

## **ANSWERS:** *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 4 First Covenants*

**Purpose of study:** *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

### **Lesson 4: First Covenants** (Day One) *Covenant of Love*

*...to be made new in the attitude of your minds;<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:23-24*

1. Read Ephesians 4:23-24. In Christ, you are made new in the attitude of your mind and have put on the new self, created to be like God in \_\_\_ **true** \_\_\_ righteousness and \_\_\_ **holiness** \_\_\_\_.

Reference verse in body of lesson:

**1 John 1:9-10** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.<sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

**Definition:** A covenant or testament is an agreement, promise, pledge, contract or treaty made between two parties to bind them together. The two groups can be equal or unequal in power, strength or authority.

### **First Covenant: Edenic (Eden) Covenant**

**Read Genesis 2:16-17 and answer questions 2-4:**

*And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16-17*

2. What was the one condition or stipulation that God gave Adam for “living” and “ruling” from the Garden of Eden (v. 17a)?

**You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

3. What would happen if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

**Adam and Eve would die.**

4. Are Adam and Eve physically alive today? Yes **No** (Circle One)

**Read Genesis 3:6-7 and answer questions 5-6:**

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

Genesis 3:6-7

5. How did Adam and Eve fail to keep the condition God set for them to live forever (v. 6)?

Eve took some of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

6. What was the outcome of their failure and sin (v. 7)?

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked. In other words, they knew they had missed the mark of holiness God had set for them. They opened their lives and their world to sin and shame. Their peace had evaporated. Their sin had separated them from relationship with God.

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12 (The one man is Adam; Adam and Eve were one in their sin against God.)*

7. Read Romans 5:12. What was the result of Adam's sin for mankind?

Mankind also received sin and death from Adam's sin.

*For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:17-21*

8. Read Romans 5:17-21. How can you or anyone on earth overcome death?

Jesus has conquered death on the cross. Anyone who accepts God's free gift of Jesus' sacrifice overcomes death. He or she is made righteous and given eternal life.

**Lesson 4: First Covenants (Day Two) Promise of a Savior**

## **Second Covenant: Adamic (Adam) Covenant**

**Definition:** Enmity is a noun that means hostility and hatred between enemies.

**Definition:** Offspring is a noun that refers to a person's child or children. Recall that Jesus told the Pharisees: *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* John 8:44

**Read Genesis 3:14-15 answer questions 9-12:**

*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life."<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:14-15*

When God tells Satan (serpent) that he will eat dust and crawl on his belly (v. 14), He is using figurative language meaning humiliation, rejection and defeat. See Psalm 44:25, Isaiah 25:11-12 and Micah 7:17. Figurative means to represent one thing in terms of another.

**Psalm 44:25** *We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.*

**Isaiah 25:11-12** *They will spread out their hands in it, as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim. God will bring down their pride despite the cleverness of their hands.<sup>12</sup> He will bring down your high fortified walls and lay them low; he will bring them down to the ground, to the very dust.*

**Micah 7:17** *They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground. They will come trembling out of their dens; they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you.*

**9.** Who made the judgment, decided the punishment, and rules all, including Satan?

God

**10.** What did God put between Eve and her offspring, and Satan and his offspring (v. 15)?

Enmity - hostility and hatred.

**11.** Who will Satan strike and try to destroy (v. 15)? (See Matthew 4:3-10 and Luke 22:3-4)

Jesus

**Matthew 4:3-10** *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.<sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw*

*yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."'<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.<sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

**Luke 22:3-4** *Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.<sup>4</sup> And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.*

**12.** Who crushed Satan's head and destroyed the power of death (v. 15)? (See Hebrews 2:14-15)

Jesus

**Hebrews 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil--*

*The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21*

**13.** Read Genesis 3:21. What do you think happened to the animal(s) that God used to make garments of skin for Adam and Eve?

Personal Answer but obviously died. Perhaps God told Adam to kill the animal and taught him the art of sacrifice; however, we do not really know.

**Definition:** Atonement is defined as compensation for a wrong or injury. The Hebrew word translated atonement in the Bible is *kaphar* (כַּפַּר). It means to cover over, pacify, propitiate (appease) the wrath of a king (e.g. by a gift). It also means to cover over and atone for sin.

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Leviticus 17:11*

**14.** Read Leviticus 17:11. How did God make an *eternal* atonement for one's life and fulfill His promise and covenant of Genesis 3:15? (See Hebrews 9:12, 15.)

Jesus Christ, God's Son, fully man and fully God was sacrificed on the altar of the cross (his blood was shed) and made an eternal (forever) compensation for my life by taking the punishment for my sins. This was Satan's defeat and promise of Genesis 3:15.

**Hebrews 9:12** *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

**Hebrews 9:15** *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance-- now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

**Lesson 4: First Covenants (Day Three) *Divine Promises***

**Third Covenant: Noahic (Noah) Covenant**

**Definition:** The word we translate ark in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word *teba* (תֵּבָה). It means a chest or box. Ark is used in the Bible to describe the vessel built and used by Noah, the basket that carried the baby Moses on the Nile River and the holy container of the Old Covenant.

