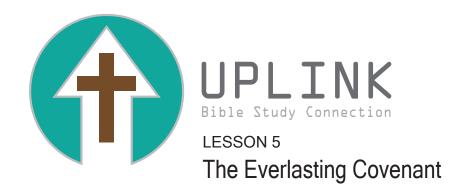


MATCHING (write the number of the text by the summary that corresponds)

1.Genesis 15:17-18 2.Exodus 24:3-8 3.Leviticus 26:44 4.2 Corinthians 3:4-6, 16-18 5.Ephesians 2:12-13 6.Hebrews 8:10 7.Galatians 3:13-14, 26-29

The New Covenant is really just a proper understanding of the old. This text shows that Old or New Covenant God has not changed. He promises that if repentance follows sin then He will forgive and restore. What about all those covenantal promises made to Abraham and his descendants throughout the Bible? Will they be forgotten, or conferred on a ancestral people who continue to reject Jesus? The Bible teaches that all of those promises are still valid and will be fulfilled to those who are Christ's. In Christ all men no matter what ethnicity, gender, status, or other evaluator are brought into the Covenant through the blood of Christ Jesus. Like the covenantal rainbow, first given as a covenant reminder after the flood, which has to be viewed from the right angle to see its beauty, the New Covenant is really just a change in our perspective, removing the veil that blocks us from seeing the beauty of redemption. In this text we learn that ratification of the covenant requires promises. burnt offerings and the sprinkling of blood. Each of these symbols point to the future Messiah who would shed His blood to save all who will be sprinkled by it. Jesus on the night of the Last Supper quoted Moses words here when He spoke of His blood symbolized by the wine. The first covenant was misunderstood to be a promise to keep the rules and repeat the rituals. The New Covenant clarifies the basis of the Covenant by focusing on Jesus who took on our iniquity and did what we cannot do in our place. Jesus offers to save us eternally if we will place our faith in Him and follow Him home.

God declares His covenant of blessing to Abram and ratifies it with a



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covenant ritual where all types of sacrificial animals are cut in two and the parties of the covenant pass between them. In this case God alone passes through the animal parts in the symbols of a smoking oven and a burning torch indicating that regardless of Abram's future, God would follow through with His portion of the covenant.

## SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

A covenant is a promise made between two parties and includes certain rituals to ratify it. Once made it stands only as long as both parties keep the terms. Usually when one party breaks the covenant the other party walks away from it as well. The Bible describes many times and places where God made covenant with His people. Old or New, whether Abraham, or Jacob, or Moses, God's promise was always the same; Stay in close relationship with me and I will save you. We misunderstand God's promise any time we think it is based on behavior or ritual, it is a one sided, blood ratified, selfless gift of love that God offers us. Trusting Him we are saved as we take His hand and ask Him to lead us home.

## TEXTS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 6:18; Genesis 9:8-17; Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 17:1-8; Exodus 2:24; Exodus 19:5-8; Jeremiah 32:40; Ezekiel 36:27; Ezekiel 37:26; Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 13:20

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