

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 15 – New Covenant Completion (9)

We now come to the final step of cutting a covenant, the covenant meal. The steps involved by the parties in cutting the covenant have been completed and now the covenant meal is the celebration of their new state as a single entity. The walk of blood, the exchange of dominion and identity and the agreement on the terms have been completed. These have been sealed in the cutting of the flesh and mingling of the blood. The covenant is in place and the members of both parties now get to participate in the celebratory feast. The New Covenant feast was instituted in the upper room in the celebration of eating the bread and drinking the cup, which was called the last supper and is now usually called Communion. This lesson will look at the origin of the meal, its types in the Old Testament and the reality of what the meal means to us today. This meal has tremendous power in our lives today, so buckle your seat belt because it's time for more exciting revelations of the importance and value of the Communion meal.

Step 10. Covenant Meal. The action of eating has been a central component of human activities and relationships since the beginning of time. Part of the original blessing of God in Genesis 1, was that God gave man the herbs (vegetables) and fruit to eat. Food remains a central part of every culture and a major component of industry and commerce. It is interesting to note that it was the act of eating that brought the curse into the earth and it is the act of eating that enforces your deliverance from the curse. But that's getting ahead of ourselves. In this lesson we are looking at three covenant meals in scripture – Abrahamic, Passover and New.

As we have seen in the previous lesson, Genesis chapter 17 records the cutting of the Abrahamic covenant with the chapter ending with Abram being circumcised. This leads into the Abrahamic covenant meal in Genesis chapter 18. Read **Genesis 18:1-15** and answer the following questions

What did Abraham do when he saw the three men? _____

Since they did not stop him bowing, which angels always do, who was one of the men? _____

Why did the men agree to eat with Abraham? _____

What were the contents of the meal Abram prepared? _____

Write out verse 8: _____

Following the meal, what did Jesus prophesy to Abraham? _____

What question did Jesus answer Sarah's doubting with? _____

Now write out verse 17. _____

This is a covenant statement. Because God and Abraham are now in covenant, they share their plans and decide together how to proceed. Today God still reveals his plans to those who walk in covenant with him. Verses 18-19 confirm this. The blessing of God would manifest through Abraham because of the covenant they had made. In

verses 20-21 God lets Abraham know that he needs to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the depravity of the cities. We then have the negotiation of covenant partners over this plan for destruction. Because of the covenant relationship, Abraham is able to negotiate with God for the potential saving of the cities. This shows the power of influence that each party has in a covenant. Abraham uses God's covenant word that he would never destroy the righteous to negotiate with God for the protection of the whole city. Jesus taught this truth when he said Christians are the salt and light of the world (**Matthew 5:13-14**) and that whatever we ask for, God will give (**John 14:13-14**). It's our covenant with God, and the truth that we are righteous, that protects our cities and nations in this present day. We have the power of God backing up what we declare over our communities, cities and nations. Our declarations are vital to the blessing of God being released in the earth, to people turning to Jesus, to the safety, security and prosperity of our communities. The evil and destruction that the enemy kingdom works in the earth can be stopped by covenant minded children of God who stand on their covenant inheritance and declare God's will in their communities – freedom from the curse (deception, wickedness, disasters, etc.)

Genesis 18: 23-32 records how Abraham negotiates down to sparing the cities if 10 righteous people are found in them. He probably thought that since Lot had lived in Sodom for the last 10 years that he would have influenced at least 10 people in the city to follow God. Unfortunately that was not the case and Genesis 19 records the resulting destruction. It is interesting to ponder that if Abraham had negotiated down to one righteous person, would God have spared the cities; quite likely, because God is a God of mercy and not judgment. This event in Abraham's life demonstrates the influence we have as covenant partners with God in bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth. God is about love and mercy, not judgment. Final point on this story is to notice that God removed the righteous person from Sodom, even though Lot objected to going, before he destroyed the city. God honors his word to protect the righteous. Remember that this 'negotiation', the influence of Abraham on God, came after they had shared the covenant meal. Oh what power we have to see God's will done on the earth when we share in communion and declare what God says about our lives.

Now let's look at the covenant meal that God instituted with the children of Israel as part of the Old Covenant. The Israelites had become slaves to the Egyptians and under Pharaoh's power and God undertook to deliver them because of his covenant with Abraham (natural world covenant). This parallels (illustrates) the reality that men became slaves to sin and under Satan's power (because of Adam's disobedience) but God undertook to deliver them because of his covenant with Jesus (real world covenant).

The story of Israel's deliverance is found in **Exodus chapters 5 through 12**. During this process God punished and destroyed the Egyptians and Pharaoh for putting his people into slavery. The ten plagues were judgments against the gods that Egypt worshipped. The real world parallel is that God destroyed the curse of sin when he punished the body of a righteous man and destroyed Satan for putting mankind into slavery. In order for God to complete the judgment of Egypt, by plague #10, he had to protect the Israelites. The judgment was against the whole land because of their wickedness (including worshipping idols and slavery). The punishment was to be metered out on everyone in the land. Hopefully, you can see the parallel with the judgment against the sin of mankind. In order to protect the Israelites, because of his covenant with Abraham, God instituted the feast of Passover for the Israelites. This feast protected every person who partook of it from the curse of death that judged the nation. This feast is the type for the New Covenant meal – communion. So let's explore its benefits.

