

RENAISSANCE

“A New Covenant”

A covenant is a binding promise of care.

What secures the covenant throughout scripture is the scarlet thread which represents the shedding of blood.

I. Adam and Eve in the garden

- A. Sin introduces the idea of shame into the human experience.
- B. God covers their shame through the “shedding of blood.”
“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21(NIV 1984)

II. The Old Covenant

- A. The heart of God longs for community so He approaches Abraham and strikes a covenant with him.

- The covenant is sealed by the “covenant walk.”
“The men who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces.” Jeremiah 34:18(NIV 984)

- The Lord himself takes the “covenant walk” with Abraham.
“When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land...” Genesis 15:17-18 (NIV 1984)

B. Redemption from slavery

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.” Exodus 12:13 (NIV 1984)

C. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

“Renaissance Series” / week 5

Pastor Jay Passavant

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III. The New Covenant

- A. *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:1, 14a (NIV 1984)*
- B. Jesus promises a “New Covenant” at the last supper.
“In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:20 (NIV 1984)
- C. The scarlet thread finds its final resting place at the cross.

Application: What is your response to this incredible God of covenant love?

Small Group Questions

1. How does the idea of covenant set our God apart from so-called “other gods?”
2. Do you understand the idea of the “scarlet thread” and can you trace it through scripture? (Joshua 2:1-24, see verse 18)
3. Why is the new covenant so vastly superior to the old?
4. Have you responded to God’s desire to have fellowship with you by walking in a “covenant relationship” with Him? Why or why not? What holds you back? What do you need to do about it?