

## Lesson No 3 on The Kingdom of God

### Focus: The Everlasting Covenant of Blood

#### Exodus 24:1-18

#### I. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & BIBLICAL CONTEXT

**The Kingdom of God has its origin in Creation.** In the context of the Earth, we have already established that the **Kingdom of God** was already *inherent* when The Almighty God *formed* the Earth and *blessed* Adam and Eve. We understand from reading and studying Genesis chapters 1 and 2, God's **Vision** and **Plan** for Humanity has been for them to have **Dominion** over the things He created for their use and benefits. Having dominion over the things God created for our use and benefit works if and only if *His people are guided by God's Vision and Plan under The Covenant.*

##### A. Historical Background

From the time God called Abram (Genesis 12) until his death (Genesis 25), the LORD *demonstrated His Faithfulness* in *keeping His Promises* under **The Covenant Relationship** (Circumcision). God blessed Abraham and Sarah with *material blessings* (land, servants, cattle) and *social blessings* (social status as a prince in the land of Canaan) *for their faithfulness and obedience to Him.* But God also *tested* Abraham and Sarah during the 25 years before He *granted* them what He promised them initially (the birth of Isaac – The Seed of Promise).

##### B. Biblical Context

During the 25 years in the relationship between God and Abraham, there have been **qualitative changes/elevations** which included the following (Genesis 17).

1. *Additional clarifications* about God's Promises to him and his descendants as well as *the geographic boundaries* of the land they will possess (**Gen. 15**);
2. *Elevation of His Relationship with Abram and Sarah:*
  - *through Circumcision* which was *designed to identify them as His people* who don't worship idols;
  - *through name changes* reflective of who they would become according to God's Promises.
  - *through the establishment of an Everlasting Covenant of Blood* which *included Abraham's servants, the foreigners he acquired and their children belonging to them.*

## II. THE COVENANT OF BLOOD

### Exodus 24:1-18

#### A. God's Vision, His Plan for our Salvation and His Kingdom is not lost in our history.

We must take note that about **1,000 years** have *gone by* from the time God called **Abram** to the time of Isaac, Jacob/Essau, Joseph to the time God called **Moses** to liberate the Israelites out of Egypt. In addition, the experiences of the Israelites in Egypt during the **430 years** include (a) *multiplying* into millions numerically, (b) adopting to the Egyptian way of life including idol worship and (c) *loss of identity* as the people of God. Living as slaves for much of the 430 years under Pharaoh can cause *loss of identity, self esteem and clarity* about the future (their destiny). Disconnected from *the lands of their ancestors* (the land of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), their *Covenant Relationship with God* and *their identity as free, self-governing and self-sufficient people* can *disorient* them. Disconnected from God, the Israelites couldn't *see* themselves as God sees them. Therefore, they began to see themselves as the Egyptians see them, i.e. as slaves; not as a people who would produce kings and queens according to God's Promises and Plan for their lives!

Let us recall that the Israelites found themselves in this situation because **the 11 sons of Jacob** first decided to kill their brother **Joseph**; had a change of heart and sold him into slavery instead. Understand that the reason the family of Jacob, **70 of them** (Exodus 1:1-5), came to Egypt in the first place was because of their **collective sins** (a) of conspiring/**planning to kill** Joseph initially out of **jealousy**, (b) of changing their minds and **selling him into slavery** and (c) of **lying** to their father, Jacob, about what they did! (Genesis 37). **People with these kinds of behaviors cannot build any kind of kingdom let alone God's Kingdom! Instead, they live out the consequences of their sins!** But God didn't forget His Promises to Abraham and Sarah and the Covenant He established with them! Praise the LORD! Therefore, the LORD raised up Moses to bring them out of Egypt and fulfill His Promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!

