

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 4 – Abrahamic Covenant

This lesson starts our exploration of the wonderful truths of the blood covenant that God made with man to redeem man from the curse. This covenant was facilitated by Abram. In Genesis 14:19 we saw that Melchizedek declared the same blessing that God gave Abram 10 years earlier in Genesis 12:2-3. Since God never changes, this reiteration is given to reinforce for us that God still wants man to live in His blessing. Abram's response to the blessing of God was to give back to Him. This heart driven response opened the door for another visitation from God.

Genesis Chapter 15 is probably one of the most important foundational passages for understanding the reality of the New Covenant. Hidden in this passage are a number of spiritual mysteries. The most important thing to understand as we get into this section is that the passage is operating on two plains. There are the events in this natural world where Abram performs what God asks and there are events in the spirit world (what I call the Real World) where God and Jesus are operating. As we proceed, we are looking for the natural promises to Abram and the corresponding promises in the real world. This is because the real world promises are made to everyone who receives God's gift of forgiveness of sins and new life in Jesus. Now read Genesis 15:1-6 and answer the following questions.

What was God's warning to Abram (v1)? _____

What did God say He was to Abram (v1)? _____

Why do you think God made these statements? _____

Does God say the same things to you? _____

According to Abram, what was his main fear regarding God's promise (v2,3)? _____

How did God correct Abram's thinking (v4)? _____

Who became the real heir of Abram in both natural and spiritual realms? _____

What benefit does this truth have for the Christian? _____

The benefits we have as joint heirs with Jesus are hidden later in Genesis 15 and will be covered in detail in the forth section of this Bible course on our New Covenant Inheritance.

Now let's dig into verses 5 and 6 where there are hidden some amazing truths about God's promise and the covenant that was about to be made. Write out Genesis 15:5-6: _____

The traditional interpretation of this event is that Abram looked at the stars and said "Wow, that's a lot of descendents God, but if you say so then I believe I'll have that many." Then in verse 6 God declared Abram righteous because he believed. So what did Abram believe? I have a problem with the concept that he believed he would have a lot of descendents and that belief made him righteous. Think back to Principle 2 –

Righteousness. What is the only thing that can make a man righteous? _____
 _____. So there must be something hidden in this verse that caused Abram to believe and because he believed, it enabled God to declare him righteous. So let's find out what it was:

The Hebrew (transliterated into English) for this is "nabat naw shamayam saphar kokab im yakol saphar" This translates as "Consider, I pray you, the celestial bodies and declare their story, if you are able to declare it" and then he said "So shall your posterity (singular) be". So what is the story that God placed in the constellations that he explained to Abram. It is the Gospel in the Stars. Every constellation has a sign (today astrology calls them "star signs"), a name and a meaning. The following Chart gives you the story that God told Abram:

<u>Sign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Gospel Meaning</u>
Virgo	Maiden	One will be born of a Virgin
Libra	Scales	In order to satisfy divine justice
Scorpio	Scorpion	Where Satan the deceiver
Sagittarius	Archer	Brings accusation and curses
Capricorn	Sea-Goat	On those rejected from life.
Aquarius	Water-Bearer	But the man who is the Water of Life
Pisces	Fish	Exchanged his life for those rejected
Aries	Ram	By becoming the sacrifice for sin, being made sin
Taurus	Bull	And by His blood imparting new life (resurrection)
Gemini	Twins	Causing a change from the Old to the New life
Cancer	Crab	By destroying the curse
Leo	Lion	And being appointed as the Lion of God

Note: Satan can only pervert what God has created, he has nothing original – so astrology and all its evil activities is simply Satan attempting to hide and discredit the beauty of what God wrote in the stars.

Yes, God preached Jesus, "the seed", to Abram and Abram believed the gospel. He looked forward to what Jesus would do, believed it and received righteousness by faith. Verse 6 in the Hebrew reads "aman yhovah chashab tsdaqah" which translates literally as "and he believed in Yahweh and he credited to him righteousness". So Abram was declared righteous for the same reason that we are – he believed on the redeeming work of Jesus. Having explained the Gospel to Abram, God now proceeds to set up the covenant with mankind that would allow God to deal with the result of Adam's disobedience. Read Genesis 15:7-11 and answer these questions:

What did God promise Abram in verse 7? _____

What did Abram ask God for in verse 8? _____

What did God ask Abram to prepare for in verse 9? _____

What actions in verses 10 & 11 tell you that Abram knew God planned to confirm His promise by a Blood Covenant? _____

Now read Genesis 15:12-16. Here we see Abram using his own self effort to protect the animals. So God has to "put him to sleep" (which the Hebrew says is "into a trance") to get Abram's self out of the way. Abram cannot be the one to walk in the blood of the eternal covenant because the ceremony needs the perfect representative of man – Jesus. In the trance Abram is engulfed in a great darkness (total absence of light) that frightens him. He

probably saw the darkness that covered the earth because of the curse and that generated fear in him. Then God graciously deals with Abram’s fear by telling him what is going to happen over the next 600 or so years. That’s how long it would take God to prepare the children of Israel, as a nation, to take over the land that God had promised to Abram as his inheritance. The spiritual parallel is that today we are seeing the church starting to take the full inheritance that Jesus has provided. The Holy Spirit is currently giving revelations to us about how to use our dominion to live in our inheritance of freedom from the curse. We are privileged to be part of the great outpouring of His anointing to “take the land”, meaning to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Now write out Genesis 15:17. _____

