

# Blood Covenant of Friendship

## TITLE PAGE

- **Blood Covenant of Friendship with Abraham**
- Information taken from:
- From Jay Snell's book nr 2:
- **"WHAT'VE THEY DONE WITH ABRAHAM'S BLESSINGS ?"**
- Copyright © 1989 by Jay Snell. Published by Jay Snell Evangelistic Association
- Dr. Jay Snell, web site <http://jaysnell.org>
- Address: "How to obtain God's blessings", P.O. Box 608, Pearland, TX 77388
- **<https://jaysnell.org/freebooks.htm>**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship

- **Past presentations can be downloaded from:**
- **Link:** <http://grafted-promise.net/>  
– **button: “Andy’s Corner”**
- **Date available: May 25, 2013**
- **File formats:**
  - ◆ **.pdf for Adobe Reader**
  - ◆ **.ppt power point slide presentation**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship

- The Six Steps Ceremony
  - 1. TERMS
  - 2. BLESSINGS AND CURSES
  - 3. THE CUTTING
  - 4. THE FEAST
  - 5. MEMORIAL
  - 6. THE GIFTS

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 01

- The **ceremony in Genesis 15** was a form of covenanting common in the world at that time.
- It was known as the Blood Covenant of Friendship
- Used by man to make a binding covenant with:
  - ◆ another man
  - ◆ or with his God.
- It is a form of mutual covenanting, by which two persons enter into the closest, most enduring, and the most sacred of compacts, as friends and brothers, or as more than brothers, through the inter-commingling of their blood, by means of its mutual tasting, or of its inter-transfusion.
- six steps at a **minimum**.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 02

- This covenant is the most extreme and sacred of all covenants.
- It is the inter-commingling of very lives, nothing can transcend it.
- It forms a tie, or a union, which cannot be dissolved.
- In marriage, divorce is a possibility: not so in the “covenant of blood”

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 03

- "He who has entered into this compact with another, counts himself the possessor of a double life;
- for his friend, whose blood he has shared, is ready to lay down his life with him, or for him.
- The tie of blood covenanting is reckoned, in the East, even a closer tie than that of natural descent;
- that a "friend" by this tie is nearer and is dearer, and "sticketh closer," than a brother by birth"

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 04

- "The **oneness of nature** which comes of **sharing the same milk**; or even than that which comes through **having blood from a common source**, by natural descent"
- What does he mean by "inter-commingling" or "sharing" blood?
- This is best answered by describing the **six basic elements** of the Blood Covenant.
- Known as "The Blood Covenant of Friendship".
- Always composed of as many as six basic elements.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 05

- **1. TERMS MADE PUBLIC**
- The terms of the covenant were made public.
- Each requirement of each covenanting party was published.
- Nothing was left out; **nothing could be added later.**
- None of the terms could be changed or modified.
- none of the terms could be abrogated.



# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 06

## ■ 2. BLESSINGS AND CURSES

- Blessings were pronounced upon each contracting party if they adhered to the provisions of the covenant.
- Curses were pronounced upon each party if he failed to live up to the terms of the Blood Covenant. **See Deuteronomy Chapters 27, 28.**
- **Includes curses “NOT written” in this book,**
- **this reference is Deut 28:61**

*“Also every sickness and every plague, which is **not written** in this Book of the law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed.*

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 07

- **3. THE CUTTING**
- The covenant always involved the "cutting" of
  - ◆ a sacrificial animal,
  - ◆ their own bodies,
  - ◆ or both.
- **See separate future presentation is on “The Cutting”.**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 08

## ■ 4. THE FEAST

### ■ This involved two things:

- ❖ the flesh of the sacrificial animal was eaten.
- ❖ Second, the blood of the animal was drunk by both parties.