#### B. God Elevated, Expanded and Extended The Covenant by Establishing it in The Passover Lamb.

God performed numerous, various, and glorious miracles to *demonstrate* who He is to both the Israelites and Egyptians in the process of liberating His people (Exodus chapters 1 through 14). Moreover, in chapters 12, 13 and 14, God not only reestablished The Covenant, but He also qualitatively elevated and expanded the requirements and significance of His relationship with the

Israelites by introducing **The Passover with all its eternal implications.** **The Passover** involved *substitution* of “the lambs” in the place of every Israelite, the lambs which must be “one year old males *without defect* chosen from sheep or goats” to atone for the sins of all the Israelites (Exodus 12). What the Israelites deserved was the Righteous Judgement of God along with the Egyptians! But God kept His Promises and found a way to *continue honoring His Covenant Relationship* with the people *that He chose*. Therefore, in order to fully understand Exodus 24, as well as why/how Jesus Christ became the **Lamb of God for the NT Church**, we have to always look back to **Exodus 12**.

As we continue studying the Nature and Magnitude of God’s Kingdom, we must understand it is **undergirded by The Covenant of Blood** God established in Exodus 12, expanded in Exodus 24 which included His Word, the Law, Ordinances for the Priesthood, the Tabernacle/Sanctuary for His Presence, Worship, Fellowship, etc.

Let us now examine Exodus chapter 24 in detail.

1. **vv. 1-2. God is a God of Order, Hierarchy and Progression.**

It is God who chose Moses to lead His people out of Egypt (Exodus 3). From that time on, God communicated only through Moses; God developed a closer relationship with Moses by allowing him to come up Mt. Sinai on several occasions before to receive various instructions, commands, and the Law. On this special occasion, the purpose was to Worship God as described in this chapter. The Order and Hierarchy God established was for Moses, the Priests – Aaron, Nadab and Abihu -- and the 70 Elders to come near while the people remain where they were. **However, only Moses was allowed to come even closer to God.** Recall that God gave permission for **the Spirit** to be extended to **the 70 Elders** to distribute “the burden of leadership” when the Israelites complained, grumbled and wailed against Moses regarding the Manna from heaven (Numbers 11).

2. **vv. 3-7. By Design, God made Worship, Faith, Obedience and Service part of the Covenant Relationship.**

In these verses, we notice the Progression in the relationship between God and the people based on the following:

- a) Moses told the people all (i) the Words and (ii) the Laws.
- b) The people responded in unison by saying, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.”
- c) Moses then proceeded to “build an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the 12 Tribes of Israel.”
- d) Per Moses’ direction, they “offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offering to the LORD.”

- e) Moses took half of the blood of the bulls that were sacrificed and put it in bowls. After that, Moses used the blood from one bowl to sprinkle it on the altar and saved the other half bowl of blood.
- f) Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. The people responded by saying, "**We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.**"
- g) Moses then took the blood he saved and sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the **Blood of The Covenant** that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

3. **v. 8. The Written Word became a Permanent Part of The Covenant of Blood.**

Notice the *Qualitative Elevation and Progression of The Covenant* through the introduction of **the Blood** and **the Word** as *permanent features*.

4. **vv. 9-11. Proper Order of Worship Preceded Fellowship with God.**

For Moses, the Priesthood and the 70 Elders to worship God and fellowship in His Presence in close proximity is the rarest, holiest and glorious spiritual experience! The *extraordinary revelation* about it is this: **God desires to have such a close, holy and glorious relationship with His people!** This is the only time the Priests and the 70 elders **saw** God and **fellowshipped** in His Presence!

5. **vv. 12-18. God's Glorious Presence settled on Mt. Sanai.**

We need to pay attention to the following in this section.

- a) The Glory of God in the form of a cloud settled on Mt. Sanai for several weeks.
- b) Only Moses was allowed to go up the mountain and experience the Glory of God in its fullness.
- c) Joshua was allowed to follow Moses further while the priests and the 70 Elders were left behind on the mountain.
- d) God called Moses to come up and stay with Him: he stayed in the clouds for forty days and forty nights.

### III. HIGHLIGHTS

- **Qualitative Elevation and Progression of The Covenant.**
- **The Consolidation of The Covenant of Blood by establishing the Written Word, the Priesthood, the Tabernacle and the Law.**
- **The Fulfilment of God's Promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Joshua (later) in formation of The Kingdom of God.**