

Blood Covenant

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Ribbons the Clown

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I am going to share with you, a wonderful story. It is a story of a Father who loved His children so much He was willing to sacrifice His first born Son, so all of His children could be reunited with Him and have victory over all their enemies. It's really the greatest TRUE love story ever told.

It all started with a promise. Not your every day promise, but the strongest promise that could ever be made. This promise was so great it was sealed in blood and if you broke it, the penalty would be death, your death! This kind of promise had a name it was called, "A Blood Covenant."

A blood covenant was between 2 people or groups and the purpose was to exchange strengths for what the other was weak in.

For example, one group might be good farmers, but they kept getting beat up by neighbors and losing their livestock. The second group might be great warriors, but not have fertile ground to grow their food. So they would make a covenant one getting food and the other protection.

Here is how it worked:

Exchange strength & Weakness for the other group's strength and weakness.

1. Exchange weapons/a symbol of giving each other their strength and now your enemies are my enemies.
2. Exchange coats/ a symbol of my authority, all I have is yours and yours is mine.
3. Exchange names/ they would cut themselves and intermingle their blood to show loyalty/they now were one.

Then they sacrificed an animal and walked through the blood. They stood in the middle saying curses and blessings to each other.

4. Each person pronounced Blessings/promises to each other that could never be broken.
5. Each group pronounced Curses/penalty to each other. Death, if the promises were broken. They even said by what curse they would die.
6. They ate a Covenant meal together of bread and wine, which showed their willingness to lay down their lives for each other.

The bread represented their flesh and the wine their blood.

Let me **show** you what I mean. This is where this story begins. It is the story of a man named Abraham and his family. Abraham had a covenant like this and

this is his story. Abraham had a “Blood Covenant” and his covenant partner was GOD.

Abraham’s part of the covenant was to do certain things which were called Leviticus rules. These laws are in the Bible in the book called *Leviticus*. Some of the rules were, *stand before a gray haired man, don’t tattoo your body, and don’t sow mixed seeds in the field. Don’t gossip, don’t hate in your heart, don’t hold a grudge, and no homosexuals. Don’t cut the sides of your beard.*

One of the rules of the Covenant is whatever your covenant partner did you must be willing to do it too. Well, God asked Abraham to do something strange. He asked him to sacrifice his first born son instead of a lamb. Wow, what would you do? Abraham obeyed and was willing to kill his son. This meant that God now was required by covenant law to also sacrifice His first born Son. Now remember, if you broke your side of the Covenant the penalty was death.

Well.... Abraham and his children broke the covenant.... but God said, “I don’t want you to die”..... “No, instead YOU kill an animal in YOUR PLACE.”

Later, God replace the Lev rules with the 10 commandments; which were easier for Abraham to follow. *You still had to sacrifice an animal if you broke one rule.*

Abraham got old and died but the covenant still went on. One day, the children of Abraham were under slavery in Egypt and they wanted to go make a sacrifice to God, their covenant partner, but the Slave Masters wouldn't let them go. So, one of the curses (or plagues) came on the land. It was a very sad curse or plague that all the first born children and animals would die at midnight. To protect His children who had a covenant with Him, God said to sacrifice a lamb, smear its blood on your door, and the death angel will PASS OVER your house and can't touch anyone in your house. That blood was a reminder or a sign of the blood covenant that God had with Abraham and his children. This event is called, "The Passover." God did this because He loved partners.

Let's go forward in time with this LOVE story. God was now ready to sacrifice His Son. So He sent Jesus to earth. He lived a perfect sinless life, but was murdered; He went to hell, paid our penalty for breaking our covenant.... **BUT 3 days later, after He died, He rose from the dead. He rose from the dead to give us a new covenant and to make sure that the new covenant is enforced. (Hebrews 12:24, Hebrews 10:9-10) He changed the rule from the 10 commands to one.... LOVE**

This event is called Easter. Easter is about how God sent His Son Jesus to pay the price for our sins, go to hell for us, 3 days later rose from the dead having victory over the devil, then He went to heaven, sent back the Holy Spirit so we could be reunited with God and become part of God's family and enforces the defeat of the devil. **Jesus was our sacrificial lamb.**

Galatians 3:29 says we are Abraham's seed so we are part of this covenant. Even though you and I and everyone are guilty for breaking the law & we should die, we are free **because Jesus, God's Son, became our sacrificial lamb.** (*Hebrews 9:22 all things are purified with blood and without shedding of blood there is no remission*) We don't even have the curse for breaking the law any more. (*Galatians 3:13*) Today the old covenant is fulfilled by Jesus and we have a better covenant in the New Testament. (*Hebrews 8:6, Hebrews 10*)

The **blessings** are in *Deuteronomy 28:1-14* & *Galatians 3:9*

The **curses** are in *Deuteronomy 28:15-68*
Jesus redeemed us from the curse according to *Galatians 3:13*

1. Exchange names; we bear the Name of JESUS
2. Exchange weapons; Ephesians 6 whole armor of God
3. Exchange coats; authority, at the name of Jesus

That lets us come to today. When we take **Communion** we are having our covenant meal that seals the deal. Jesus is our sacrificial lamb. We drink the wine (His blood) and the bread (His body) that was shed for us. When we take communion we are remembering the New Covenant Jesus made for us.

Now not all of you are Abraham's seed. To become part of this covenant and receive the blessing listed in Deuteronomy and be free of the curses, you must accept Jesus, the sacrificed lamb.

Let's do that right now. Repeat this prayer after me:

Father, Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me, I ask Him into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. I want to know the truth about everything you have done for me. Teach me how to be more like You. In Jesus' Name, Amen



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