

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 1 – The Need for Covenant

The Blood Covenant Truths series of studies will give you a deep insight into how much God loves you, what He has done for you and why you have the right to live a blessed and successful life. The studies explore why God needed covenant, what is involved in making a blood covenant and how that covenant affects our daily life. Understanding the seven New Covenant Principles is a pre-requisite for learning the New Covenant Truths.

The first concept that needs to be understood is why God needed a Blood Covenant with man. To grasp this reality, we need to start with where man fits into God's plan.

1 John 4:10 states that 'God is love (agape^{GK})'. Since the main output of agape love is the desire to selflessly give, God is always looking for ways to give. The agape love of the Father for His son Jesus resulted in the desire for God to have a family of beings in the same class as Himself to whom he could give. He looked at Jesus and said "let's make a being (man) in our image and likeness" so we can express our love to them and enjoy intimacy with them. So God created this natural world as a microcosm of the real world (heaven) and put man in charge so that man could be "god" (John 10:34) over this natural world – just like He is God is over the real world.

Read **Genesis 1:26-31** and write out **Genesis 1:27**. _____

Which of the New Covenant Principle did God give to man in **Genesis 1:28**? _____

How is this principle exercised in your daily life? _____

You can clearly see the nature of love in these verses. God gave man everything he needed and more. God's whole plan was for man to walk in an intimate relationship with Him and for man to use his delegated dominion to turn the earth into a place of perfection and beauty.

Genesis chapter 2 gives a more detailed presentation on the events of day six of creation. It starts in **verse 7** where God formed man. Write out this verse: _____

What are the two distinguishing characteristics given to man when God created him? _____

It is important to understand that both of these characteristics are needed for the exercise of dominion (exercise authority and power) in this earth. Since man's body was created from the dust of the earth (made from this natural realm's material) it shows God made it such that you must have a 'dirt' body to have authority in this earth. With His breath God made man an eternal living soul (speaking spirit) and connected man to God's power. God made us just like Himself as spirit beings that create (exercise dominion) by what we say. It is recommended that you review the New Covenant Principle of Dominion before continuing this study.

Write out **Genesis 2:8**. _____

There are two Hebrew words of interest in this verse – garden and Eden. The Hebrew word for garden is ‘gan’ which means ‘a beautiful garden full of delights’ and is from the root word ‘ganan’ which means ‘a protected garden’. When God restored order to the earth (Genesis chapter 1) it was inhospitable to man. So God created this garden for His man to enjoy; a place of rest, peace, protection, provision and fellowship with God. God called the garden Eden, which is the Hebrew word ‘ayden’ which means pleasure, delight and delicate. So like God to always give the best. Furthermore, the root word for ayden is awdan which Strong’s concordance defines as “to be soft or pleasant; figuratively and reflexively to live voluptuously: - delight self”. This shows the nature of our loving Father; He wants us living in everything good and blessed – living in delight.

Read **Genesis 2:9**. What two trees are specifically mentioned as being in the midst of the garden? _____

Why do you think God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden? _____

Read **Genesis 2:15**. What tasks did God give to man? _____

The Hebrew word for dress means “to cause to, make to, execute, perform, work” and the word for keep means “guard, protect, preserve and save”. God knew that there was an enemy at large (Satan) who was out to destroy the earth and especially the being made in the image of God. Hence God instructed Adam to look after the garden and to protect it. Adam knew how to do this because he understood his dominion – he was to speak and God’s power would make it come to pass. When you link this truth with God’s instruction in **Genesis 1:28**, the implication is that God wanted Adam to turn the rest of the world into a beautiful garden; an extension of Eden. God instructed man to use his creativity and imagination to replenish and subdue the earth.

Read **Genesis 2:16**. What freedom did God give Adam? _____

Read **Genesis 2:17**. What restriction did God give Adam? _____

Why do you think God gave this restriction? _____

This highlights the truth that to be in the same class as God, man had to have a free will. A free will cannot be demonstrated if there is no choice available. Man had to be able to choose his own destiny. Of course God wanted man to choose to obey out of love and relationship. But God had to give man the freedom to choose or man would have been just another servant being and not a being in God’s class.

Read **Genesis 2:18-20**. Notice that it was God who identified that man needed company in this natural realm. This passage also shows that after having created man at the start of day six, God proceeded to create all the animals and bring them to Adam to define and name. Here God is teaching Adam how to operate in this earth – to exercise dominion and create by the words of his mouth. Rabbinical tradition records that the characteristics of the animals were defined by Adam “when he named them”. What a great education Adam had on this day.

In **Genesis 2:20**, what was not found for Adam? _____

Read Genesis 2:21-25. God made a companion for Adam in the same class of being as Adam. This tells us that God is all about relationship, love and family. His whole aim in creating mankind was to have a family of beings in His class to whom he could show love; express his goodness by selfless giving and blessing of them.

Now read **Genesis 3:1-7**. In **verse 1**, the word used to describe the serpent is “subtle” which comes from the Hebrew word ‘awroom’. Strong’s Concordance states that awroom means cunning, smooth, prudent, or crafty. Rabbinical teaching says the serpent was the most beautiful of all the animals and walked upright on two legs. The understanding is that the serpent let Satan possess his body and use it to present the challenge against God’s directions to Adam and Eve. The result is recorded in **verses 6&7**; man chose to disobey God. This act of treason resulted in catastrophic consequences for man. **Genesis 2:17** calls it death. Man was cut off from God, lost his connection to God’s power and was placed under Satan’s power. The ability for man to exercise dominion was now limited to the power of Satan making man’s words come to pass. This is the reason the world is in the mess it’s in today – Satan has used man to destroy it.

