

GOD'S BLOOD COVENANT!

Matt. 26:26-28 [Read: Genesis 15:1-21]

WITH ALL THOSE WHOM HE REDEEMS:

I. GOD ALWAYS TAKES THE INITIATIVE.

1. In Genesis 9

2. God HAS TAKEN the initiative on behalf of all who make up His Son's Bride: Revelation 13:8 // Ephesians 1:3-4 // Ephesians 2:1-4

We who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus are MOVED TO RESPOND—

Romans 12:1-2 // 1 Cor. 6:19-20 // 1 John 3:16 // 2 Cor. 5:14-15 // 2 Cor. 5:14-17 // 2 Cor. 5:19-20

DON'T WAIT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO... Eph 4:29-32 // Romans 12:14, 21

II. GOD'S BLOOD COVENANT IS UNILATERAL... IT'S ONE SIDED!

Genesis 15:1-21

... the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I AM YOUR SHIELD AND YOUR EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD."

²But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son?..."

⁵Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

⁶And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous.

⁷ Then the LORD told him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

⁸ But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure...?"

⁹ The LORD told him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side;....

¹¹ Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him...

¹⁷ After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses.

¹⁸ So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day...

John 8:53-56 → THIS IS WHY JESUS SAID: ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY... AND SAW IT AND WAS GLAD!

To be a Christian is to be IN COVENANT WITH GOD... AT GOD'S INITIATION...

AT GOD'S EXPENSE! Romans 5:6, 8 IT IS SACRIFICIAL, ONE-SIDED LOVE!

Hebrews 11:32-38 (AMP)

³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

³³ who by faith [that is, with an enduring trust in God and His promises] subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promised blessings, closed the mouths of lions,

³⁴ extinguished the power of [raging] fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became mighty *and* unbeatable in battle, putting enemy forces to flight.

³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured [to death], refusing to accept release [offered on the condition of denying their faith], so that they would be resurrected to a better life;

³⁶ and others experienced the trial of mocking and scourging [amid torture], and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned [to death], they were sawn in two, they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith], they were put to death by the sword; they went about wrapped in the skins of sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated

³⁸ (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and [living in] caves and holes in the ground.

1 Peter 2:18-21 Amplified Bible

¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all [proper] respect, not only to those who are good and kind, but also to those who are unreasonable.

¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if a person endures the sorrow of suffering unjustly because of an awareness of [the will of] God.

²⁰ After all, what kind of credit is there if, when you do wrong and are punished for it, you endure it patiently? But if when you do what is right and patiently bear [undeserved] suffering, this *finds* favor with God.

²¹ For [as a believer] you have been called for this purpose, since Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you may follow in His footsteps.

1 Peter 3:1-9 (AMP)

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate, not as inferior, but out of respect for the responsibilities

entrusted to husbands and their accountability to God, and so partnering with them] so that even if some do not obey the word [of God], they may be won over [to Christ] without discussion by the *godly* lives of their wives,

²when they see your modest and respectful behavior [together with your devotion and appreciation— love your husband, encourage him, and enjoy him as a blessing from God].

³Your adornment must not be *merely* external—with interweaving *and* elaborate knotting of the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or [being superficially preoccupied with] dressing in expensive clothes;

⁴but let it be [the inner beauty of] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality *and* unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, [one that is calm and self-controlled, not over anxious, but serene and spiritually mature] which is very precious in the sight of God.

⁵For in this way in former times the holy women, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands *and* adapting themselves to them;

⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham [following him and having regard for him as head of their house], calling him lord. And you have become her daughters if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear

[that is, being respectful toward your husband but not giving in to intimidation, nor allowing yourself to be led into sin, nor to be harmed].

⁷In the same way, you husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. Show her

honor *and* respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered or ineffective.

⁸ Finally, all of you be like-minded [united in spirit], sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted [courteous and compassionate toward each other as members of one household], and humble in spirit;

⁹ and never return evil for evil or insult for insult [avoid scolding, berating, and any kind of abuse], but on the contrary, give a blessing [pray for one another's well-being, contentment, and protection]; for you have been called for this very purpose, that you might inherit a blessing [from God that brings well-being, happiness, and protection].

It's not fair! THAT'S RIGHT! It is sacrificial and it is redemptive on behalf of the UNDESERVING. IT IS SACRIFICIAL, ONE-SIDED LOVE!

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD SUFFERING FOR YOU....FOR US..

AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT GOD THE FATHER PAID THE PRICE?--- JOHN 3:16

AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT JESUS, GOD THE SON, PAID THE PRICE?

III. GOD'S COVENANT WITH US IS A PERSEVERING COVENANT

(Heb. 8:10-12; HEB. 10: 16-17)

LIVING IN THESE NEW COVENANT DAYS, GOD SAYS TO HIS SHEEP:
John 10: 27-30— MY SHEEP...Phil. 1:6— HE WHO BEGAN, WILL COMPLETE

Heb. 12:2—Author and Finisher

The Persevering Love of God has flooded our hearts... In order to FLOW OUT OF OUR HEARTS ... to others ... to the UNLOVING, UNDESERVING, AND THE UNRESPONSIVE

IV. GOD'S COVENANT LOVE IS COSTLY!

JUST ASK JESUS-- Phil 2:6-8

JUST ASK GOD THE FATHER-- John 3:16

JUST ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT--Rom. 8:26

***Jesus says to us: Luke 9:23

We must remember... JESUS IS CALLING US TO WALK IN HIS STEPS FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS.....

Matthew 26:27-42

THIS MORNING, GOD IS CALLING:

1. SOME... TO ENTER INTO COVENANT
 2. MANY TO REJOICE IN GOD'S BLOOD COVENANT... CUT FOR YOU!
 3. OTHERS-- O GOD, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE COVENANT
 4. STILL OTHERS... TO BEHOLD JESUS... TO BE STRENGTHENED
- TO GO FORTH INTO THE UNFAIR PLACE.

Not with a long face...

but with the RADIANCE OF CHRIST!

Hebrews 12:2