

The **Blood** Covenant

by
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God's relationship with His created spirit-being, man, is now, always has been, and always will be through covenant, and the New Covenant, written in the blood of Jesus Christ, is the central theme of scripture from Genesis through Revelation.

The Bible, then, is our abstract of God's covenant relationship with mankind, but those who attempt to interpret the abstract apart from revelatory guidance by the Spirit of truth who wrote it, do seriously err, causing division in the spiritual body of Christ, obscuring prophecies, and corrupting the doctrine of soteriology (salvation).

Most believers think that the subject of covenant requires a seminary level of study, but the core truth of God's covenant relationship with mankind is relatively simple and is directly connected to all other scriptural truth.

The only reason that covenant seems complex and difficult to understand is that there are numerous falsehoods, presumptions, and deceptions concerning God's covenant relationship with mankind that have been forced into place by the presumptive use of interpretive formulas and complex "proof texts."

What follows herein is not complex and, as the core revelatory doctrine of scripture, it connects easily and naturally to all other truth.

The New Covenant was planned by God before the fall of Adam

The most important truth we need to recognize about our covenant relationship with the Father is that it was His intention from before the foundation of the world, before the creation event itself, that a remnant elect people, spiritual Israel, the "Israel of God," would have an eternal covenant relationship with Him through His own son, the Son of God, Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth.

This covenant, the New Covenant, was not an afterthought introduced like a chess move after Adam failed to uphold the original covenant. It was planned and known by the Father before the creation.

...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world...In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. Eph. 1:3-5 ESV (emphasis is the author's)

Everything we believe by faith, having "heard" the truth with spiritual ears and "seen" truth through the eyes of our hearts, hinges on our understanding that it is now, and always has been, God's plan to include the elect remnant of mankind in this **ONE** redemptive covenant

between God and man, the eternal covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ, the mediator and High Priest of that covenant.

This simple but profound truth is revealed progressively through scripture by the Spirit of truth who wrote scripture, but it is only revealed to those who have eyes to “see” and ears to “hear” what the Spirit is saying.

[Tracing the promise: God purposes before the creation to redeem His created spirit-being, man, through an eternal covenant “in” His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ](#)>

Adam is the first to receive the promise of a redemptive covenant

Many teach that Abraham was the first to receive the promise of the redemptive blood covenant in Christ, but scripture demonstrates that the first Adam, the origin of fallen mankind, was also the first to receive the promise of a future redemptive covenant.

Adam could have secured eternal covenant communion and blessing with God had he chosen to eat of the Tree of Life prior to his fall (See [The Other Tree](#)), but in His omniscience God knew that he would not. Therefore, the original covenant with Adam served to condemn all mankind born of the seed of Adam (i.e. “in” Adam) so that a free-willed elect remnant of mankind could be saved by grace through faith and included in the corporate body of Christ (i.e. “in” Christ).

God’s plan to include the elect remnant of mankind in a single redemptive covenant is first seen in Genesis when God Himself provided a sacrifice of innocent animals, a “blood” sacrifice, to “cover” the nakedness of Adam and Eve (the exposed sin nature of fallen mankind). [Genesis 3:21](#)

But how do we know that this act was the original promise of God’s eternal plan to redeem an elect remnant of mankind in Christ?

First, we have God’s prophetic curse of the serpent, Satan, saying, “***I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed...(offspring)...and her seed...(Jesus Christ)...he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.***” [Genesis 3:15](#)

Note the important distinction. It is the seed of the woman, not the seed of Adam, who will crush Satan’s head. As was thoroughly explained in [Mysteries of the Virgin Birth Revealed](#), the curse of the broken covenant is passed down through the seed of the man, Adam, not the seed of the woman, Eve, who was “in Adam” physically in that she was created from Adam’s own flesh and “in Adam” spiritually as far as the covenant was concerned. Thus it was ultimately Mary’s uncontaminated seed joined with the seed of the Holy Spirit, creating the Son of Man and Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, who crushed the head of the serpent, Satan.

