

Our Covenant Relationships

Covenant Meal

General

- in some cultures, each participant might prepare meal for other
- more commonly
 - break piece of bread and feed to each other
 - then drink wine from same cup or from separate cups brought together
- meal or exchanging food in covenant represents pledge of care and provision

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- Gen 1:29 “Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”
 - In this verse, what ways did God care or provide for Adam and Eve?

God's Covenant with Noah

- Gen 6:13-14, “So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.’”
 - According to this passage, how did God care or provide for Noah?

God's Covenant with Abraham

- Gen 12:1, “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.’”
 - What type of provision did God promise to give Abram in this verse?
 - How significant was land in that culture?
- Gen 15:1, “After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.’”
 - “shield” (Heb, *magen*): (1) small shield, defensive weapon; (2) figuratively, protection
 - “reward” (Heb, *sakar*): (1) wage for services rendered; (2) reward for services or loyalty
 - “very great” (2 Heb words): multiplied abundantly or exceedingly
 - What kind of care or provision did God promise Abram in this verse?

God's First Covenant with Israel

- Ex 24:8-11

⁸ Moses then took the blood, 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."

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself.

¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

- Who were these people and why was it significant they met with God?
- What is the significance of them eating and drinking in God's presence?

God's Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 16:16, "Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles."
 - Does this relate to covenant meal? Explain.

David and Jonathan's Covenant

- no scriptural reference to covenant meal or pledge of care and provision

God's Covenant with David

- aside from covenant blessings, no covenant meal or pledge of care and provision

God's New Covenant with Christians

- Mt 26:26-28, "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
- 1 Co 10:16-17, "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."
- 1 Co 11:23-30
 - ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new

covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

- What significance does communion service have to your relationship with God?
- v 27, “unworthy manner” (Gk: *anaxios*): (1) unworthily (regarding merit); (2) improperly
- What does the context say it means to participate “in an unworthy manner” (vv 28-29)?
- What is the “body of the Lord” (v 29)?
- stern warnings:
 - v 27: “whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty”
 - v 29: “eats and drinks judgment on himself”
- What part of the covenant does this sound like: terms, blessings, curses, sacrifice, etc.?
- Mt 6:25-33
 - ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
 - ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- 1 Pet 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
 - Why does God commit himself to caring and providing for us?
- How can we possibly care for God and provide for him?
- Mt 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness”
 - “seek” (Gk, *zeteo*) common word used 117 times in NT
 - “first” (Gk, *protos*): like English meaning: before others,

prominent, best, most important

- kingdom (Gr *basileia*): (1) the being, nature or state of a king, as well as territory he governs; (2) everything he is, says, intends and does
- righteousness (Gk, *dikaiosyne*): that which is right or just, right relationship with God

God's New Covenant with Israel

- Jer 30:18

“This is what the Lord says:

“I will restore the fortunes of Jacob’s tents
and have compassion on his dwellings;
the city will be rebuilt on her ruins,
and the palace will stand in its proper place.”

- What pledge of care and provision does God make?

- Jer 31:12-14

“They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;

they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord —
the grain, the new wine and the oil,
the young of the flocks and herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.

Then maidens will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;

I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,
declares the Lord.”

- What pledge of care and provision does God make?

- Jer 31:23-25, “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The Lord bless you, O righteous dwelling, O sacred mountain.’ People will live together in Judah and all its towns — farmers and those who move about with their flocks. I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

- What pledge of care and provision does God make?

Marriage Covenant

- What wedding traditions reflect the covenant meal?

Blessing

- May you realize that God’s care and provision for you are as far above what you think they are as the heavens are above the earth.