

CLOSER – PART 1

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Hebrews 13:20 – Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant...

Revelation 12:10-11 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God Day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Introduction: Why is the blood of Jesus so precious? Because it has redeemed us from poverty, sickness, and spiritual death. Before Jesus shed his blood, we were subject to the curse of the law found in the first five books of the Bible. However, our redemption was purchased through the blood of Jesus. The price of Jesus’ blood has eternal value and significance.

We don’t understand “**blood**” because we don’t comprehend **covenant**. The Bible is full of covenants.

A covenant in the ancient world was like what we in the modern world would call a contract, treaty, or a will. Each covenant established the basis of a relationship, conditions for that relationship, promises and conditions of the relationship and consequences if those conditions were unmet. **One of the most familiar examples of a covenant for us is marriage.**

Why do I think understanding covenant is so important? It is because the **covenants provide the skeletal framework for how the whole biblical story holds together.** As the story of the Bible unfolds, we see God is a covenant making, covenant keeping, and covenant fulfilling God. God establishes covenants with certain people and these covenants are the way God unfolds his redemptive plan. The covenants are the structure of the story.

THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

There are several covenants in the Bible, but 7 covenants are crucial for understanding the story of the Bible and God’s redemptive plan: The Adamic Covenant, the Noahic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant, The Mosaic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the EVERLASTING (NEW) Covenant.

- **The Adamic Covenant** – God seems to have made some covenant with Adam in the Garden after the fall. Promises are made and then Sacrifice is taught. Adam passed this down to his descendants. **SEALED BY BLOOD!**
- **The Noahic Covenant** - From Genesis 9, this is a covenant God establishes with Noah after the flood in which he resets and renews the blessings of creation, reaffirming God’s image in humanity and the work of dominion. This covenant promises the preservation of humanity and provides for the restraint of human evil and violence. **SEALED BY BLOOD!**
- **The Abrahamic Covenant** - See Genesis 12 and 15. This is the most central to the biblical story. In it, God promises Abraham a land, descendants and blessing. This blessing promised to Abraham would extend through him to all the peoples of the earth. Understanding the Abrahamic Covenant is paramount to understanding theological concepts like a Promised Land, election, the people of God, inheritance and so on. It provides context for understanding practices like circumcision, conflicts with surrounding nations and divisions between Jews and Gentiles. **SEALED BY BLOOD!**
- **The Mosaic Covenant** - See Exodus 19 and 24. This is the covenant God establishes with the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai after he led them out of Egyptian slavery. With it, God supplies the Law that is meant to govern and shape the people of Israel in the Promised Land. This Law was not a means of salvation but would distinguish the people from the surrounding nations as a special kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:1-7). This covenant was conditional and defined blessings and curses based on obedience or disobedience (see Deuteronomy 28-29). Understanding the Mosaic Covenant is foundational to understanding the cycles of blessing and curse in the Old Testament, the exiles of Israel and Judah, the disputes between Jesus and the Pharisees and Paul’s pastoral teachings about law and grace. **SEALED BY BLOOD!**
- **The Davidic Covenant** - See 2 Samuel 7. This is the covenant where God promises a descendant of David to reign on the throne over the people of God. It is a continuation of the earlier covenants in that it promises a Davidic king as the figure through whom God would secure the promises of land, descendants, and blessing. This covenant becomes the basis for hope of a Messiah and makes sense of the Gospels’ concern to show Jesus was the rightful King of the Jews. **SEALED BY BLOOD!**
- **The EVERLASTING COVENANT** - See Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Luke 22:14-23. This is language first used in Jeremiah’s promise of rescue and renewal of the exiled people of God in Babylon. It promises a coming day when God would make a new covenant unlike the one which Israel had broken. This coming day would bring forgiveness of sin, internal renewal of the heart, and intimate knowledge of God. On the night of Jesus’s Last Supper, Jesus takes the cup and declares that his death would be the inauguration of this new covenant.

THE EVERLASTING COVENANT! Even though it seems to be the last covenant mentioned it is really the first covenant that encompasses all the others. The others were just small glimpses of the fullness of this one.

THIS COVENANT WAS THE FIRST IN THE MIND OF GOD – “...THE LAMB SLAIN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!

- The roll out of all these other covenants was just to give a full understanding of the power of the everlasting covenant.
- Christ was not slain as the consequence of sin; **HE WAS THE SOLUTION BEFORE THERE EVER WAS A PROBLEM!**

The essence of all the covenants and an important question:

- **Leviticus 17:11** – For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.
- THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD!...