Although Eve sinned first, it was not until Adam sinned that the covenant was broken, and we see in [Genesis 3:22-24](#) that God’s concern is with His covenant man, Adam, not with the woman whose covenant relationship with God was indirect, “in Adam,” just as our covenant relationship with God is indirect, “in Christ.”

Secondly, we see that Cain and Abel were aware of the practice of making offerings to the Lord. The obvious implication is that this practice came about through their observations of, and instructions by, Adam, and/or direct instructions from the Lord.

In this we learn that Cain, the firstborn son, did not please God with his offering of the fruits of the soil, and Abel did please God with his offering of the fat portions of the firstborn of his flock, which was a blood sacrifice requiring the death of innocent animals.

We know that Cain and Abel had a relationship with God, because He spoke to them. And we know by implication that Abel’s offering was by faith, which pleases God, while Cain’s

offering was not by faith, which God called “sin” (i.e. living works of faith versus dead works of the flesh).

Thus, we understand that Adam, Eve, and Abel were not “saved” by complying with the requirements of some covenant made with Adam after the fall anymore than any Israelite was saved by complying with the Law.

For no matter how many covenants can be found in the abstract of scripture, there are NO redemptive covenants provided for the remnant elect of mankind other than the New Covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Mediator and High Priest of that covenant, which God foreordained prior to the creation.

[Tracing the Promise](#): Adam receives the promise of a redemptive covenant for all mankind>

Salvation is by grace through faith in the Old Testament, just as it is in the New Testament

Abel’s blood sacrifice is also our first example of a man pleasing God by his faith, but it is not until we read about Abraham pleasing God through his faith that we are given the understanding that God sovereignly “reckoned” or imputed righteousness (right standing with God) to men on the basis of their obedient faith responses to Him.

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted...(reckoned or imputed)...to him as righteousness.” Romans 4:3 ESV (inserts are the author’s)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Hebrews 11:16 NIV (emphasis is the author’s)

Abraham’s faith response caused God to “reckon” him as “righteous” (having a right standing with God) though he would not literally be in right covenant standing with God until Jesus was resurrected.

But what is the basis for this imputing of righteousness to men by God?

Because the covenant with Adam is a sovereign covenant imposed on mankind, God has also retained His sovereign right to reckon or impute “righteousness” (right standing with Him) to anyone on whatever basis He chooses.

“I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious. And I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” Exodus 33:19 ESV

Therefore, Adam, Eve, and Abel, as well as all the elect up to and including the thief on the cross, were “reckoned” to be “righteous” (in right standing with God) on the basis of their individual faith responses to the revelation of God’s will, just as Abraham was “reckoned” to be righteous on the basis of his obedient faith response the revelation of God’s will.

Paul’s list of the Gentile and Israelite heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 is an example of the many Old Testament saints who are now included in the eternal covenant through their spiritual incorporation “in Christ” by grace through faith.

It is important to note that our redemption, as well as theirs, will not be complete until the resurrection of both the living and the dead on the last day.

So, how is it that these who lived before Christ are now included “in Christ?”

Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives...(into heaven)..., and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) Ephesians 4:8-10 ESV (insert is the author’s)

In the parable concerning Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) Hades is revealed as the spiritual region of the dead in which the unrighteous are tormented and the righteous are kept in a place of blessing known as “Abraham’s bosom” or “Paradise.”

When the thief on the cross proclaimed his faith in Jesus, the Lord said, “***I tell you the truth. This day you will be with me in paradise,***” indicating that the thief would be with Him in the “paradise” portion of Hades, but not in the heavenly presence of the Father until the thief and all the righteous “captives” would be released from their “captivity” after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prior to the resurrection of Jesus Christ the “reckoning” of these saints as righteous by God on the basis of their individual faith responses did not entitle them to come into the immediate presence of God in heaven. That could not and would not take place until they were “in” Christ after His resurrection. They were, therefore, held “captive” in the Paradise of God, until Jesus revealed Himself to them there and then ascended to the Father.