This verse is a glimpse into the Blood Covenant ceremony, the Walk of Blood, between God and man. Notice that the representative was not Abram, rather it was between two beings described as a “smoking furnace” and a “burning lamp”. The identity of these two is veiled in the Hebrew letters. Here is what they are:

JESUS

Firepot smoking

tannur oshan

 taph - Cross
 nun - Seed/Jesus
 nun - Seed/believer
resh - head
 on - eye/watch/know
 Shin – teeth/Father God
 nun - Seed/believer

FATHER GOD

Lamp Blazing

lappid ashan

 lamed – Staff/Teaching
pah – open mouth
resh - head
 Aleph – ox/strength
 Shin – teeth/Father God

By the **CROSS** the **SEED**, the **BELIEVER**’s **HEAD**,
 REVEALS FATHER GOD to the BELIEVER The **TEACHER** who **DECLARES**, the **HEAD**,
 the **STRENGTH** – **FATHER GOD**

You can use the sheet of Hebrew Letter Meanings to see how the above definitions were derived.

Who was the Blazing Lamp? _____. Whose representative was He? _____

Who was the smoking firepot? _____. Whose representative was He? _____

So the Father (God) and Jesus (man) cut a blood covenant in the real world. The details of this covenant are contained elsewhere in scripture and are not specifically stated in this section. We will study them in Blood Covenant Truths Lesson 13 – Covenant Terms. This passage gives the terms of the covenant that God made with Abram in the natural. So let’s now look at the 10 steps of a covenant and see how these are played out in the natural world in the covenant between God and Abram

1. Location – Gen 13:18. Abram was dwelling in Hebron when God appears to him in Genesis 15. The meaning of Hebron is: join, have fellowship, union, seat of association – definitely a well named place for cutting a covenant. Specifically, it was a public place on the Plain (Hebrew word for ‘Plain’ means ‘grove of strong Oaks’) of Mamre (Hebrew word for ‘Mamre’ means ‘vigour, strength’).
2. Representative – Genesis 15:17 and 17:4. As we have just seen, the representatives of the real world covenant are Jesus and Father. To be able to redeem mankind, God had to cut the covenant with a perfect (sinless) man. Who was this man? _____. This was an appearance before he received His human body. In the natural world covenant (17:4), who represented man? _____.
3. Kill the Sacrifice – Genesis 15:9-10. Abram prepared the animals, splitting them down the middle and laying them opposite each other. What did this prepare? _____. Abram probably expected God to appear and walk in the blood with him. But for the real world covenant God needed to walk in the blood with the perfect man, Jesus.
4. Walk of Blood. Genesis 15:17. Here we have a single verse that simply says Father and Jesus performed the walk of blood. The unwritten reality is that it was during this event that Father and Jesus covenanted to redeem mankind, the principle terms being: if Jesus paid the complete punishment for sin and suffered death (separation from God), then the Father would resurrect Him. This walk is where the Blood Covenant of Grace was initiated. It was ratified (finalized) when Jesus had taken the punishment, shed His blood and then cried out on the cross “It Is Finished”. Who are the beneficiaries of this covenant? _____. How do men receive the benefits? _____.
5. Exchange of Belts – Genesis 17:7. This reference is to the event where God cuts covenant with Abram in the natural. Here God declares “I will be their God”, meaning I give all my power to them as their covenant partner. What does God’s power provide to man? _____.
6. Exchange of Coats – Genesis 17:6, 8. In parallel with providing His power, God covenanted to make Abram exceedingly fruitful and the father of nations. What did God promise Abraham in verse 8? _____. This speaks of the authority God gave to Abram to rule the Promised Land. It also alludes to the covenant God made with Jesus to give Him dominion over everything that Adam lost in the Garden of Eden.
7. Terms of Covenant – Genesis 15:13-16, 18-19, 17:1-21. These passages provide a broad description of the terms of the covenant with Abram and some insight into the real world covenant between God and Jesus. These verses cover the blessings of the covenant, including life, possessions, health and protection. The Abrahamic covenant was a type of the real Covenant of Grace that God and Jesus cut for us. The curse is given in detail by God in Deuteronomy 28. Under the Abrahamic covenant, as long as the people of Israel let God be God they were protected from the curse. However, when the Israelites claimed that “everything God says, we can do (Hebrew wording means: in our own strength)” (Exodus 24:3), their pride put them under the curse of the law. The law was given to show man that he cannot get the blessing by his own efforts.
8. Cutting of Flesh – Genesis 17:10-12, 26. What did God require Abraham to do? _____. Circumcision became the sign that the man who was a partaker of the natural Abrahamic covenant. Jesus went through this natural circumcision (Luke 2:21). Again we see the natural actions reflecting the real world events of God and Jesus cutting covenant.
9. Exchange of Names – Genesis 17:5, 15. God took on Abram’s name. What was God called after this event? _____. The Hebrew does not have ‘the’ or ‘of’ in it: God calls Himself “God Abraham”. Also God placed the Hebrew letter ‘Heh’ into Abram’s name, calling him Abraham: “Abram God” in Hebrew.
10. Covenant Meal – Genesis 18:8. This event records how when God wanted to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, he came to Abraham first and they sat down to a meal. Then they negotiated about sparing the cities and Abraham could have saved them because covenant partners make decisions together.