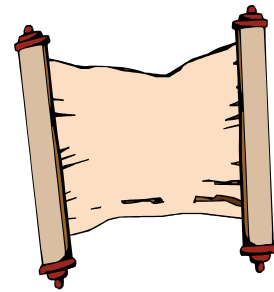


UNDERSTANDING BLOOD COVENANT!



Tel: 703-866-4140

Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell, Sr.

COV-102

**HOUSE OF PRAISE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH**

Main Office
7830 Backlick Road #404
Springfield, Va. 22150
www.houseofpraise.us

Phone: 703-866-4140
Fax: 703-866-1090
E-mail: pastor@hopic.us

righteousness of God hath been manifested being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God sent forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in His blood, to show His righteousness at this present season: that He might Himself be just and the justifier of Him that hath faith in Jesus.

Here we see clearly that Christ was actually OUR SUBSTITUTE, took our place, paid the penalty of the sins under the first covenant and met the demands of Justice for us, so that the new man in Christ could become a reality.

He not only provided our Redemption and our Righteousness, but in so doing, established a method for bringing us into His family, making us sons and daughters of God.

We can now see clearly that when Jesus said "it is finished" on the cross it did not refer to the sin problem or the redemption or destruction of the enemy but to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.

So you see, Christ had to do three things to complete our redemption:

1. was His work done in His earth walk, dealing with the 1st covenant and everything that pertained to it.
2. His SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK which began when He was made sin on the cross and was consummated when He carried His blood into the Heavenly Holy of Holies and was accepted there.
3. His present ministry for us today, at the right hand of the Father on high, dealing with the preservation and care of the church as our

High Priest, the Surety of our covenant, Savior, Mediator, Advocate and our Lord.

HALLELUJAH!

Heb 8:6 "But now he (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry....". Jesus Christ is the mediator of a **better** covenant which was established on **better promises**.

Heb 8:7 "if the **first covenant** had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a **second**."

The Bible contains two covenants (testaments), Old and New. The word testament and covenant are identical in meaning. As mediator of the new covenant, Jesus is the link that links God the father and mankind in this covenant.

A covenant is defined as an agreement or contract between two people, two groups of people, or two parties. The **blood covenant** is not limited to just the subject being discussed but it is a contract in which ALL debts, liabilities, assets (possessions) are mutually shared between the two parties. God entered a covenant relationship like this with mankind. All that God owes and all that God owns is ours and all that we owe and all that we own is Gods. Our very being is Gods and God's being is ours. God owes nothing and we own nothing yet He loved us enough to enter into this type of covenant with us. He has shared all that He owns with us and shared in all that we OWED. That is why Jesus Christ had to pay the price for our sin. He went to Calvary immediately to pay OUR debt after entering into covenant with mankind.

The Hebrew word for covenant, "Berith", translated into English literally means "to cut where (until) blood flows". The blood covenant originated in the garden of Eden, when God slew an animal and took its skin to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, after they sinned.

When Jesus cried out on the cross "It is finished", it did not mean that His redemptive work as OUR SUBSTITUTE was finished, as most of us think. So "what did it mean" you may ask?

It meant that He had fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant of which He was a part. Remember, that as a child He was circumcised and became a part of the Abrahamic covenant.

As you are aware, the Bible consists of two major covenants, the old covenant and the new covenant, the Abrahamic covenant and the new covenant in Christ.

His work as our substitute was just beginning and it was not finished until His blood was accepted in the Holy of Holies and He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

God had cut that first covenant with Abraham. Why use the word "cut"? The Hebrew word "cut" means "to cut a covenant". Nearly all covenants made between men as recorded in the Bible as well as those observed among primitive people, were solemnized by blood-letting.

Stanley gives us graphic pictures of covenants which He cut with chieftains in the heart of Africa. When preliminaries were finished, Stanley's companion offered his wrist unto the priest, who made an incision.

The son of the Chief, who was to be HIS representative, offered his wrist and blood was let. Then the two wrists were rubbed together and each one tasted the blood of the other. Now

these two had become blood brothers.

Stanley and that Chieftain had become blood brothers BY SUBSTITUTION.

In Africa, both Stanley and Livingston both declared that they had never known of a covenant of this type to be broken. For if a man were to break it, He was sealing his own death warrant for the tribe would not allow him to live and bring a curse upon them.

So the **Abrahamic covenant** was the most sacred covenant known to primitive people. Circumcision is what permitted them to come into the covenant. When a child was circumcised, the priest, who was the mediator between God and man, would touch that blood to his tongue and that child became a child of the Abrahamic Covenant.

After God had given Israel the covenant, He gave the Law of the Covenant, the 10 commandments. After He gave the Law, then God gave the priesthood because the law was broken and it meant death to them.

So with the priesthood came the Atonement, which means "to cover."

It meant "a covering for that broken law and nothing more." They needed the covering for they had broken the Law and it meant death to them IF NOT covered.

So the first thing Jesus did when He came was

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant and set it aside, along with the priesthood, sacrifices and the Law. The Book of Hebrews covers this quite clearly.

The books of Romans and Galatians also prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant, the Law, and the Priesthood and the Sacrifices so that when He hung on the cross He could say "It is finished."

The work which was not finished, until He sat down at the right hand of the Father, was His work as our Substitute. He had to die for sins under the first covenant and He had to die for our sins as well. So His substitution points both ways, back to the **Abrahamic covenant** and forward to the Great White Throne judgment.

WE ARE IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST AS OUR SUBSTITUTE. HE was OUR substitute. He suffered for us and our iniquities and diseases were laid upon Him. He was made sin with our sin. I Cor. 15:3. "Him who knew no sin He made to be sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21.

Romans 3:21-26 reveals this very clearly. "But now apart from the Law a

HOUSE OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Main Office
7830 Backlick Road #404
Springfield, Va. 22150
www.houseofpraise.us

Phone: 703-866-4140
Fax: 703-866-1090
E-mail: pastor@hopic.us