But the completion of their redemption and our redemption will not take place until the (one and only) resurrection of living and dead on the last day, and the primary difference in our earthly experience is that the OT saints did not experience being incorporated into the spiritual body of Christ until after their death, while we experience incorporation into the spiritual body of Christ upon regeneration.

But it is the entirety of the elect remnant of mankind who will be eternally incorporated into the spiritual body of Christ, not just New Testament believers. Thus OT saints, NT saints, and Millennial saints will all be included in this ONE covenant.

Is Israel separate from the church in regard to salvation?

The New Covenant joins Jew and Gentile, from Adam to the last millennial saint, into a single corporate body “in” Christ, which is “the Israel of God.”

For neither is circumcision...(the Law)...anything, nor uncircumcision...(those who do not have the Law)..., but a new creation. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God...(that holy nation in Christ comprising of both “circumcised” Jews and “uncircumcised” Gentiles)...Galatians 6:15,16 NASB (inserts are the author’s)

Everything we believe by faith, having “heard” the truth with spiritual ears and “seen” truth through the eyes of our hearts, hinges on our understanding that there is now, and always has been, this **ONE** redemptive covenant between God and man, the eternal covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ, the mediator and High Priest of that covenant.

The covenant of Law did not, and will not, redeem one single person out of national, ethnic Israel. That does not mean that none were “saved,” but they were not saved on the basis of their obedience to the strict requirements of the Law.

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never,...(NEVER)... by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Hebrews 10:1 ESV (insert and emphasis is the author’s)

Though Adam first received the promise of a redemptive covenant, God chose Abraham to narrow the promise down to a people, Israel, and to David for a royal lineage so that the ultimate recipient of the promise, Jesus of Nazareth, the seed of Abraham and seed of David would inherit the promise, not as the king of national, ethnic Israel, but as king of spiritual Israel, the Israel of God, an eternal kingdom of blessing in Him, comprising all the Jews and Gentiles whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

*Now the...(covenant)... **promises were spoken to Abraham and his seed. He does not say, “And to your seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one. “And to your seed,” that is, Christ. Galatians 3:16 NASB (insert and emphasis are the author’s)***

*For no matter how many...(covenant)... **promises God has made...**(or to whom they were made)..., **they are “Yes”**...(only)... **in Christ. And so through him**...(by faith)... **the “Amen”**...(our covenant faith response)...**is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV**(emphasis and inserts are the author’s)*

Tracing the Promise: Title-deed to the promised redemptive covenant is given to Abraham and his “seed,” narrowing the inheritance to a people, Israel (with God’s intent being the seed, Jesus of Nazareth) >

The Israelis held the title-deed to the promise, but not the fulfillment of it. And when Moses presented the Law to the people, they all ratified the agreement, saying, **“All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.”** (Exodus 24)

At that exact point in time the title-deed to, and final fulfillment of, the promise, could only be received through perfect compliance with the Law by an Israelite.

Tracing the Promise: Qualifications for receiving the title-deed are given to Moses as the Law, narrowing the inheritance to perfect compliance with the Law by an Israelite >

God’s covenant with David, as the representative of national, ethnic Israel, though seen to be a separate covenant between God and David, was actually a sovereign addition to the promised redemptive covenant, narrowing the inheritance of the promise to the “seed” of Abraham and to the royal seed of David, king of Israel.

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called^f
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore. Isaiah 9:6,7 ESV*

Tracing the Promise: Title-deed to the promise is further narrowed to a royal lineage through David >

The temple worship and sacrifice system did not provide redemption. The people of Israel still possessed temporary title to the promise, but none of them could obtain the inheritance itself. All those Israelites who lived and died before the resurrection of Jesus Christ who would eventually be included as “joint heirs” in the promised covenant would do so only through God’s sovereign election based on His “reckoning” or imputing to them of righteousness as they responded by faith to whatever measure of faith He sovereignly required of them.

But, at the same time, MANY were “cut off” or debauched from the Olive Tree (corporate spiritual Israel in Christ) and made strangers to the promised inheritance in Christ.

