

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 13 – New Covenant Completion (7)

Lessons 11 and 12 looked at the terms of the Real world (combined Old and New) Covenant and how it has become the New Covenant in Jesus blood; a covenant with no curse left, only blessings. Now let's continue our study by looking at step eight. The significance of this in our lives is the truth that we have been circumcised in spirit and made new creations. So let's look at this reality.

Step 8. Cutting of the Flesh.

This step in the covenant ceremony involved the cutting of the flesh of the two representatives and then the mixing of their blood. Typically the cut was on the hand or thumb and then they joined hands to mingle the blood. The phrase 'stands out like a sore thumb' comes from the scar of a covenant person. This cutting and shedding of blood was a focal event in a blood covenant. It is the point where life is spilt and then shared between the parties. They become one in blood and that bond is the strongest relationship among humans.

As we have seen, God instituted two parallel covenants in order to redeem man. The real world one was cut between Father and Jesus and the natural world one was between God and Abraham. Let's look at the cuts that implemented these two covenants.

The cutting of the flesh for Abraham's covenant is recorded in **Genesis 17**. Write verse 2: _____

How long does the Abrahamic covenant last (v7)? _____.

Write out verse 11: _____

What does God call circumcision? _____.

Notice the dialog in verses 17-21. God is very clear that the eternal covenant is with Isaac and not Ishmael. God made it clear that his covenant is with the "son of promise" (the son of faith) and not with the "son of the flesh" (the son of man's self effort). Interestingly, both sons were circumcised but only one son was a partaker of the eternal covenant. Read **Galatians 4:21-31**. Paul links these two sons to the two covenants – the old covenant of the law and the new covenant of promise. Write out **Galatians 4:30**: _____

Notice how strong the words of God are about never mixing these two covenants. A person cannot enjoy the inheritance of the New Covenant when there is old covenant effort mixed with it. Now write out **Genesis 17:21**:

It is significant that this is the final comment God makes to Abraham about this covenant. The cutting of the flesh was the seal of the Abrahamic covenant which is the natural world parallel of the New Covenant. God identifies in His last statement to Abraham exactly who will receive the blessings of the New Covenant. Now read **Romans 4:1-12** and answer the following questions:

What did Abraham find out about the flesh (v1,2)? _____.

How did Abraham become righteous (v3)? _____.

What quality of Abraham's allowed God to declare him righteous? _____.

Who does David say is a blessed man (v6)? _____.

Does receipt of this blessedness require natural circumcision (v9)? _____.

Why was Abraham physically circumcised (v11)? _____.

God chose Abraham as His covenant partner because of Abraham's faith. Verses 11 and 12 state that Abraham's obedience in circumcising himself made him the father of everyone who believes (on Jesus). This believing is what enables God to impute righteousness to them; to make them righteous without any need for man's effort.

Write **Luke 2:21**. _____.

Jesus was circumcised into the Abrahamic covenant. Because of the covenant God had cut with Abraham, Jesus became The Seed of Abraham by this covenant act. He was not born of the natural seed of Abraham because that seed was under the curse of sin, but he became The Seed by entering into the covenant that God made with Abraham. By this act Jesus became both the representative of man under the new (real world) covenant and the inheritor of all the promises given to Abraham under the Abrahamic covenant. The cutting of the flesh was the essential act for Jesus entering into the covenant that enabled his death to redeem fallen man.

Having become a partaker of the Abrahamic covenant Jesus went on to perfectly fulfill the Abrahamic and Old Covenants. He satisfied all the demands of both and by this fact was able to offer his life as the substitute for mankind. However, to deliver man from the curse of sin, Jesus had to exchange his perfect life for man's imperfect life. He had to be made sin so that by covenant God could make man righteous. The completion of this aspect of the New Covenant required the cutting of Jesus flesh and shedding of His blood.

In order for this covenant act to be completed in this natural world, God had to have it declared by man in this natural world (the exercise of man's dominion). Accordingly, there are a couple of key prophetic passages that do this. Let's briefly look at these. Read **Psalms 22:1-21** and complete the following exercises.

What common phrase is found in verse 1 and **Mark 15:34**? _____.

What verses in **Mark 15** fulfill the prophecy of **Psalms 22:6-8**? _____.

What verses in **Matthew 27** fulfill the prophecy of **Psalms 22:12-13**? _____.