**Definition:** The word we translate altar in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word *mizbeah* (מִזְבֵּחַ). It means a place of sacrifice. The first mention of an altar in the Bible is the one built by Noah after leaving the ark (Genesis 8:20). Originally altars were made of elevated soil and stones.

*Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth." Genesis 9:1*

**15.** Read Genesis 9:1. How is the Noahic covenant similar to Edenic covenant (Genesis 1:28-29)?

**God blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. He gave instructions about their food. He affirmed that man and woman are made in His image.**

*"Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything."<sup>4</sup> "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man."<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." Genesis 9:3-6*

**16.** Read Genesis 9:3-6. How is the Noahic covenant different from the Edenic covenant (Genesis 1:29; 2:16-17)?

<u>Edenic</u> – Gave plants and fruit to eat	<u>Noahic</u> – Added animals (blood drained) to eat
Specific - to not eat from tree	No specific plant or animal not to eat
No instructions on murder	God demands accounting for death of man

**Genesis 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."*

**Genesis 2:16-17** *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

**17.** Why will God demand an accounting from every man or animal who kills a human being?

**Because God has made man and woman in His image.**

### **Fourth Covenant: Abrahamic (Abraham) Covenant (Two Parts: A & B)**

**Definition:** Sovereignty is an adjective that defines someone as having supreme and ultimate power. A sovereign refers to a king or supreme ruler. God, as our King and sovereign, exercises His supreme power over creation. In other words, God is omnipotent, meaning all powerful.

*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."<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*  
Genesis 12:1-3 (Abraham's name was originally Abram and God changed it. See Genesis 17:5.)

**18.** Read Genesis 12:1-3. God told Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and go to another land. List the sevenfold promise that God desired to fulfill for Abram and his descendants:

1. I will make you into a great nation.
2. I will bless you.
3. I will make your name great.
4. You will be a blessing.
5. I will bless those who bless you.
6. Whoever curses you I will curse.
7. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

*So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.* Genesis 12:4

**19.** Read Genesis 12:4. When God told Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and people and go to the land that God would show him, what did Abram do?

He left as the LORD had told him.

**Read Galatians 3:6-9 and answer questions 20-24:**

*Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."<sup>7</sup> Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.<sup>8</sup> The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."<sup>9</sup> So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:6-9 (Reference John 3:16)*

20. The apostle Paul tells us that those who believe in Christ are children of (v. 7):

Abraham (and of course, God)

21. Whether Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, male or female, how is a person justified and returned into relationship with God?

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

22. Explain what "All nations will be blessed through you" (v. 8) meant at the time of the covenant?

Abraham: it meant that the Savior, the Messiah, was to be born through his lineage and He would bring salvation and a way back to relationship with God. Only in relationship with God can one be blessed!

23. Today, how are all nations blessed through *you*?

For a child of Abraham: it means that I take the gospel message of Jesus to all nations so they may find salvation and a way back to relationship with God.

24. What do people need to have in order to be blessed along with Abraham (v.9)?

Faith in Jesus and to live by faith and not sight.

25. **Discipleship Assignment:** As a child of the promise (Abrahamic covenant) be a blessing to someone this week. Share what that meant to you and what you did to be a blessing:

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately.

### **A. The Land**

*So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Genesis 15: 9-10*

26. Read Genesis 15: 9-10. What did Abram do with the animals he brought to God?

Cut them in half or in two.

We do not know why the birds were not cut in half. It has been suggested that the birds were too small for dividing or that they represented the future unity of the Jewish people. Two other ideas are that the non-dividing of the birds an emblem of the Holy Spirit, who is a Spirit of unity, and of "Christ's human spirit, which was not divisible."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bible Hub website: <http://biblehub.com/genesis/15-10.htm#>

**Read Genesis 15: 17-18 and answer questions 27-29:**

*When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates..."*  
Genesis 15:17-18

27. What passed through the animal pieces (v. 17)?

A smoking firepot with a blazing torch

28. Where did the smoking firepot come from (v. 18a)?

God

29. What was God promising to give to Abram's descendants (v.18b)?

Land

*So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left.<sup>33</sup> Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.*  
Deuteronomy 5:32-33

30. Read Deuteronomy 5:32-33. The land was given unconditionally but in order to live, prosper and have long days in the land, what were the Israelites required to do?

Obey God's commands and live in the way He desires.

**Lesson 4: First Covenants (Day Four) Divine Relationship**

**B: Relationship with God**

*I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.<sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."<sup>9</sup> Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.<sup>10</sup> This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.<sup>11</sup> You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. Genesis 17:7-11*

**Read Genesis 17:7-11 and answer questions 31-33:**

31. What was God's amazing promise about divine relationship (v. 7)?

To be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

32. What were Abraham and his descendants required to do (vs. 9-10)?

Males were to be circumcised.

