

Vision 2026: Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Luke, chapter 24.

Luke is in the New Testament, which is the second part of your Bible. The first part is called the Old Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

The Covenant of the Cross

Luke 24:22-24

Luke 24:22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, “*Take, eat; this is My body.*”

23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. *24* And He said to them, “*This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.*” NKJV

Today we're going to talk about one of the most powerful & beautiful words in all of Scripture:
Covenant.

In Hebrew, that word is "*Berit*." It doesn't just mean an agreement. It comes from a root word that means "to cut." That's why the Bible often says God "*cut a covenant*" with His people. A covenant wasn't a casual handshake; it was serious. It carried weight. It cost something. It was sealed in blood.

But look deeper into the very letters of the word בְּרִית (Berit):

- It begins with Bet – the picture of a house, a dwelling place, a shelter. The covenant is where God says, "*Come inside. You are safe here. There is life in My house.*"
- Right in the middle of the word is the letter Yod – the picture of a hand. In the very center of covenant is the hand of God. He will not be on the outside looking in. He must be the center and focus of it all.
- And it ends with Tav – the final letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Tav is a seal. It means completion. It means truth. And interestingly, the ancient shape of Tav looks like a cross.

So, when you see the word “*Covenant*” in your Bible, hear what God is saying:

“I am cutting a bond with you that is serious, protective, & eternal. I will live at the very center of your life, & I will bring every promise I make to perfect completion – through the cross.”

That, family, is what it means to be in covenant with the living God.

We’re going to look at what it really means to walk in this kind of relationship with Him. Let’s open our hearts... because *covenant* is not just a contract – it’s a place where we live and never want to leave.

A. Covenant meaning...

- a. The Hebrew word is “berit.” The root word is barah. Hebrew letters Bet-Resh-Heh {Hebrew root words are imperative.} This root word carries the meaning of “cutting.” The common phrase כָּרַת בְּרִית (karat berit = “to cut a covenant”) uses the verb karat (“to cut”). Cutting signifies the seriousness of the covenant.
- b. Symbolically Hebrew letter Bet; Covenant is a place of dwelling on the inside of, a place of shelter. There is life in the dwelling, Hebrew chai, life 18 in covenant.
- c. Covenant is the beginning of something new & significant where you are to be aware that you cannot live without God in the center & focus.
- d. In the middle of the Covenant you find God’s presence. His hand ^(Yod).
- e. The word ends with the final letter of the Hebrew alphabet & signifies a seal & brings completion, truth, & God’s covenantal promises. {Tav appears as a cross}

B. Last Supper... “*My Blood of...*”

{The house (Bet) of the head/leader (Resh) through the hand/work (Yod) with a mark/seal (Tav).}

a. Note Jesus says, “*Matthew 26:24* *This is My blood of the new covenant.*”

- i. Jesus knew His flesh would be beaten, bruised & ripped from His body from the hideous treatment of the Romans agreed to by many of the Jews & their religious leaders.
- ii. His blood being poured out is the “cutting,” the Covenant.

b. When you come in Covenant with God you are, by relationship, under the authority of the LORD.

c. You will see this New Covenant is sealed with the blood of Jesus Who is our Kinsmen Redeemer & Communion is the ongoing memorial of the covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-24 (**BIBLE**)

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” NKJV

Remember the application:

I. Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb

A. Redeem

a. Def.: *To buy back or repurchase something that was lost, sold, or forfeited. To rescue, deliver & restore.*

i. We live in a fallen world. Sin entered through Adam & Eve's rebellion in the Garden of Eden.

ii. **Genesis 3:7** says, "*Immediately, their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked, vulnerable, and ashamed.* TPT"

1. Their feeble attempt to cover their rebellion failed miserably when they came into the presence of the Almighty God, their Creator.

2. They had daily communion with Yahweh-God. This time when God made His voice "*travel through the garden,*" They tried to hide because of their nakedness. (Though they had always been naked in His presence.)

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b. God “*redeemed*” Adam & Eve when He killed an animal, the first sight of death, to not only cover their nakedness, but to cover their shame.

- i. God, the Giver of Life clothed them Himself. What they couldn’t do for themselves, He did. {Demonstrate how the LORD may have laid the skins on His beloved.}
- ii. God, as an act of grace provided adequate covering for their bodies.

c. What I am preaching today, is not a robe to *cover* your sin & shame, but God’s covenant to WASH AWAY the sin & shame.

B. Kinsman Redeemer

- a. (Gaw-al') גאָלֵדֵם Redeeming is all about giving (Gimel). It gives or lifts-up with the power (Aleph) to **return** to the caring, compassionate, guiding love of the Good Shepherd (Lamed).
- b. The OT law taught about the "*Kinsman Redeemer*," was to be a "*close*" family member.
 - i. Leviticus 25:25-55 A blood male relative, willing & able (resources) had the responsibility & right to act as redeemer when a family member fell into distress.
 1. He could buy back family land that had been sold due to poverty.
 2. He could redeem a relative sold into slavery or debt.
 - ii. The beautiful story of Ruth is exemplary of Jesus Christ as our Kinsman Redeemer.

c. He is Son of God, but scripture also reveals... He is our brother.

Hebrews 2:11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

NLT

Romans 8:29 *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.* NKJV

Mark 33:35 *For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.* NKJV

He is our Kinsman Redeemer!
And... He Lives!

As Redeemer, God delivers from evil, burdens of captors & bondage (Exodus 6:6) In the midst of Job's tribulation he declares, "I know my Redeemer lives!" Job 19:25. The prayer of the Psalmist, "Psalm 69:18 Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!" Declaration: "Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble"

Let me tell you about the New Covenant... In one Three-Word Phrase:

C. Death Swallowed up

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever,
And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all
faces; *NKJV*

Sound familiar? *Revelation 21:4* And God will wipe
away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no
more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be
no more pain, for the former things have passed
away.”

In Covenant there is a table of provision &
fellowship provided; *Psalm 23:5* — You prepare
a table before me in the presence of my enemies...

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- a. In Covenant we have the promise that God is our God: Romans 8:12-17 (*BIBLE*)
- b. In Covenant you have a personal knowledge of God: *Hebrews 4:15* *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *NKJV**
- c. In Covenant you have complete & final forgiveness of sin. The blood of Jesus was *Matthew 26:28* *poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
- d. *Hosea 13:14* “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.”
- i. Our sin is great, but not greater than God’s ability, power & willingness to redeem. He can **redeem...from death**, so that **death** and the **grave** are mocked as defeated enemies.
- ii. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 (*BIBLE*)

II. Conclusion

A. The Covenant of the Cross – “*It is finished.*” ^{PeH}
 With these words from the mouth of Jesus speaks into the atmosphere, even 2K years later the ^{Dalet} doorway representing the impoverished by sin.

We declare, we have nothing of ourselves, born naked into sin & our only hope is Jesus Christ, our Redeemer with the New Covenant. This New Covenant gives the breath of life ^{Hey}.

Through the cutting of His flesh, His blood poured out sealed the Covenant. When Jesus got up on Sunday morning, kicked death in the mouth He delivered this New Covenant.

B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **He asks us to:**

- * *Repent*
- * *Live by Faith*
- * *Be Baptized*
- * *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.