BUT, WHAT IS THE LIFE OF THE BLOOD?

- Where did Adam’s blood come from – God
- This blood made him like God so that all of creation would respond to him in like manner.

Since the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world, when he breathed into Adam the breath of life (everything his is...) – he breathed into man the blood of the Lamb.

- When Adam spoke the voice of God was in his blood!
- The fall didn’t change the blood, it changed the voice on the blood. His heart still pumped the same blood, but it didn’t have the “voice” of God on it.
- When Cain killed Abel... “The voice of your brother’s blood” cries to me
 - o We are foolish to think we can shed the blood of 60 million babies and get away with it.
 - o We are foolish to think we can hate each other over skin color, shoot each other in the streets, and get away with it...

WE COME TO JESUS AND THE EVERLASTING COVENANT:

- The Holy Spirit finds Mary, but he can't use Joseph blood because it has his descendants voice in it. He can't use Mary's blood because it has the voice of her descendants in it.
- So, the same Ruach (breath) that breathed into Adam 4k years earlier now starts breathing on Mary's womb and brings for the Word into flesh with the holy blood of the father.
- For the first time since Adam creation once again hears the voice of God on in the blood of a man.
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TRACK THE BLOOD!!! - MAN VS JESUS:

- Man lost that voice in the Garden – Jesus got redeemed in a Garden with blood.
- Man lost his identity in his rebellion – Jesus was beaten by soldiers / beard plucked out / image destroyed and restored man's identity with blood.
- Man lost healing and life at the tree – Jesus was tied to a whipping post, beaten with a cat of nine-tails 39 stripes – he restored man's health with blood.
- Man lost his authority in rebellion – Jesus took a crown of thorns and restored kingship with blood.
- Man lost the blessing on the work of his hands – Jesus restored it with blood when his hands were nailed to the cross.
- Man lost the ability to walk with God in the cool of the day – Jesus restored the ability to walk with God when they nailed his feet to the cross – The Blood did it!
- Man lost his heart for God – Jesus restored it with blood when his side was pierced.

Then Jesus breaths his last breath... and from that moment the blood of the spotless lamb has been crying out day and night for redemption of the whole world.

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD!!!

We were purchased with the precious blood of Jesus

1 Peter 1:18-19 (AMP) - For you know that you were not redeemed from your useless [spiritually unproductive] way of life inherited [by tradition] from your forefathers with perishable things like silver and gold,¹⁹ but [you were actually purchased] **with precious blood**, like that of a [sacrificial] lamb unblemished and spotless, *the priceless blood* of Christ.

- When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they turned their authority over to Satan, and he became their father.

- However, Jesus shed His blood so we could be children of God again.
- In order to have fellowship with God, we must be born again and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Only the blood of Jesus can do this!

Stages of intimacy or closeness:

1. **Stranger** – **Ephesians 2:12** - that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
2. **Servant** – **Luke 10:40** - But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “**Lord**, do You not care that my sister has left me to **serve** alone? **Therefore** tell her to help me.”
3. **Friend** – **John 15:14-15** - You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
4. **Son** – **Romans 8:14-16** - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Seven reasons why the blood of Jesus is precious:

1. *It has redeeming power.*
2. *It has cleansing power.*
3. *It has pacifying power.*
4. *It has reconciling power.*
5. *It has emboldening power.*
 - a. The blood has the ability to produce boldness. Boldness is having confidence to come to God, without a sense of guilt or condemnation.
 - b. The blood of Jesus grants us access into the presence of God (Hebrews 10:19, AMP).
 - c. We are not in right standing with God because of our good deeds, but only by the blood of Jesus.
 - d. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted (Luke 18:9-14, AMP).
 - e. Satan will constantly remind us of the wrong things we have done.
 - f. However, God says He will blot out our sins and forget about them (Isaiah 43:25, 26).
 - g. God says, “Put me in remembrance...”

- h. We can let Him know what we want Him to remember about us, according to His Word.
6. *It has overcoming power.*
- a. We overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelations 12:11).
7. *The blood of Jesus has accessing power.*
- a. **You have an invitation** - **Hebrews 4:16** - ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- b. **That special invitation is by the BLOOD** - **Hebrews 10:19** - Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter **the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- i. Access means entrance. We use a password to gain entrance to an iPad, or a key to enter a house. People need a way of access to enter special events or places. To gain entrance to a concert requires a ticket, and entrance to a private dinner party requires an invitation.

Throne Room Grace:

- Salvation
- Deliverance
- Healing
- Restoration
- Prosperity