Read **Exodus 12:3-14, 34-36** and answer the following questions:

What was every man required to take? _____

Why did God require some households to join together? _____

What were the characteristics the lamb had to meet? _____

How long was the lamb to be kept in the house? _____

What would keeping the lamb in the house do? _____

What did the Israelites do to the lamb on the 14th day? _____

What was done with the blood of the lamb? _____

What was done to the flesh of the lamb? _____

How was the roasted flesh disposed of? _____

Who was required to eat the lamb? _____

What happened with anything that was left over? _____

How were the people to eat the lamb? _____

What did the blood on the door cause God to do? _____

What was the feast to become? _____

How long were the Israelites to eat unleavened bread? _____

What did the people carry on their shoulders when they left Egypt? _____

What did the Israelites take from the Egyptians? _____

All of the activities of the Passover reflect the reality of what Jesus did in his sacrifice on the cross. Let's talk through some of these. Obviously, Jesus is the lamb, pure and without blemish. He becomes part of the family so that we get to fall in love with him – lambs are adorable. He shed his blood on the cross (striking the door posts and lintel makes the shape of a cross) so that the judgment for sin would pass over us. In turn, he was roasted by the fire of God's judgment on the cross, absorbing all the wrath and punishment for sin until it was exhausted and he cried out "it is finished". Jesus said that we are to eat his body and drink his blood; this is the communion feast by which we remember his sacrifice. Under the New Covenant, eating his body and drinking his blood means that we get to live free from the curse of bondage to sin and of death. The flesh was to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Leaven is the type of self effort - man's performance. The wholeness that comes by eating Jesus' flesh is received as a gift and cannot have anything of man's performance associated with it. The bitter herbs represent the hurt that God experienced in sacrificing Jesus. Being dressed and ready to go represents the state that every believer now stands in. We are clothed with the armor of God and are quick to follow the directions and guidance of Holy Spirit. Eating for 7 days is a symbol of the perfection of time, meaning we get to live forever in the abundance of God's grace (no self effort) and the gift of righteousness. The Israelites leaving Egypt and entering the Promised Land shows that we have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness (the rule of the curse) and entered into the life of resting in God's supply. His supply comes without any of our performance or self effort involved and it includes all the wealth of our inheritance in Jesus.

Now write out **Psalms 105:37**. _____

If eating the Passover meal, which is just the type of what Jesus did, resulted in them receiving great wealth and total healing, eating the real Passover of Communion does so much more for us. It's time to let God change our self-effort (performance based) thinking and just receive God's abundant supply of grace and follow Holy Spirit.

Now let's look at the New Covenant meal as instituted by Jesus and expounded upon by Paul.

Read **Matthew 26:26-28**.

What did Jesus say the bread was? _____

What did Jesus say the cup was? _____

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? _____

Now write out verse 28: _____

Now read **Luke 22:19-20**.

What does Jesus say the bread is? _____

What does Jesus say the cup is? _____

In **John 6:48-58** Jesus plainly declares that he is the living bread from heaven. His flesh is the true meat and his blood the true drink. In verse 53 he reinforces this truth by saying that there is no life in us unless we eat his flesh and drink his blood. This relates to both our eternal life and to our natural life in this earth. The fullness and satisfaction God wants us to have comes from our total participation in the New Covenant. That's why Jesus states in verse 55 that when we join with him in the New Covenant by eating and drinking, he comes and lives in us and we live in him. Eternal life is only obtained by eating his body and drinking his blood; by entering into the New Covenant reality. Jesus could not fully explain the New Covenant feast to his disciples because they couldn't handle it at that time (**John 16:12**), but he did give great revelation to Paul.

Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-34**. Paul starts out by saying that Jesus gave this to him, he didn't learn about it from the Apostles. This underlines how important the communion feast is – Jesus personally came and told Paul what it means. Verses 23-25 show that Jesus told Paul what happened in the upper room. There is great significance in the Greek word for remembrance: *anamnesis* (G364). It has a lot more depth than our English word. Its verb is in the present tense and its meaning is "to put yourself back into the event and see it as though it is happening right now". Jesus is saying that as we eat we need to see him taking our punishment, sickness, poverty and failures – all of the curse – upon his body and in return to see him imparting to us his wholeness, life, success and freedom. As we drink we need to see our sins and iniquities placed on him, eradicated forever, and to see his righteousness placed on us, forever. This is embracing the reality of the New Covenant and the feast is given to us as the way to practically receive the benefits of the New Covenant into our lives.

The New Covenant meal is what Jesus gave us as a practical activity that enables us to connect with the benefits of the New Covenant. In the same way that the Israelites were completely healed when they ate the Passover lamb, you have the right to be completely healed by eating of the eternal lamb. We do this by eating of Jesus body in the communion feast. Every time you eat you get to declare what Jesus has done for you – wholeness in every area of your life: mentally, emotionally, physically, family, socially, financially, and vocationally. In Lesson 2 of New Covenant Lifestyle, we will do a much more detailed study on this passage about communion.