



Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Week 19 - The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Despite the failure of God's people to live up to the covenants that were made, God graciously made a new one with his people:

In this passage God makes two distinct promises:

1. He will forgive the sins of His people (vs 34b).
2. He would give them the ability and the desire to follow Him. He would change their hearts and give them a zeal for obedience (vs 34).

This promise finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8:7-13; 9; 10:11-24), as it is through Him we receive forgiveness of our sins and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who enables us to seek after the things of God.

Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

8 For he finds fault with them when he says:

Quotes Jeremiah 31:31- 34

13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 9:1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.

Discussion of Temple Layout (vs. 2-5)

*6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. 8 **By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing 9 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, 10 but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.***

*11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) **12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.** 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the*

purification of the flesh, **14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**

15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant **16 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. 23 Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,** **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. **15** And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, **16** "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," **17** then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." **18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

THE NEW COVENANT

“Now this is a pretty story, but, what does it have to do with my relationship with God?”

Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Jesus didn't really fit in with us; yet He was one of us. He was very God but at the same time, very man.

All the fullness of God dwelled in his body (Colossians 2: 9).

In Him is life and He is the source of life.

Being God, all creation is in Him and comes from Him.

As the Creator, He is worth all His creation.

How many creatures are equal to the Creator?

How many humans are equal to God?

A thousand? A hundred thousand? A million? A billion?

All creatures put together don't equal the Creator.

So if God became man, while at the same time, remaining God, He could stand in for all creation.

He could represent all mankind. All humanity would be in Him. He could take the place of every person who ever lived.

And being equal to God, even though a man, He could enter into covenant with Himself on behalf of all humanity.

ENTER JESUS—THE PERFECT GOD-MAN

Jesus is that perfect God-Man.

The Bible says that it was decided on before the foundations of the world.

1 Peter 1: 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

And we were there when the covenant was cut because, as our Creator, we were in Him.

And in God's own time, as He remembered the covenant that He made with Himself from the beginning, He came to the earth as one of us ... flesh and blood and bones.

He was born of the seed of woman, a virgin (Gal. 4: 4).

He was born of the seed of woman, not man , so that the blood flowing through His veins would be uncontaminated by sin.

He didn't carry that deadly blood disease passed on by Adam called the sin nature (Romans 5: 12).

As God, He was perfectly holy and righteous. And He prepared for Himself a body. It was a body that would not know sin; therefore, the blood in that body was spotless and without blemish.

So God, through the Son of God, **exchanged names with us and became Jesus the human Son of Man** ... the representative of all mankind.

He called Himself the Son of Man to identify Himself with all mankind.

For 33 years He lived a perfect life in order to be the once and for all perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

JESUS CUTS COVENANT

During the covenant ceremony, Jesus gathers His disciples together to **participate in the covenant meal of bread and wine**.

After the meal Jesus went out and left a memorial to the covenant. **He planted a tree**. And He poured out blood on it. But it wasn't the blood of bulls and goats; it was His own blood. And it wasn't a little nick in His wrist. It was all His blood poured out at the foot of the Cross, the bloodstained tree that stands forever as a memorial to the covenant.

The "Lamb of God" slain from the foundations of the world cut covenant for all mankind.

And we were there. We were crucified with Him, we were in Him as our Creator.

He took on our robe of self-righteousness which is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64: 6).

He took on our nature. He took on all our liabilities which are the sins of our spirit, the sorrows of our soul and the sickness of our body.

They were all placed on Him. All of our spiritual leprosy, that deadly blood disease we carry, was put on Him and He who knew no sin became sin for us (Isaiah 53: 6).

It was necessary for God to do this because the sin nature within each of us separates us from God. All of us have sinned and come short of God's glory (Romans. 3: 23).

The penalty for our sin is death (Romans 6:23). We all know this to be true which is why we are afraid of God. Jesus took all of this on Himself at the Cross.

COVENANT TERMS

God says, "And here are the terms of the covenant.

