

The Blood of the Covenant **Matthew 26:26–29 (NKJV)**

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

Our God is a covenant making God.

He delights in making covenants with His people.

He made a covenant with Noah.

With Abraham as we will see later.

With Israel.

With the Aaronic priesthood.

With David.

With Solomon.

Some covenants were conditioned upon both parties while others we conditioned upon only God.

Most of these covenants were ratified by a blood sacrifice.

As was the New Covenant.

- I. Jesus gave us a memorial supper to remember that covenant.
- II. The two elements represented His sacrifice.
 - A. His body.
 - B. His blood.
- III. The first elaborate blood sealed covenant was with Abraham.
 - A. Genesis 15:9–21 (NKJV)
 1. 9 So He said to 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 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in

a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” 17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

- B. This passage makes much more sense with we know that the word covenant derives from a word that means to cut.
 - 1. 1285 תִּיקַב [bâriyth /ber·eeth/] n f. From 1262 (in the sense of cutting [like 1254]); TWOT 282a; GK 1382; 284 occurrences; AV translates as “covenant” 264 times, James Strong, Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).
 - 2. What Abraham did is to divide (cut) the animals in half and lay each half opposite the other in a line.
 - 3. In a normal covenant ceremony both parties would pass between the sacrificed animals.
 - 4. But Abraham is put into deep sleep and the Lord made the covenant an unconditional covenant.
- IV. The blood of the covenant is referred to later in Exodus 24:8 (NKJV)
 - A. 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”
 - B. In this place the covenant was made by applying the blood to the people.
- V. Later in a Messianic passage Malachi refers to the coming Messiah as the messenger of the covenant.
 - A. Malachi 3:1 (NKJV)
 - 1. 1 “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.

- B. I think this does not refer to the Old Testament covenant but to the New Testament covenant that Jesus instituted 2000 years ago.
- VI. What does this mean for us.
- A. We are not under the first covenant.
 - 1. That was for Israel.
 - 2. They received this covenant at Mt Sinai after coming up out of Egypt.
 - B. We have a better covenant as Hebrews tells us.
 - 1. Not with the blood of bulls and goats.
 - a. These sacrifices had to be continually be repeated.
 - b. Year after year.
 - c. Hebrews 10:1 (NKJV)
 - (1) 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.
 - 2. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
 - 3. These have been blood bought, repented and trusting in the Savior.
 - 4. But they are perfected forever in God's eyes.
 - 5. But with the blood of the very Son of God.
 - C. It is a part of the everlasting covenant made in eternity between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - 1. If you heard it today that the manufacture of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in America botched 15 million doses of the vaccine.
 - 2. If your salvation was dependent upon you, you would be like that company.
 - 3. But it is not, it is dependent on what Jesus did.
 - 4. All that we need to do is to repent and believe in God's finished work.

What a wonderful celebration, to partake of this ordinance realizing that not what we do here today but what He did 2000 years ago ratified the covenant that we are the beneficiaries of.