

THE COVENANT, PART I: THE OLD COVENANT

THE ANCIENT NEAR-EASTERN WORLD – a custom STEPS OF THE COVENANT-MAKING CEREMONY –

Genesis 15:7-18

“And He said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.’⁸ And he said, ‘Oh Lord God, how may I know that I shall possess it?’⁹ So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat; and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.¹¹ And the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.¹³ And God said to Abram, ‘Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.¹⁴ But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions.¹⁵ And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.¹⁶ Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.¹⁷ And it came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I have given this land. From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.’”

1. **EXCHANGE** _____...represents an exchange of identity.
2. **EXCHANGE** _____...represents an exchange of strengths.
3. **EXCHANGE** _____...represents an exchange of enemies.
4. **SACRIFICIAL** _____...is called a blood covenant.
5. **WALK OF** _____...walk through animal.
6. **STRIKING THE** _____...incision on wrist; co-mingle the blood.
7. **PRONOUNCEMENT OF** _____ **AND** _____...
blessings if the covenant is kept
curses if the covenant is violated.
8. **COVENANT** _____...feed each other.
9. **EXCHANGE OF** _____...Abram to Abraham; Yahweh. God of Abraham
10. To be discussed later.

EXAMPLES OF THE STEPS OF THE COVENANT-MAKING CEREMONY

Genesis 15:7-10, 17-18 – Animal cut in two; walk between halves.

Genesis 17:1, 6-7, 10-11 – MARK ON THE BODY (CIRCUMCISION)

“Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him,...’⁶ And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.¹⁰ This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you; every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

Deuteronomy 28:1-23, 25-28, & 38 PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSINGS AND CURSES.

“Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the Lord your God.³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.⁴ Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herds and the young of your flocks.⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.⁷ The Lord will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and shall flee before you seven ways.⁸ The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns and all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.⁹ The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commands of the Lord your God, and walk in His ways.¹⁰ So all the peoples of the earth shall see

that you are called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹²The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³And the Lord shall make you the head and not the tail. And you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, ¹⁴and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. ¹⁵But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. ¹⁷Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. ¹⁹Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. ²⁰The Lord will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me. ²²The Lord will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew and they shall pursue you until you perish. ²³And the heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. ²⁵The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them, but you shall flee seven ways before them, ²⁶and your carcasses shall be food to all the birds of the sky and to the beast of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷The Lord will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. ²⁸The Lord will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart; ³⁸You shall bring out much seed to the field but you shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.

Jeremiah 34:18-20; 7:33 – ANIMAL CUT; WALK OF DEATH

“I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not fulfilled the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts – ¹⁹the officials of Judah, and the officials of Jerusalem, the court officers, and the priests, and all the people of the land, who passed between the parts of the calf – ²⁰and I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth. ^{7:33}And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky, and for the beasts of the earth; and no one will frighten them away.”

1 Samuel 17:3-4, 26, 33-39, 45 – UNCIRCUMCISED – Not part of the covenant

“And the Philistine stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. ⁴Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistine named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ²⁶Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, ‘What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should taunt the armies of the living God?’ ³³Then Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.’ ³⁴But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.’ ³⁷And David said, ‘The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and may the Lord be with you.’ ³⁸Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. ³⁹And David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, ‘I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.’ And David took them off. ⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.’”

1 Samuel 18:1-4 – EXCHANGE OF ROBE, BELTS, WEAPONS

“Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. ²And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father’s house. ³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.

2 Samuel 4:4 –

“Now Jonathan, Saul’s son, had a son crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the report of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened that in her hurry to flee, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:1-13 – BLESSINGS OF THE COVENANT ARE MULTI-GENERATIONAL

“Then David said, ‘Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?’² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, ‘Are you Ziba?’ And he said, ‘I am your servant.’³ And the king said, ‘Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?’ And Ziba said to the king, ‘There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet.’⁴ So the king said to him, ‘Where is he?’ And Ziba said to the king, ‘Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lodebar.’⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.⁶ And Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, ‘Mephibosheth.’ And he said, ‘Here is your servant!’⁷ And David said to him, ‘Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly.’⁸ Again he prostrated himself and said, ‘What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?’⁹ Then the king called Saul’s servant Ziba, and said to him, ‘All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson.’¹⁰ And you and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master’s grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall eat at my table regularly.’ Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, ‘According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do.’ So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table as one of the king’s sons.¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth.¹³ So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king’s table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.”

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION OF AN HISTORICAL EVENT

David --- represents _____

Lodebar --- a _____, _____; the place of _____ (no teaching on the Covenant).

Mephibosheth --- “a _____ thing” (Contender with _____); represents us living “under” our _____.

THE COVENANT, PART 2:

THE NEW COVENANT

A Better Covenant ...

Hebrews 7:22a; 8:6a –

“...so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. ^{8:6a}But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Atonement... “to _____.”

In New Testament... sins are _____.

Shadow vs. “_____”...

Hebrews 10:1 –

“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.”

1. EXCHANGE _____...represents an exchange of identity – 2 Corinthians 5:21 –

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Philippians 2:7-8 --

“...but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. EXCHANGE _____represents an exchange of strengths – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 –

“And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me – to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Zechariah 4:6-9 –

“Then he answered and said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. ⁷What are you, O’ great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ⁸Also the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁹“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it.

Grace – God’s willingness to demonstrate his power in my behalf, though I don’t deserve it.

3. EXCHANGE _____...represents an exchange of enemies –

Our enemy: Death; His enemy: Satan

Ephesians 6:10-17 -

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, Having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breast-plate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **v. 14 - Girded with _____**

v. 14 - Breast-plate of _____

v. 15 - Shod feet & gospel of _____

v. 16 - Shield of _____

v. 17 - Helmet of _____

v. 17 - Sword of the _____

4. SACRIFICIAL _____...

Hebrews 10:19-20 –

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.”

Matthew 27:50-51a –

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

5. WALK OF _____ ... “Give up your rights”

Luke 17:33 –

“Whoever seeks to keep his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall preserve it alive.”

Luke 9:23 –

“And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

6. COVENANT _____ – Old Testament – Circumcision

New Testament – Circumcision of the heart –

Romans 2:28-29 –

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

7. BLESSINGS AND _____ –

Blessing...Philippians 4:19 –

“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Curse... Gone – Galatians 3:13 –

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, “cursed is every one who hangs on a tree.”

8. COVENANT _____ ...

John 6:48-58 –

“I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh. ⁵²The Jews therefore began to argue with one another, saying, ‘How can this man give us His flesh to eat?’ ⁵³Jesus therefore said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. ⁵⁸This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever.”

1 Corinthians 11:24-30 –

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.”

9. EXCHANGE OF _____ ... Me = Christian; Jesus = Son of Man

10. TO “SEAL,” “ _____,” OR “ _____ ” THE COVENANT...

The exchange of the oldest male child.

“Parity” – An agreement between equals.

“Suzerain” – An agreement between unequals...one who has everything and one who has nothing.

Genesis 22:1-2 –

“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’
²And He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

Hebrews 11:17-19 –

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; ¹⁸it was he to whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your descendants shall be called.’ ¹⁹He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.”

Genesis 22:16-18 –

And said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your Son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

Matt 16:13-19

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matt 18:18

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.