

Why Are We Here? - Covenant Relationship With God Through Circumcision of Heart

I. Review:

A. Purpose established as being a living demonstration of Jesus Christ to the world **through**:

B. Sanctification - the Divine Exchange:

1. Trading _____
2. Allowing God to bring _____
3. Developing the _____ of Jesus Christ

C. BUT...

1. That's only _____ of our purpose, and only applies to our purpose on _____

D. Our **ultimate purpose** is _____

II. Covenant - God's Provision for the Fulfillment of His Plan

A. Covenant - what it is:

1. Binding agreement _____

2. Something of value _____

B. Blood covenant

1. Covenant sealed by _____

"...no one of the modern students of myth and folk-lore, of primitive ideas and customs, and of man's origin and history, has brought into their true prominence...the universally dominating primitive convictions: that the blood is the life; that the heart, as the blood-fountain, is the very soul of every personality; that blood-transfer is soul-transfer; that blood-sharing, human, or divine-human, secures an inter-union of natures; and that a union of the human nature with the divine is the highest ultimate attainment reached out after by the most primitive, as well as by the most enlightened mind of humanity.¹"

C. First mention of covenant: Noah

*Genesis 6:18*¹⁸ "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark - you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. (NKJV)

1. I will establish...

2. Then **after** the _____ **and** _____

D. Primary covenant referred to in the New Testament, however, was the covenant God made with _____

Genesis 15:18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates -- (NKJV)

1. First, Abram _____

2. Then Abram _____

3. Then God _____

4. From this point on in Scripture, all God's covenant promises point _____

¹ H. Clay Trumbull, *The Blood Covenant* - © 1975 Impact Books, Inc. - Preface, p. v.

E. Principles established before the Law was ever given

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

F. Progressive in Nature¹¹

1. Noah - _____
2. Abraham - _____
3. Moses - _____
4. Jesus - _____

| Noah | Abraham | Moses | Jesus |
|--|--|--|--|
| Protection - Genesis 9:11 | Fruitfulness - Genesis 17:2-4 | Access as priests - Exodus 19:5-6 | Intimacy and mercy - Hebrews 8:10-12 |
| Reckoning for lifblood, be fruitful and multiply | Walk before me, be blameless, keep my covenant, circumcision | Law - civil, ceremonial, priesthood | Offer your bodies, living sacrifices |
| Cloud | Smoking Furnace | Pillar of Cloud | Cloud of Witnesses |
| Rainbow | Flaming Torch | Pillar of Fire | Fire of the Holy Spirit |
| Burnt Offering | Goat, Ram, Heifer, Dove Pigeon | Tabernacle | Sacrifice of Praise - the fruit of lips giving thanks |

III. Circumcision - Man's Response to God's Provision

A. Man's requirement, and the sign that man was an inheritor of God's covenant was (is?...) _____

B. In the natural:

1. Exchange of _____
2. Removing of _____ around the...
3. _____

C. In the spirit - circumcision of _____

Romans 2:25-29 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. (NKJV)

1. Exchange of _____

2. Crucifying of _____ so we will...

3. _____ His image and character