33. What is circumcision?

The rite or ceremony of circumcision involves cutting off the fold of skin covering the end of the male organ, the penis. This was to be the sign of the *blood* covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants. The blood comes from the wound caused by the incision.

**Read Genesis 17:21 and answer questions 34-35:**

*But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you (Abraham) by this time next year." Genesis 17:21*

34. Who were the birth parents of Isaac?

Abraham and Sarah

35. With whom did God establish and continue His covenant?

Isaac

**Read Romans 9:8-12 and answer questions 36-38:**

*In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.<sup>9</sup> For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."<sup>10</sup> Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac.<sup>11</sup> Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad-- in order that God's purpose in election might stand:<sup>12</sup> not by works but by him who calls-- she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Romans 9:8-12*

36. Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys named Esau (older) and Jacob. Which one of the two did God call to carry forth His covenant with Abraham (v. 12b)?

Jacob

37. What is the reason stated in Scripture that the younger brother Jacob was elected or chosen by God (v. 11-12a)?

In order that God's purpose in election (choosing) might stand

38. Are you Abraham's offspring and child of God (Galatians 3:6-9)? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer, but hopefully the answer is yes with clear understanding.

**Self-Awareness on our Covenant God**

**39a.** What has God said to you or shown you through studying these first 4 covenants:

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately.

**39b.** How have you grown closer to your Covenant God?

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately.

**39c.** What will you do differently after thinking deeply about God and these covenants?

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately.

**Lesson 4: First Covenants (Day Five) *Covenant Continues***

**Fifth Covenant: Mosaic (Moses) Covenant**

**Read Exodus 19:1-6 and answer questions 40-42:**

*In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt-- on the very day-- they came to the Desert of Sinai.<sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:<sup>4</sup> 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'<sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,<sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."* Exodus 19:1-6

**40.** Three months after leaving Egypt, where did the LORD lead the Israelites (vs. 1-2)?

Desert of Sinai

**41.** Moses went up on Mount Sinai to hear from God. What did the LORD want the house of Jacob and the people of Israel to know and understand (vs. 4-6)?

The LORD wanted them to obey Him fully and keep His covenant so that out of all nations the people of Israel would be His treasured possession. Although the whole earth belongs to God, He wanted these people to be for Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

**42.** How is verse 6 similar to what Christians are called to be under the New Covenant (1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:5-6)?

In Jesus, we are chosen to be priests and a holy nation serving God and declaring His praises.

**1 Peter 2:9** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**Revelation 1:5-6** *and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

**Definitions:** A priest is one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God. A mediator is a go-between, a person who works with both sides in an attempt for reconciliation or agreement.

The priesthood in the *New Testament* has been given to believers. It means that Christians can "respond directly to personal activity of God in their lives, through the Holy Spirit and through the written word of Scripture, and do not require a human priest to mediate authoritative communication with God. Christians have become a holy priesthood and can minister to one another and to the world. No longer does a professional priesthood have an exclusive channel for holy Communion. Any believer can be the channel of God's Spirit and mediate the grace of God in prayer, confession, or witness in particular situations."<sup>2</sup>

**43.** How are *you* living up to your New Testament calling into the priesthood of believers?

**Personal Answer**

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,<sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.<sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:1-4*

**44.** Read Proverbs 3:1-4. What advice might you give yourself from reading and meditating on this passage?

**Personal Answer**

**45.** Are you part of God's righteous remnant? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

**Personal Answer, but hopefully the answer is yes with clear understanding.**

**46.** In the above question if you answered no or maybe, what will you do to make sure that you are part of God's righteous remnant?

**Personal Answer**

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 1137.

## **Making Disciples**

In Lesson 3 you were asked to join CLI in discipling others. You were to fill out a volunteer form and prayerfully make a list of ten people of the same sex to disciple. You were to continue to pray and seek the Lord's direction for these folks and your involvement as a discipler. Please continue to pray for the folks on your list and we will discuss contacting them in the next lesson.

**47.** Please list the people the Lord has placed on your heart to disciple: (Note: The list may be the same as you wrote down for your last lesson or may be changes after prayer.)

List of people for discipling

**48.** List any people on the list that you cannot personally meet with?

May be some people listed

**49.** How are you planning to disciple the men or women you cannot meet with?

Personal Answer

**50.** If you are planning to disciple by mail, would you or the ones you will be discipling have funds to pay for your postage back and forth to you? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer

**51.** Will you have access to a computer to print out the lessons? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer

**52.** Are you planning to disciple with CLI? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer

**53.** If you are not planning to disciple through CLI, how are you planning to disciple those the Lord has placed on your heart?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, please make sure anyone not using our materials has a clearly thought out plan to disciple others. Help them think through the steps so they will be effective for the kingdom.

**Next: Lesson 5: More Love Covenants**

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