- I'll take all your liabilities, all your sins, all your sorrows, all your sicknesses on Myself and become sin for you.
- I'll forgive your iniquities and remember them no more.
- I'll take all your self-righteousness and give you My own righteousness, which is pure and holy and acceptable to Me."
- "You clothe Me with your robe of sin, sorrow, and heartache"
- "and I'll clothe you with My garment of salvation and My robe of righteousness which is My pure lifeblood poured out on the cross for you.
- I'll impute it to you and count you as righteous.
- We'll exchange natures. For I'll put My Spirit within you and bless you with all spiritual blessings.
- You'll partake of My own nature by the intermingling of our blood.
- "You can become part of me and I'll live in your heart.
- My house will be your house. You can feast at My table.
- I'll be a Father to you and adopt you as My own son.
- You will reign with Me for a thousand years and have eternal life with Me.
- This is My free gift to you to show you that I love you."

(See Jeremiah 31: 31– 34; Ezekiel 11: 19– 20; Ezekiel 36: 25– 28; Hebrews 8: 8– 12; Revelation 20: 4; 22: 1– 5.)

ENTERING THE COVENANT

But you must make the choice. Your parents can't make it for you.

Your religious organization can't make it for you.

You must decide; either to enter into the covenant with God through Jesus or go back into the desert of sin.

You must now love with all your life. You must now become one with Jesus.

You must swallow all your pride, humble yourself, and admit you were wrong, turning your back on your old way of thinking and living.

This is certainly not an easy decision.

If you decide no; you go back into the desert, lost forever.

If you decide yes; you will have communion with God and feed on his very divine nature. He will be your God and you will be His people.

And Jesus says," If you enter into the covenant, you'll be known as my friend ." (John 15: 14–15.)

You'll even exchange names and be called a Christian, believer, disciple, etc.

John 6: 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

Jesus further explains that these words He is speaking are spiritual words of spiritual things for divine human union is spiritual (John 6: 63). You see, God is a spirit and to worship Him you must worship Him in spirit (John 4: 24).

You must be born again spiritually.

John 3: 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God."

That's how we become one with God through Jesus.

THE SUPERNATURAL SCAR

Like the scar, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to all who will enter into covenant with Him (John 20: 22).

The Holy Spirit is the seal that bears witness and testifies to the covenant.

He is the constant reminder, the guarantee that we are in covenant with God through the blood of Jesus. (Ephesians 1:13; 4: 30; 2 Corinthians 1: 22).

Romans 8: 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

SHOWING THE SCAR

So when satan, the enemy, comes against the believer, we show him our scar ... the power of the Holy Spirit.

You see, greater is He who is in us (the Holy Spirit) than he (satan) who is in the world (1 John 4: 4).

For God has raised and exalted Jesus and placed Him above all principalities and powers with authority over every name that is named (Ephesians 1: 20– 23).

He has given Jesus "The Name", and "The Name" is above every name (Philippians 2: 9– 11).

Believers have the authority to go into the world in "The Name" through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are more than conquerors through Jesus as we go in His name; for all things are under His feet and we become part of His body through spiritual union. (Romans 8: 37; Ephesians 1:20– 23).

And as you go in "The Name ", the God of peace, who brought again from the dead, the Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, will produce in you through the power of Jesus all that is pleasing to Him.

Hebrews 13: 20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

THINGS TO MULL

1. (Read Exodus 12) Explain how God used the deliverance from Egypt to point the Hebrews to Jesus. Describe possible correlations between this and the crucifixion.
2. Explain why God established the priesthood and how it pointed the Hebrews to Jesus.
3. Explain why Abraham was able to have faith in God's promises.
4. In your own words briefly describe the covenant exchange that took place at the Cross.
5. Explain the purpose of the covenant meal (Communion) and what it means to you personally.
6. State the benefits or terms of the new covenant.

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Material for additional study:

The Blood Covenant by H. Clay Trumbull