...for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold, then, the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness: otherwise you also will be cut off.

And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. Romans 11:21-23 NASB (emphasis is the author’s)

Two things are abundantly clear in this passage. First, all national, ethnic Israel will not be saved by some future fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham apart from their faith in Jesus Christ. And, painfully for New Testament believers, the possibility of apostasy by regenerated Christian believers is clearly confirmed by Paul.

Dispensationalists and Christian Zionists are fond of quoting Romans 11:26a *...and so all Israel will be saved...* as being a proof text for the supposed separate fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham for national, ethnic Israel, but they forget that Romans 11:26 is subject to Romans 11:21-23 quoted above.

Likewise, they also forget that the promise to Abraham has already been inherited and fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

*For they are not all Israel who are...(genetically)...descended from Israel; nor are they all children...(of spiritual Israel, the Israel of God)...because they are Abraham’s descendents, but “THROUGH ISAAC...(the son of faith)... **YOUR DESCENDENTS WILL BE NAMED.**”*

That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise...(in Christ)...are regarded as descendents. Romans 9:6-9 NASB (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

The Mosaic covenant (the Law) did not bring life but condemned the Israelis so that the promise given to Abraham would be inherited and fulfilled by only one man, Jesus of Nazareth,

the sole, remnant of national, ethnic Israel to fulfill the Law and inherit the promise, thus qualifying Him to become the sinless Lamb of God who would be sacrificed for the sins of all mankind, establishing the promised New Covenant in His blood, just as it was planned by God before the foundations of the world.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...(this is the New Covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ)... ***Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they...***(national, ethnic Israel)... ***broke, although I was their Husband, says the Lord.***

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel...(because the New Covenant is between God and Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, the seed of David, and the sole remnant of ethnic Israel to receive the promise, it is, therefore, those who are “in Christ” who are now the “house of Israel”)...: ***After those days, says the Lord, I will put My law within them, and on their hearts will I write it...***(through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit)...; ***and I will be their God, and they will be My people. Jeremiah 31:31-33 Amplified***

This prophecy by Jeremiah has obviously been fulfilled by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we have Paul’s words that it is the spiritual Israel of God who has received the complete fulfillment of redemptive prophecy. Thus, though God will still fulfill certain prophecies related to national, ethnic Israel in the end times, such as Ezekiel 38 and 39, no salvation will come to national, ethnic Jews apart from individual faith in Jesus Christ.

Now these things befell them...(the Israelites)... ***by way of a figure [as an example and warning to us]; they were written to admonish and fit us...***(the church)... ***for right action by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax (their consummation and concluding period).*** 1 Corinthians 10:11 Amplified (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

There will not, then, be any seven year concluding period of time after the church has been “raptured” away in which God brings salvation to “all Israel,” because there is no other redemptive covenant and it is the “Israel of God” who will inherit the promises of God in Christ, not national, ethnic Israel.

And, finally, we have the words of the Lord Himself prophesying to national, ethnic Israel:

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you...(national, ethnic Israel)...***and given to a nation...***(spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God,” which is the corporate body of Christ, a holy nation comprised of both Gentiles and Jews)...***bringing forth the fruits*...**(of the kingdom of God)...***thereof.*** Matthew 21:43 KJV (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

This passage, along with many others, denies the possibility that God will somehow revive national, ethnic Israel in the final seven years of the age after the church, having failed its commission, is “raptured” away as it is popularly taught by dispensationalists and Christian Zionists.

There is likely to be a revival in Israel following the Gog-Magog war (Ezekiel 38 and 39), and many will turn to Christ at that time. But there will also be great deception as religious Jews, rejecting Christ just as they did in the Lord's own day, will reinstall the Levitical priesthood and begin temple worship and sacrifices again.

Therefore, the church, spiritual Israel, the "Israel of God," will be present in the earth until the last day, and it is this revived church, which includes both Jew and Gentile, the "Israel of God," who will bring in the great end times harvest of souls in the face of great tribulation and persecution under the Antichrist.

