

# ***Who Am I?***

## ***Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ***

**Week Two**

**Day Four**

### **THE COVENANT OF GOD**

“The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.” (Psalm 25:14)



*Unlocking the Mystery*

Covenant is one of God’s mysteries. No one can understand covenant in the biblical sense except by revelation. Only God can enable us to understand through Scripture what covenant is. The Old Testament Covenants were made with great men of God; the New Testament Covenant was made complete through the greatest man that ever lived... Jesus.

A covenant was intended to be permanent. However, the presence of evil in the world caused humans to break their part of the agreement with God. This led to separation from God. In the Old Testament, the covenant was renewed several times and each time it was broken. Each time God showed mercy and gave His people yet another chance to enter into covenant with Him. We will learn in this lesson about three Old Testament covenants then we will learn how Christ established the New Covenant and how God is still pouring out mercy while He waits for people to enter into covenant with Him.



*Understanding the Word*

The word **covenant** is defined by Merriam-Webster as a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement; a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action. A covenant usually contained obligations and a clear statement of what would happen if the covenant was kept and if the covenant was broken. (ex. Deuteronomy 28) God established the promise and the obligation. Humans were expected to accept them in obedient faith.

The word **Testament** is defined once again by Merriam-Webster as a covenant between God and the human race; an act by which a person determines the disposition of his or her property after death. The first thing I want you to understand is that the Old and New Testaments are each binding agreements between God and His people.

As we learned in the last lesson, the sacrificial system was put into place to cover sin, remove guilt, and reconcile God's people back to Himself. This sacrificial system was put into place as a result of the covenant God made with Abraham, then renewed with Isaac and Jacob. A covenant was established with a sacrifice and the correct words would be to "cut" a covenant instead of "make" a covenant. When we think of the word "cut" we should picture a knife and the shedding of blood. Also, it infers that a life had to be given in order to "cut" the covenant. In the Old Testament the covenant with Abraham was made with animals.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Genesis 15

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** Genesis 15:9-10; 17-18

**V. 9** Name the animals that were "cut" for this covenant: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_

**V. 10** Abram brought all these to Him, cut them in \_\_\_\_\_ and arranged the halves \_\_\_\_\_ each other; the \_\_\_\_\_, however he did not cut in half.

**V. 17-18** When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and \_\_\_\_\_ the pieces. On that day the LORD made a \_\_\_\_\_ with Abram and said.....

Scripture doesn't say when Abram passed between the pieces but it was custom that both parties passed through the sacrifice. It means that once you have passed through and looked at those dead bodies, you say, "That death was my death. From now on, I die to myself and live for the one with whom I am in covenant." Abraham renounced his life to live in covenant with God.

All of the Bible covenants are sealed with a sign that serves to remind the people of their part in the agreement. They usually contain a symbolic element.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Genesis 17

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** Genesis 17:10-11

**V. 10** "This is My covenant with you and \_\_\_\_\_ after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be \_\_\_\_\_. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant between Me and you.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Genesis 17

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** Genesis 17:1-5, 7

V. 1-5 When Abram was ninety –nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God, Almighty; walk before Me and be \_\_\_\_\_. I will confirm My covenant between Me and you and will greatly \_\_\_\_\_ your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You will be the \_\_\_\_\_ . No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

V. 7 I will establish My covenant as an \_\_\_\_\_ covenant between Me and you and your \_\_\_\_\_ after you for the \_\_\_\_\_ to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

This covenant was renewed to Isaac, then Jacob. Each time reminding them to walk blameless so He could be their God.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Exodus 34:1-28

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** Exodus 34:10, 27, 28

V.10 "Then the LORD said: "I am making a \_\_\_\_\_ with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , will do for you.

V. 27 Then the LORD said to Moses, " \_\_\_\_\_ these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_."

V. 28 Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant - \_\_\_\_\_ .

**DIGGING DEEPER:** 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** 2 Samuel 7:13-16

**V. 13-16 He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ . I will be his \_\_\_\_\_ , and he will be My \_\_\_\_\_ .**  
**When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But My love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure \_\_\_\_\_ before Me; your throne will be established \_\_\_\_\_ .**

This is the covenant with King David. **Psalm 89:34** establishes it is a covenant even though we do not see the actual word in the 2 Samuel passage. We know through history that David and many Judean kings kept the covenant, but we also know many turned from it, eventually leading into exile. Jesus was God's faithfulness to this covenant. He was in the line of David and truly His kingdom is forever.

The people could not stay close to God and walk blamelessly, not even with the symbolic reminders. To Moses, God gave tangible instructions known as the Law. They kept falling short of the Law, thus the reason for the sacrifice. After the crying out to God for a king, God finally gave Israel a king. The second king was David. God renewed His covenant with David and promised to unite His people and deliver them from their oppressors if they remained faithful to the covenant laws. Moses instructed the people to refresh their memories of the covenant by re-reading them every seven years. Joshua renewed it; the godly Kings renewed it. The people still failed. The renewal continued with the messages through the prophets. One prophet in particular spoke of the New Covenant. Jeremiah proclaimed that there will be a spiritual transformation in the peoples' hearts, and that God will forgive the people for their sins.

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Jeremiah 31:21-40

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:** Jeremiah 31:31-32, 34b

**V.31-32 "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a \_\_\_\_\_ with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their \_\_\_\_\_ when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.**

**V.34b "For I will \_\_\_\_\_ their wickedness and will remember their \_\_\_\_\_ no more.**



Jesus was sent by God to be the sacrificial cut in the final covenant with humankind. He is the savior announced by the prophets and He called and still calls people to repent of their sins and change their ways so that they may return to God and attain eternal life. The old covenant was directed to Israel but outsiders could take part. Once Christ came and established the new covenant, it was for all mankind. Just as the Israelites were God’s people, now, under Christ, we are God’s people. If we accept the sacrifice Jesus “cut” for us, we should look upon that sacrifice and offer our lives for the life that was slain.

Jesus’ death and resurrection were the signs of the New Covenant. He instructed His disciples before He left this earth to drink of the wine and partake of the body to remember and renew the covenant within our hearts. We remember this instruction through the ordinance of Communion. God wants to be our God and wants us to live a life of obedience to Him. We remember and renew through prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship, as well. Have you renewed lately? Have you remembered lately? Maybe now is the time to reflect on the covenant “cut” with Christ.