

Kenyon, E. W.The Blood Covenant

11. Israel, the Blood Covenant People

This chapter argues that everything remarkable about Israel flowed from a Blood Covenant with God. Because God was bound by that covenant, He delivered them from Egypt, protected and healed them, gave them Law, priesthood, and sacrifice, and made them rich and powerful. When they broke the covenant, judgment followed.

Key takeaways

- The covenant obligated God to protect Israel from enemies, plagues, and disease, and to provide food, water, and shelter in the wilderness.
- The Mosaic Law was given to set Israel apart as God's peculiar people, all on the basis of the covenant.
- When the Law was broken, God appointed a priesthood, a high priest, and atonement sacrifices; 'atonement' means 'to cover,' and the blood covered dead Israel so God could dwell among them.
- The high priest was surety of the covenant, entering the Holy of Holies once a year and confessing the people's sins onto the scapegoat.

- Covenant faithfulness brought supernatural strength and blessing — one man chasing a thousand, David's mighty warriors, and Jerusalem as the richest city on earth.
- Breaking the covenant brought disaster: drought, disease, invasion, and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, with the people carried off to Babylon.

Passages worth keeping

"I am the LORD that healeth thee."

God's self-declaration as Israel's covenant physician, the anchor for the chapter's claim of physical protection.

How it connects

The covering of dead Israel by sacrificial blood foreshadows the greater covering in Christ's blood.

Scripture referenced

- **Exodus 15:26** -- God as Israel's healer who spares them Egypt's diseases
- **Leviticus 1-7** -- the five covenant offerings for fellowship and broken fellowship