Thus all mankind from Adam forward through the last millennial saint whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will be redeemed on the basis of Jesus Christ's fulfillment of the Law and His atoning sacrifice, establishing the New Covenant in His blood, just as God foreordained.

God < - - - covenant/broken - - - > the first Adam (and those who are "in" Adam) condemned

God < - - - new covenant - - - > the last Adam, Christ (and those who are "in" Christ) redeemed

Tracing the promise: God purposes before the creation to redeem His created spirit-being, man, through an eternal covenant "in" His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ > After the fall Adam receives the promise of a redemptive covenant for all mankind > Title-deed to the promised redemptive covenant is given to Abraham and his "seed," narrowing the inheritance to a people, Israel (with God's intent being the seed, Jesus of Nazareth) > Qualifications for receiving the title-deed are given to Moses as the Law, narrowing the inheritance to perfect compliance with the Law by an Israelite > The title-deed is further narrowed to a royal lineage through David > Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, Son of Man, the seed of Abraham and Son of David, fulfills the Law and inherits the promise, and the eternal covenant is established in His blood, which is shed for the sins of all mankind "in Adam" > All mankind from Adam forward who believe God by grace through faith are spiritually incorporated into Christ, the mediator and High Priest of the New Covenant, just as God foreordained.

Author's Note: This brief study is deliberately presented in a synoptic format to present the simplicity of God's purpose and plan to include an elect remnant of mankind in a single redemptive covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ, the mediator and High Priest of that covenant.

This truth contradicts the doctrines of Dispensationalism (the source of the teaching that there will be a pre-tribulation "rapture" of church only saints and that God will redeem national, ethnic Israel separately from the church), Christian Zionism and any other form of dual covenant theology, as well as Preterism, Historicism, Gnosticism and Calvinism, to name a few.

It is the author's belief that Satan, the Father of Lies, has been busy corrupting the truth as Truth (deliberate capital "T") is revealed by the Spirit of truth, our Counselor, who is the Lord and our Teacher (Matthew 23:8), and that it is the end times plan of God to bring these strongholds of error and deception down as the Lord prepares His people for the difficult times ahead.

May He, then, grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you examine what has been written here.

Tracing the Covenants

Adam and the “seed” of Adam) > the single covenant prohibition is broken > the penalty/curse of “death” is invoked > the covenant is amended to include the promise of a future redemptive covenant >

Noah in Adam as representative for all mankind from this point forward) > responds by faith to God’s provision of grace > the original covenant promise of authority over the creation is reaffirmed > specific covenant prohibitions are defined and added > the rainbow is given as an eternal covenant sign >

Abraham in Adam as representative for an elect remnant of mankind from this point forward) responds by faith to God’s provision of grace > the promise of a redemptive covenant is narrowed to a people, Israel, through the “seed,” Jesus Christ >

Moses in Adam as representative for an elect remnant of mankind) > responds by faith to God’s provision of grace > detailed covenant prohibitions called the “Law” are added, the promise is narrowed to a specific people, the Israelites, and to perfect compliance with the Law >

David in Adam as representative for an elect remnant of mankind > anointed as king > the promise is narrowed to an Israelite, the royal seed of David, who complies perfectly with the Law >

Jesus of Nazareth the “last Adam,” but not in Adam, because the seed of Adam is passed down through the man > an Israelite of the lineage of David who complies perfectly with the Law > crucified as the sinless lamb of God for the sins of all mankind of all time > resurrected as the Mediator and High Priest of the promised New Covenant, which includes all of God’s covenant promises from Adam forward >

The Israel of God a remnant of all mankind in Adam, redeemed from the curse of the broken covenant in Adam and regenerated by grace through faith in Jesus Christ > now spiritually incorporated “in Christ” as adopted sons and daughters of God and joint heirs of the promised New Covenant.

Notes: There is no redemption in the original broken covenant with Adam, or any of the covenants added to the original covenant, only the promise of a redemptive covenant “in Christ,” a covenant that cannot fail into which an elect remnant of mankind will be eternally united with God.