.' -Adrian Rogers

Exchange of Weapons The belt or girdle held their sword, knife or other weapon. It was a promise to fight for the other. God fights for us!

Exchange Vows Animals would be cut in two and they would walk between the pieces in a figure 8 pattern, a symbol of an eternal friendship. They would pronounce curses and blessing.

Terms of Covenant Each would list their assets and liabilities

Raise the right arm Palms or wrists would be cut, hands would be clasped and their blood would mingle.

Scar or Mark - Some would rub charcoal in the wound in order to make a permanent scar as a reminder of the covenant.

Exchange of Names They were now united as blood brothers in name.

Covenant Meal

Bread was broken and one would share his half with the other. (Today at weddings we often see the bride and groom cut the cake and feed the other a piece of cake)

Wine was poured and shared with the other. A meal is a sharing of life with friends. The word *friend* is a blood covenant term. It is not a casual relationship but one of deep commitment.

Jesus no longer calls us servants but friends! - John 15:15 He is our blood brother. It is good to have a BIG BROTHER!

Memorial tree or stone:

This was a remembrance of the day the covenant was made. Christians have the cross and the empty tomb!

Jesus returns to earth on a white horse. He is called ***Faithful and True***. (Revelation 19:11) That is a blood covenant term. It is a reminder to us that he has kept his Word to us.

Jesus made a covenant promise to his bride and he kept it. Hallelujah!