

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 11 – New Covenant Completion (5)

Lessons 9 & 10 looked at the steps five and six in the completion of a Blood Covenant. Now let's continue our study by looking at step seven, the reading of the terms of the covenant. We saw in BCT Lesson three that the terms have two parts, the Blessings and the Curses. The blessings are all the benefits and positive things that are provided by each party in order to improve, bless and prosper the union. The curses are there to discourage either party from breaking the covenant. They detail all the negative things that will happen to the party that breaks the covenant. The ultimate curse of a blood covenant is the death penalty for the covenant breaker and all his/her descendants. The party that has not broken the covenant is 'blood sworn' to carry out this death sentence.

We are going to study the terms of the New Covenant (Step 7) in the next two lessons. In this lesson (11) we are going to look at the terms God established with man and how they have directed man's behavior. In the next lesson (12) we will look at what Jesus did with these terms and how that now impacts our lives.

Step 7. Terms of Covenant (Blessing and Curse)

The first covenant terms mentioned in the Bible occurred when God made covenant with Adam and gave him dominion of the earth. This was not a blood covenant as such, since God and Adam were connected by "creation in His image", but God did state two very clear terms that have defined human history and continue to affect every man on the earth. Firstly the blessing of dominion over the earth and secondly the curse of death if man broke this covenant of dominion. **Genesis 1:26-30** tells us that God gave man dominion over the earth and all living things on the earth. **Genesis 2:15-17** expounds further on this as God gives man specific instructions on these two aspects of the Adamic Covenant – The blessing was the provision of the garden of Eden for man to enjoy (there was nothing bad in it) and the curse was death (separation from God) if man exercised his free choice to break the covenant by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis Chapter 3 records how man broke the covenant and the curse came into effect.

From the first three chapters of Genesis, mark the following items as either blessing (B) or curse (C):

Blessing of God _____	Fruitfulness _____	Sweat _____
Made in image of God _____	Return to dust _____	Intimacy with God _____
Dominion over earth _____	Fruit of the trees _____	Pain in childbirth _____
Sorrow _____	Helpmeet (woman) _____	Tree of Life _____
Garden of Eden _____	Green herbs _____	Gold _____
Enmity between man and Satan _____	Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil _____	
Sexual Inequality _____	Thorns and thistles _____	Creative power _____

Since God's word can never be broken, these initial terms are still in place today. During the history of man God has further expounding of the initial terms listed in these first three chapters of Genesis. He also put in place the covenants necessary to deliver man from the failure of Adam. The New Covenant is the final master stroke God made in delivering the man He created and loves from the consequence of His free choice to go his own way.

In **Genesis 15** God set up the New Covenant with Jesus (who is man's representative) and outlined its terms. We will go into depth on this in the next lesson. In this lesson we are going to look at the terms of the covenants made with mankind through Adam, Noah, Abraham and the Israelites. These terms reflect the realities of the heavenly covenant and show us what God's purposes are for us living in the here and now.

In **Genesis 3:21**, what covenant activity did God do for Adam to deal with his shame (nakedness/sin)? _____

In **Genesis 4:3-5**, why did God accept Abel's offering and not Cain's? _____

In **Genesis 8:20-22**, What did Noah do that pleased God? _____

What covenant promises to God make to Noah because of this offering? _____

In **Genesis 9:1**, what instructions did God give again to man? _____

In **Genesis 9:2**, what did God give to man dominion over? _____

In **Genesis 9:3**, what did God give to man for food? _____

In **Genesis 9:11-16**, what covenant did God establish with all flesh? _____

How long is this covenant in effect? _____

What was the token given as a reminder of this covenant? _____

In **Genesis 12:1-3**, what covenant statement does God reiterate again? _____

In **Genesis 14:19** what did Melchizedek do to Abram? _____

As we saw in BCT Lesson 4, God gave Abram insight into His covenant plan by sharing the Gospel in the Stars, (**Genesis 15:5**). God explained how Abram's descendant Jesus would give His blood to ratify the New Covenant and His life in exchange for men's lives. Then God went on to have Abram set up the covenant ceremony where Father God and Son Jesus walked in the blood (verse 17) and cut the New Covenant with the blessing terms declared in verses 18-21 (we will explore these in module 4). Suffice to say, the covenant terms are that by Jesus death and resurrection, God restores everything that Adam lost when he choose to obey Satan.

Having established the covenant with Jesus through his relationship with Abram, God proceeds to have Abram work out the covenant in this natural world. **Genesis 17** records the details of the terms of this covenant. Read this chapter and answer the following questions about the Abrahamic covenant.

What did God instruct Abram to do (v1)? _____.

What would the covenant do for Abram (v2)? _____.

What would the covenant make Abram (v4)? _____.

What change to God make for Abram (v5) _____.

What would come out of Abraham (v6)? _____.

How long would the covenant be performed for (v7) _____.

What land did the covenant give to Abraham (v8) _____.

- What was Abraham required to do (v9)? _____.
- What was the sign of the covenant (v10) _____.
- What did God say must happen to Sarai (v15)? _____.
- What did God say would happen to Sarah (v19)? _____.
- What did God say Abraham must call his son (v19)? _____.
- When did Abraham complete the sign of covenant (v26)? _____.