What verses in **John 20** tie to the prophecy of **Psalms 22:14-15**? _____.

What verse in **John 20** fulfills the prophecy of **Psalms 22:16**? _____.

What verses in **Matthew 27** fulfill the prophecy of **Psalms 22:17**? _____.

What verses in **Luke 23** fulfill the prophecy of **Psalms 22:18**? _____.

Now read **Isaiah 53:1-12**.

Read verse 3 and write out what Jesus says in **Matthew 26:38**. _____

Write out verse 5. _____

Match the following statements from **Isaiah 53** with the references .

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| Verse 5 - with his stripes we are healed _____ | A. John 19:30 |
| Verse 6 – All we like sheep have gone astray _____ | B. Romans 5:18-19 |
| Verse 6 – the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all _____ | C. Matthew 27:38, 57-60 |
| Verse 7 – He opened not His mouth _____ | D. John 1:29 |
| Verse 8 – He was cut off from the land of the living _____ | E. 1 Peter 2:24 |
| Verse 8 – for the transgression of my people was he stricken _____ | F. Hebrews 9:28 |
| Verse 9 – made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death _____ | G. 1 Corinthians 15:3 |
| Verse 10 – Thou shall make his soul an offering for sin _____ | H. Matthew 26:63 |
| Verse 11 – by his suffering shall my righteous servant justify many _____ | I. Psalms 119:176 |

Having declared the divine intent to make Jesus the offering for sin, God had the legal right to send Jesus in the flesh and complete the act of redemption. The whole purpose of Jesus life was to fulfill the Old Covenant and then as the perfect man freely offer up his life as payment for the curse. In doing this he ratified or completed the New Covenant, sealing it in his blood. His flesh was not just cut; it was torn, bruised and battered as the covenant offering. At the Passover feast in the upper room Jesus transformed that celebration into a New Covenant celebration by instituting what we call the Lord’s Supper or Communion because the Holy Spirit had Paul name it so (see **1 Corinthians 10:16**). We will explore this further when we look at Step 10, the covenant meal in Lesson 15.

Read **Luke 22:19-20** and write out **Matthew 26:28** _____

Write out **John 19:30**. _____

This declaration of Jesus has many layers of depth. He was announcing the completion of the New Covenant, including: the destruction of the curse, man’s deliverance from the curse, the appeasement of divine wrath against sin, the deliverance of man from bondage to Satan, the redemption of man from death, the restoration of man to righteousness, the reconnection of man to God’s power, and the reconciliation of man to God.

One of the key results of the cutting of the flesh was the scar that was left behind. These demonstrated the reality of the covenant and were a constant reminder of the covenant status of the tribe. What does Jesus have today that shows his covenant status? _____.

Read **John 20:23**.

What made the disciples glad? _____.

Read **John 20:24-29**.

What did Thomas demand as proof that Jesus was alive? _____

Write out **John 20:27**. _____

What was Thomas' response (v28)? _____.

Why are you more blessed than Thomas? _____.

What do the scars Jesus carries say to you? _____.

Now let's look at the revelation Paul imparted about how the New Covenant cutting is performed in our lives. Again, God had a man prophesy what would happen to men under the new covenant.

Read **Ezekiel 11:19-20**.

What does God say he will put within us? _____.

What does God say he will take out of us? _____.

What does God say he will give us? _____.

Now Read **Romans 2:28-29**.

How does Paul define a real Jew? _____.

How does this inner circumcision occur? _____.

Write out **Colossians 2:10-11** _____

Notice again that your circumcision is done by the Spirit (without hands). This circumcision is the cutting away of the flesh, the old nature of sin. The person who accepts Jesus substitutionary sacrifice enters into Jesus circumcision, i.e. the New Covenant. God supernaturally cuts off the old nature of sin and replaces it with your new nature of righteousness. This new Covenant circumcision of the human heart is probably the greatest miracle in eternity – the reality that God has the legal right and power to transform a dead human heart into a living one and in so doing release that person from eternal separation (death) and restore him to intimacy with God. Write out **2 Corinthians 5:17** _____

Over and over again the scriptures declare the amazing reality that the covenant ceremony step of "cutting of the flesh" in the New Covenant has totally delivered man from the curse and filled him with the fullness of God.