According to **Matthew 4:8-9**, who had power over all the kingdoms of the earth? _____

According to **Ephesians 2:2**, whose power is man under? _____

According to **Acts 26:18** what did Jesus come to do for man with respect to Satan’s power? _____

Write out **Genesis 3:7**. _____

The first manifestation of death was that man received a conscience, which produced three consequences:

1. Guilt, condemnation and shame for failure. **Genesis 3:7&10** (naked and afraid)
2. Self effort attempts to address failure. **Genesis 3:7&10** (covering and hiding)
3. Blaming someone else for failure. **Genesis 3:12,13** (man on woman, woman on serpent)

All of the problems with mankind today have their root in the first consequence – guilt, condemnation and shame. The other two consequences are man’s attempts to deal with the first consequence. True freedom only comes when guilt, condemnation and shame are eradicated from a person’s life. This can only be done by receiving God’s free gift of righteousness and the daily provision of abundance of grace (**Romans 5:17**).

Read **Genesis 3:14-19**. This passage summarizes the other consequences of the death that Adam entered into by choosing to disobey God. The following summarizes these consequences:

V14 – the serpent was cursed and lost his beauty and stature because he let Satan use his body.

V15 – God notifies Satan that man’s seed is going to come to crush his head. Even in the midst of man’s apparent eternal disaster, God is declaring that He has a solution to the problem man has created for himself.

V16 – God describes the curse on woman, that she will suffer pain and be under subjection to the man. Good news here is that Jesus has now made man and woman joint heirs: she is no longer under pain or subjection.

V17-20 – God lays out for man that he is now subject to self performance to live. He must struggle and sweat to survive and that his physical body will return to dust.

The consequences of Adam’s disobedience were that man lost his connection to and intimacy with God and that he was made subject to everything evil (the power of Satan). The Bible calls this the curse of sin. Everything negative, bad, depressing, disastrous, painful and hurtful is a result of the curse. But the good news of the New Covenant in Jesus blood is that you are set free from the curse (**Galatians 3:13**).

Now we get to why God needed a Blood Covenant. In **Genesis 1:26**, what did God delegate to man? _____

What restriction did God put on this delegation? _____

According to **Numbers 23:19**, what are the two things God cannot do? _____

God gave man dominion over the earth and didn't place any restrictions or any "take-back" clauses on what man was allowed to do with the earth. So, when Adam chose to disobey God he turned this world over to Satan's power. He forfeited his relationship with God and lost the connection to God's power that made man's word come to pass. Instead, Adam connected himself with Satan's power and the result was all men became subject to the curse. Yet God loves the eternal beings that He created in His image and wants the best for them. However, because He cannot break His word he was unable to step in and fix man's problem. God could not take dominion back because that would require breaking His own word. However, God had a solution that Satan knew nothing about (**1 Corinthians 2:8**). That solution was by a blood covenant.

Once man was cut off from God and subject to Satan's power, God had to ensure that man did not eat of the tree of life and live in this natural world for eternity. If man never died a natural death, God would not be able to redeem him by a sacrificial death. So God, in His mercy and love, cut off man's access to the tree of life (Jesus) until the tree of life could pay for man's sin by giving up His life. To enable Jesus to be the substitute, God had to establish a blood covenant with a man in order for God to have the legal right to deal with the curse of sin.

For man to get the full benefits of what God has done he needs an understanding of Blood Covenant, because it is what God used to redeem mankind. Unfortunately Blood Covenant is no longer understood in most cultures. It appears that Satan has tried his best to eradicate mankind's knowledge of Blood Covenant so as to prevent people living in what God has purchased for them. Interestingly, many of the terms of Blood Covenant are still in our language, but the understanding of their meaning has been lost. Examples include "blood is thicker than water", "sticks out like a sore thumb", "take it to the bank" and "his word is his bond". Today we use contracts and agreements, which are totally diluted forms of a blood covenant.

A Blood Covenant is the most powerful agreement that can ever be made. When two beings make a Blood Covenant, that covenant stands supreme and only the death of one of the parties can cancel it. A Blood Covenant is so strong that underlying requirement is that if one party breaks the covenant, the other party is sworn to kill the offending party and all of that party's relatives. The penalty for breaking a blood covenant is death. On the positive side, the benefits of a Blood Covenant far outweigh the penalties. A Blood Covenant joins the two parties as one. Everything is jointly owned, all rights are equally shared, both share the same benefits, and the focus of each party is on how to bless, protect, increase and make successful the other party. Blood Covenant is a totally selfless relationship that only has the best interests of the other party at heart.

To restore His relationship with man and to return dominion of the earth back to man by removing him from Satan's power, God cut a blood covenant with man in the body and blood of Jesus. In doing this He united the parties again in relationship and power; delivering man from the power of Satan and placing him in the Kingdom of His son (**Colossians 1:13**). The only condition is that each man has to willingly choose to be a partaker of this Blood Covenant. This is done by accepting Jesus free gift of forgiveness of sins and by inviting Him to become Lord of your life. This makes you a partaker of the Blood Covenant between God and man and gives you full access to everything Jesus paid for at the cross – God's provision, protection, power and abundant life. If you have not accepted Jesus, please do so now. God wants you back in His family.