

## Our Covenant God – Part Six

### Thus far we have seen:

- God the Father cut covenant with God the Son and they then included Abraham in their covenant.
- The Abrahamic covenant can never be broken because it was cut between God and God.
- If Abraham or his descendants were unfaithful to God then God could legally die in his / their place because He was ONE with Abraham in covenant union (and we know that this is exactly what Jesus did 2000 years ago!).
- God promised Abraham:
  1. He would have many descendants.
  2. He would have the Land of Canaan as an inheritance.
  3. He would be blessed.
  4. All of the families of the whole Earth would be blessed through him.
  5. God would bless Ishmael and make him a great nation but Sarah's son (Isaac) would be the covenant son that Abraham's descendants would come through.
- God changed Abram's name to Abraham, changing him from 'high / exalted father' to 'father of a multitude'.
- God changed Sarai to Sarah, thereby changing her from someone who strived into a princess.

### Remembering the covenant

A covenant is never a secret thing. It is public and there is always some type of tangible reminder of the covenant. This would be referred to as the sign / seal or token of the covenant. In a marriage, the couple often exchange rings. Their rings are a sign of their covenant and are visible to all. Today, rings are made from gold or silver or other precious metals but there was a time when the ring would be cut into the flesh of the covenanting couple. The scar that would remain could never be removed. It would be there forever, "til death us do part".

Why is a sign so important? What is its purpose? To understand this, it is a good idea to have a look at the very first time that God ever promised people that He would make a covenant with them. In fact, God promised to make a covenant with all living creatures on this earth. I am referring to this conversation that God had with Noah:

**Genesis 9:8-17** (Amplified) Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, Behold, I establish My covenant or pledge with you and with your descendants after you. And with every living creature that is with you--whether the birds, the livestock, or the wild beasts of the earth along with you, as many as came out of the ark--every animal of the earth. I will establish My covenant or pledge with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood; neither shall there ever again be a flood to destroy the earth and make it corrupt. And God said, This is **the token of the covenant** (solemn pledge) which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **I set My bow [rainbow] in the cloud, and it shall be a token or sign of a covenant or solemn pledge between Me and the earth.** And it shall be that when I bring clouds over the earth and the bow [rainbow] is seen in the clouds, I will [earnestly] remember My covenant or solemn pledge which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters will no more become a flood to destroy and make all flesh corrupt. **When the bow [rainbow] is in the clouds and I look upon it, I will [earnestly] remember the everlasting covenant or pledge between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.** And God said to Noah, **This [rainbow] is the token or sign of the covenant or solemn pledge which I have established between Me and all flesh upon the earth.**

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**Homework Question #1:** Describe in your own words what the purpose of a sign / token of a covenant is and why it is so important:

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In part two of this study we spoke about the covenant scar. The scar was a permanent testimony to the covenant. It would always be there as a guarantee, reminding the two parties of their covenant rights and responsibilities. This is where we get today's custom of waving our hands in the air because you recognize your blood covenant friend, not by their face, but by their blood covenant scar.

The two main parties in the covenant were God the Father and Jesus, who walked in Abraham's stead. Both parties in the covenant had to bear the scars that would serve as the reminder of the covenant between them. Because Abraham was included in the covenant with God, he had to carry a covenant scar. This is why, in Genesis 17:9-14, Abraham was instructed by God to be circumcised.

### Abraham's fifth encounter with the Lord... continued

**Genesis 17:9-14 (NKJV)** And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

Circumcision set Abraham and his descendants apart from other people. When Abraham's blood flowed as he was circumcised, he became a legal partner to the Blood Covenant with God. Even today, circumcision is a constant reminder of the covenant that God made with Abraham's descendants.

Jesus bore both God's scars as well as Man's scar of the Covenant (circumcision) because He was God standing in the place of Man.