### ■ They drank it in one of three ways:

- ❖ directly,
- ❖ mixed in juice or wine,
- ❖ or **substituting** juice or wine **with no blood in it** at all.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 09

- **4. THE FEAST - (continued)**
- They did the same thing with their own blood.
- Of course, **in no biblical account do they drink blood directly**, or mixed with juice or wine.
- Sometimes their wrists were cut and rubbed together, (*in pagan societies*), making them "blood brothers," **(but NOT in Scripture)**.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 10

- **4. THE FEAST - (continued)**
- Reference: **Mat 26:26** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;
- See also Mark 14:22, 23, and **1Cor 11:24, 25**
- .... this cup is the **renewed testament** in my blood ...
- **New** = **G2537** kainos *kahee-nos'*, *new in quality, newly expanded, the expanded original.*
- Testament = **G1242** diatheke *dee-ath-ay'-kay* From **G1303**; (specifically) **a contract** (especially a devisory will): - **covenant**, testament.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 11

- **4. THE FEAST - (continued)**
- **John 6:53** Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily,** I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood,** ye have **no life** in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth in me, and I in him.** 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 **This is that bread which came down from heaven:** not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of **this bread shall live for ever.**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 12

## ■ 5. THE MEMORIAL

- After the feast, they erected a memorial to perpetuate the covenant.
- This memorial could be:
  - ◆ the planting of a tree,
  - ◆ the piling up of stones,
  - ◆ or dedicating a flock of livestock or sheep to reproduce without ceasing.
- This **memorial served** to remind all that **a binding covenant existed** between the contracting parties, **as enduring as the life of the memorial itself !!**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 13

## ■ 6. THE GIFTS

- Many times, the exchanging of gifts between the contracting parties accompanied the "cutting" of the Blood Covenant of Friendship.
- The gifts represent the desire of each heart to do something good for his blood covenant friend.
- The mutual partaking of their own blood or the blood of the sacrifice symbolized the giving of their very lives to each other.
- The sacrifice was not viewed as the taking of a life, **but rather as the giving of a life.**



# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 14

## ■ 6. THE GIFTS

- From the time of the covenant, **each was viewed as having given his very life to the other**, to enforce and to guarantee the terms of the covenant.
- Each would defend the terms of the covenant to the other, **laying his life down**, if need be.
- In this sense, each considered himself **to possess two lives**; his own plus the life of his blood covenant partner.
- This was a covenant to the death. Leviticus 17:11 says, "The **life** of the flesh is in the **blood**."

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 15

## ■ 6. THE GIFTS

- **More than brothers, they are "blood brothers."**
- They have entered the Blood Covenant of Friendship, and their lives now belong to one another. They are truly Blood Covenant Friends.
- In the biblical record of the Blood Covenant of Friendship, **not all six elements** are present **in each occurrence**.
- This, however, is not necessary because this form of covenanting was common in the world and was understood by the readers of Scripture **at that time**.
- Moreover, there are **enough of the six elements present** to plainly identify the various occurrences as the Blood Covenant of Friendship.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 16

## ■ 6. THE GIFTS

- Many times, the exchanging of gifts between the contracting parties **accompanied** the "cutting" of the Blood Covenant of Friendship.
- The gifts represent **the desire of each heart to do something good for his blood covenant friend.**
- *added note: What do we know about a "gift from the Father"?*
- *James 1:17, Every good **gift** and every perfect **gift** is from above, and comes down from **the Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. NKJV*
- *John 14:16, And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever NKJV*

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 17

- **Examples from The Scriptures**
- **Four instances of the “Blood Covenant of Friendship “ that certain men initiated with other men in Scripture.**
- The common characteristic of all examples cited is the translation of the **Hebrew word KARATH** by **the English word "make" or "made."**
- KARATH means **"to cut"**.
- The KJV translates KARATH, **"to cut"** the covenant, by **"make"** the covenant.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 18

- **Examples from The Scriptures, nr 1 of 4.**
- **The Blood Covenant of Friendship between Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 21:27-32).**
  - • They "cut" the covenant (KARATH) (vv.27, 32).
  - • They explicated the terms of the covenant (v.23).
  - • The gift of sheep and oxen are exchanged (v.27).
  - • The memorial, composed of seven ewe lambs and a planted grove, are explicated (vv.27, 33).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 19