As we have already seen, there was one more act that God needed Adam to do in order to prepare the way for Jesus to die in the place of man. **Genesis 22** records this story where Abraham offered Isaac on the altar. Because he did this, it gave God the right, as Abraham’s covenant partner, to offer up His son for Abraham and his descendents. Here in this chapter God declares the blessing of the New Covenant. Read verses 16-18 and answer the following:

- What caused God to make an oath (v16)? _____.
- What is the oath (v17)? _____.
- What three things did God swear about Abraham’s seed (v17-18)? _____.
- _____
- _____

It is clear from the fact that the Hebrew word for ‘seed’ is singular that God was prophesying about Jesus and what He would do through the New Covenant. The fulfillment of multiplying the seed is manifest in the number of people who are now part of the body of Jesus. Jesus took over the rule and power of Satan when He rose from the dead and as His body the church also possesses dominion over Satan and his evil hoard. The blessing of the nations is what the church is about now: bringing heaven to earth, releasing the earth from the curse, and delivering sinners from the dominion of Satan. What great days to be alive.

The next stage in the revelation of the terms of the New Covenant involved God working with the Israelites. Their being put under bondage in Egypt is an analogy of what happened to mankind because of the sin of Adam. The time came for them to be delivered from that bondage and God did it through the Passover feast; a type of Jesus’ work in the New Covenant. Having been delivered, they travelled under the leading and blessing of God to Mount Sinai. During this time God treated them under the covenant of Abraham, providing everything they needed. Even when they complained and rebelled, God continued to bless them. When they left Egypt they were all healthy and strong (**Psalm 105:37**) having been made so by eating the Passover lamb (the type of Jesus body; *how much more should we be healthy and strong through eating the body of the real lamb*). During their six week journey to Sinai, God delivered them from the Egyptian army, provided shade by day and heating by night, provided water and food, and there is no record of any accidents, sickness, loss or disaster; even when they complained. God showed them mercy and grace because of the covenant he had made with Abraham.

However, when they got to Sinai, there was a point where all that changed - read **Exodus 19:3-8**. Notice in verses 4 through 6 how God wants to bless them because of covenant. In verse 5 the Hebrew says “shamonah tashamah kaqaloo” which translates as “in obedience you listen attentively to my voice” followed by “and you keep (hedge about) ‘Aleph Taph’ covenant of me”. God wanted the people to continue in the Abrahamic covenant of relying on his spoken direction to enable him to bless them. However, when Moses delivered God’s instructions to the people, their response was (v8) “all that he said, Yahweh, we will do”. The Hebrew used here shows that the people boasted in their own ability to keep God’s directions rather than continue to rely on His

grace. The consequence is dramatic. Read **Exodus 19:9-13**. Notice how the relationship has changed. Suddenly, the people are restricted from coming into God’s presence. In fact, God was so strong on this He made Moses go down and repeat the warning (v21). Rather than continuing to enjoy the presence and blessing of God, they became afraid (v16). God then proceeded to give them the ten commandments, the laws for offering sacrifices, and rules for governing the people (**Exodus chapters 20 to 31**).

In **Exodus 24:1-8** Moses ratifies the Old Covenant by shedding and sprinkling the blood of the oxen and burning their bodies. Again the people boasted of their ability to keep the covenant (v3). Because of the shed blood, God was able to show himself to the leaders and they ate the sacrifice (v9-11). This type was fulfilled by Jesus when he instituted the New Covenant feast of Communion. Then God called Moses up onto the mountain and gave him the instructions for building the tabernacle (chapters 25-31). Then in Chapter 32 Moses delivers and breaks the stone tablets and the judgment of God comes on the people, resulting in 3,000 people dying (v28). From this point on God dealt with the Israelites based on their ability to keep the law. Since they were totally unable to, in his grace and mercy God gave them the sacrificial blood offerings to cover their sins – the types of what Jesus would do on the cross. When they performed the sacrifices He was able to bless and protect them. When they stopped making sacrifices (went after other gods) the curse descended on them. The Israelites proceeded to miss out on entering the Promised Land because of unbelief and end up dying in the wilderness. Forty years later they arrived back at the river Jordan and Moses reminds them of the terms of the covenant that they have with God. This is found in **Deuteronomy 28**. This chapter presents details of the terms of the Old Covenant as it lists the blessings of the covenant and the curses of the covenant.

Read **Deuteronomy 28:1-13**. What is the theme of these verses? _____

What must a person do to receive the blessings (v1)? _____.

How are the blessings received (v2)? _____.

How do the people of the earth see you (v10)? _____.

Read **Deuteronomy 28:14-68**. What is the theme of these verses? _____

How many commands need to be broken to allow the curse to operate? _____

How are the curses received (v45)? _____.

What does verse 61 make sure you know? _____.

In this chapter (and in many other places in the Old Testament) the translators use the phrase “The Lord shall send/make/allow/bring/cause/smite ‘*some aspect of the curse*’ on the covenant breaker”. The covenant reality of these Hebrew words is “The Lord cannot stop/prevent/limit/hold back.... these aspects of the curse coming on the covenant breaker”. Because of Adam’s choice to disobey, all men born after Adam’s seed are under the dominion of Satan and are unable to meet God’s standard of Righteousness (the Old Covenant terms). Therefore all men are automatically subject to the curse and cannot qualify to receive the blessings of the Old Covenant. God needed a man, not born after Adam, to perfectly fulfill the law in order to stop the curse.

God can only prevent the curse from coming when someone perfectly fulfills the terms of the covenant. For the Israelites, God provided them with the blood sacrifices (the type of Jesus sacrifice) to enable him to bless them.