**Jesus as the Son of Man bore the scar of circumcision on His body.  
Jesus as the Son of God bore the scars of the crucifixion on His body.**

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### Circumcision and the marriage covenant

Something that God showed me when I was researching for this study is how this all fits in so incredibly with the marriage covenant. I only hope that I can communicate this well enough to do it justice.

We know that marriage is ordained by God to be between a man and a woman and between them only. The design for marriage is that a virgin man and woman marry and, on their wedding night as they consummate the marriage for the first time, the woman's hymen breaks and her blood is then shed onto the sign of his covenant with God (circumcision). The wife's covenant scar is not visible - it is the broken hymen – which can never be repaired or grow back, for she is made to only be in marriage covenant with one man – her husband!

It is no mistake that it was man's sexual organ that bore the sign of the covenant that God made with the Jewish people! Each time that husband and wife come together in covenant union, it is a union between them and God because of the meeting of the covenant scars!

God often demonstrates spiritual things to us by using the physical world around us to communicate deeper things. Just as a marriage union is meant to bring forth children, spiritually, a covenant union with God also produces what was promised! You may have to wait for it (pregnancy) but one day it will be birthed!

This, too, was why God would not fulfill His covenant promises to Abraham through Ishmael. Ishmael was the product of a union which was outside of the covenant of marriage. God is a covenant God. He initiates and honors covenants. His covenant promises to Abraham that he would have countless descendants could only come through the covenant union between Abraham and his wife, Sarah. Why? Because God is a covenant God who keeps and honors covenant.

### You are MADE for Covenant

**Genesis 17:12 (NKJV)** He who is **eight days old** among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Did you know that on day eight of a baby's life the clotting factors in the baby's blood are at their peak level? God, our Creator, gave the circumcision instructions thousands of years before man knew this! What an amazing God we serve!

God made the human body long before He instituted circumcision. Yet, when He made the body, He looked ahead through time, and designed the body so that it would be at its peak clotting levels on that exact day - the eighth day. So ... the body was created with circumcision already in mind. The body was created to bleed on the eighth day!

There is no other bleeding expected in an 8 day old child, besides circumcision... so there is no medical reason for a baby to have peak clotting levels on day 8.

Not only is God the Law-Giver... but He is also the One who made it possible for us to keep His laws... for the circumcision, He made sure that the body was able to heal itself as quickly as possible.

There is something else about the eighth day: The Law of Moses (Leviticus 12:1-3) declared that the mother was unclean for seven days after giving birth. A male who came into contact with an unclean

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female was unclean for the rest of the day. And so the baby boy would remain ceremonially unclean until the first day after his mother was clean, which would be day eight. Therefore, day eight would be the first day that baby was able to be given to God because only something / someone clean is able to be presented to God!

**Luke 2: 21** (NKJV) And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

God is amazing! He thought of everything! He always enables us to do that which He has commanded us.

Today you and I are called to be a living sacrifice, to offer ourselves up to God. How wonderful it is that we are acceptable as a sacrifice - that we are clean and undefiled because of the Blood of Jesus!

### Circumcision for us today

While physical circumcision is not a requirement for us today as children of the Covenant, yet there is a spiritual circumcision of our hearts that applies to us. Circumcision is a cutting away of flesh, which is something that each of us as believers need to do – cut away that flesh - but not physically. Flesh is a word that is used both to refer to physical flesh (i.e. body) and to refer to ungodly desires / lusts / ways of thinking.

**Romans 2:28-29** (Amplified): For he is not a [real] Jew who is only one outwardly and publicly, nor is [true] circumcision something external and physical. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and [true] circumcision is of the heart, a spiritual and not a literal [matter]. His praise is not from men but from God.

**Deuteronomy 10:16** (NKJV): Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

**Homework Question #2:** Circumcision is the removal of a covering. Bearing Acts 7:51 in mind, what would the results or the fruit of being 'uncircumcised in heart and ears' be?

**Acts 7:51** (NKJV) [Stephen speaking to the Pharisees] "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

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**Homework Question #3:** How do we circumcise our hearts and our ears?

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