- **Examples from The Scriptures, nr 2 of 4.**
- **The Blood Covenant of Friendship between Isaac and Abimelech (Genesis 27:26-33).**
  - • They "cut" the covenant (KARATH) (v.28).
  - • They presented the terms of the covenant (v.29).
  - • The feast of eating and drinking is presented (v.30).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 20

- **Examples from The Scriptures, nr 3 of 4.**
- **The Blood Covenant of Friendship between Jacob and Laban (Genesis 31:44-45).**
  - • They "cut" the covenant (KARATH) (v.44).
  - • They cited terms of the covenant (vv.49- 53).
  - • They named the sacrifice (v.54).
  - • The feast is mentioned (v.54).
  - • They explicated the memorial, the "heap of witness," composed of a stone pillar, and stone heap (vv.45, 46).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 21

- **Examples from The Scriptures, nr 4 of 4.**
- **The Blood Covenant of Friendship between Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1-3).**
  - • The "cutting" (KARATH) occurs (v.3).
  - • The gift is explicated (v.4). This Blood Covenant of Friendship between these two men was renewed (1 Samuel 20:13-20).
  - • The "cutting" (KARATH) occurs (v.16).
  - • The terms are explicated (vv.13-23).



# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 22

- **Examples nr 4 - continued**
- Because of the Blood Covenant of Friendship between Jonathan and David, **even after the death of Jonathan, David cared for his son Mephibosheth.**
- He said twice that he would **show him kindness for Jonathan's sake** (2 Samuel 9:1, 7).
- **He restored to him** all **his land**, had it **tilled for him**, had the **fruits of the land gathered** for him, and provided for him to **always eat at his (David's) table** (2 Samuel 9:10). **(do we see a type here...?)**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 23

- **Examples nr 4 - continued**
- **How David “showed kindness” to Mephiboseth is a “type” of what kindness the Father has for all His children:**
- **Because of the Blood Covenant of Friendship between Jesus and each believer:**
  - ◆ all things will be restored to us,
  - ◆ no more laboring for those in The Father’s Kingdom
  - ◆ The fruits of our lands will be gathered for us
  - ◆ And we will be WITH The King of kings and sit at His Table **as sons!** (see 2 Sam 9:11).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 24

- **Examples nr 4 - continued**
- “What is in a name?”, Reference : 2 Sam 9:6
- Meaning of the name “Jonathan” = H3129, a form from H3083, which comes from H3068 and H5414 = **Jehonathan = Jehovah-given.**
- Meaning of the name “**Mephibosheth**”
  - ◆ MEPHI = to blow away, scatter into corners
  - ◆ BOSETH = idol ashamed, confusion
- from H4648, which comes from H6284 and H1322; **dispeller of shame** (that is, of Baal); Mephibosheth. (*..... no longer ashamed to be associated with him....*).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 25

- The Six Steps Ceremony
  - 1. TERMS
  - 2. BLESSINGS AND CURSES
  - 3. **THE CUTTING (INTRODUCTION)**
  - 4. THE FEAST
  - 5. MEMORIAL
  - 6. THE GIFTS

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 26

- **Examples from The Scriptures**
- **Four instances of the “Blood Covenant of Friendship “ that certain **men initiated with other men** in Scripture.**
- **between Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 21:27-32).**
- **between Isaac and Abimelech (Genesis 27:26-33).**
- **between Jacob and Laban (Genesis 31:44-45).**
- **between Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1-3).**
- **after the death of Jonathan, David cared for his son Mephibosheth. (2 Samuel 9:1-13).**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 27

- But, the Blood Covenant of Friendship was **also made between man and his god.**
- In Genesis 15, **God** initiated the Blood Covenant of Friendship with **Abraham.**
- Moses recorded **three of the six elements** in this passage:
  - ◆ 1. The covenant was "cut" (KARATH) (v.18).
  - ◆ 2. The sacrifices are named (vv.9, 10). They were a three-year-old heifer, a three year- old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle dove, and a young pigeon. They were cut down the middle and probably stacked in two piles.
  - ◆ 3. **The terms** are explicated (vv.13-21).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 28

- The **TERMS** contained everything in the Sixty-Promises-(BARAK-EULOGIA)- Covenant that God had **previously promised** to Abraham.
- **“The Promises” were brought under the authority of the Blood Covenant of Friendship.**
  - ❖ *Note: this **current study** is “Book 2” - Jay Snell*
  - ❖ *“Book 1” - Jay Snell covers: The Sixty-Promises-(BARAK-EULOGIA)- Covenant that God had **previously promised** to Abraham, before the Blood Covenant Ceremony, and is covered in a future study.*

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 29

- During the **process** of this ceremony, Abraham passed under a deep sleep and a **horror of great darkness fell upon him;** (what could this horror have been?), at which time, when the sun had gone down, **something that appeared to be a smoking furnace and a burning lamp "passed between the pieces of the sacrificial victims"**.
- *(note: remember from the past discussion: figure 8, passing between the pieces of ½ animals).*



# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 30

- In Genesis 17, **God required the rite of circumcision** as a token of the **Blood Covenant of Friendship** between himself and Abraham.
- This token included **not only Abraham**, but **every male child who was eight days old**, "...in your generations...." (**Genesis 17:12**).
- **Abraham and his male descendants must shed their blood through circumcision** as a token of the covenant between God.
- Abraham, **"and his seed"**.

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 31

- **Nothing is mentioned, however, of God shedding his own blood**, either directly or substitutionally; yet, the **rite of circumcision lasted until the death of Jesus Christ.**
- As a result of the Blood Covenant of Friendship that God initiated between himself and Abraham, **Abraham is the only man in all the Bible who is called by name, "the friend of God".**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 32

- **"the friend of God" Scripture verses:**
- Jehoshaphat asked the question, "Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people, Israel, and gavest it to the **seed of Abraham, thy friend forever?**" (2 Chron. 20:7)
- Isaiah said, "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, **the seed of Abraham my friend**" (Isaiah 41:8)
- James said, "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham** believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called **the Friend of God**" (James 2:23)
- Because of the **Blood Covenant of Friendship** ceremonialized in Genesis 15, **Abraham became, henceforth the "Friend of God."**
- **Interesting fact: When the term "my friend" appears, also the term "the seed of Abraham" appears....**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 33

- Verses with the term “my friend” and the term “the seed of Abraham”.
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures), the physical offspring are the Israelites.
- 2Ch 20:7 *Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of **this land** before thy people Israel, and gavest it to **the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?***
- Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all **this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed**, and they shall inherit *it* **for ever**.
- *Note: “for ever” means 1: for a limitless time, 2: at all times, according to Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1969*

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 34

- In the Greek Scriptures (Gospels, Epistles, and Revelation), the physical offspring = Jesus The Christ, and “IN CHRIST” the Spiritual children of Abraham are the Christians and THE COMPLETED JEWS / ISRAELITES who accepted The Messiah.
- Act 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, and in **thy seed** shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. (in this verse “Thy SEED” = Jesus).
- Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and **his seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to **thy seed, which is Christ.** (in this verse “Thy SEED” = Jesus).
- Gal 3:29 And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,** and heirs according to the promise. (in this verse “Abraham’s SEED” = you/me).

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 35

- **Summary: “The seed of Abraham”**
- In the Hebrew Scriptures, **physical offspring: The Israelites**
- In the Greek Scriptures, **physical offspring: Jesus The Christ**
- **“IN CHRIST”, the Spiritual children of Abraham;**
  - ◆ “COMPLETED JEWS”, the ISRAELITES who accepted Yeshuah Ha Mashiach. (Jesus The Christ).
  - ◆ The Christians who accepted Jesus The Christ.
- **References:**
- Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.
- Joh 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- Joh 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; **and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

# Blood Covenant of Friendship - 36

- **end of this presentation**
- **Blood Covenant of Friendship with Abraham**
- **The Six Steps Ceremony**