



The Blood Covenant

A Study in the Faithfulness of God

Part 1: The Bond in Blood (Genesis 15:1-21)

What is a Covenant?



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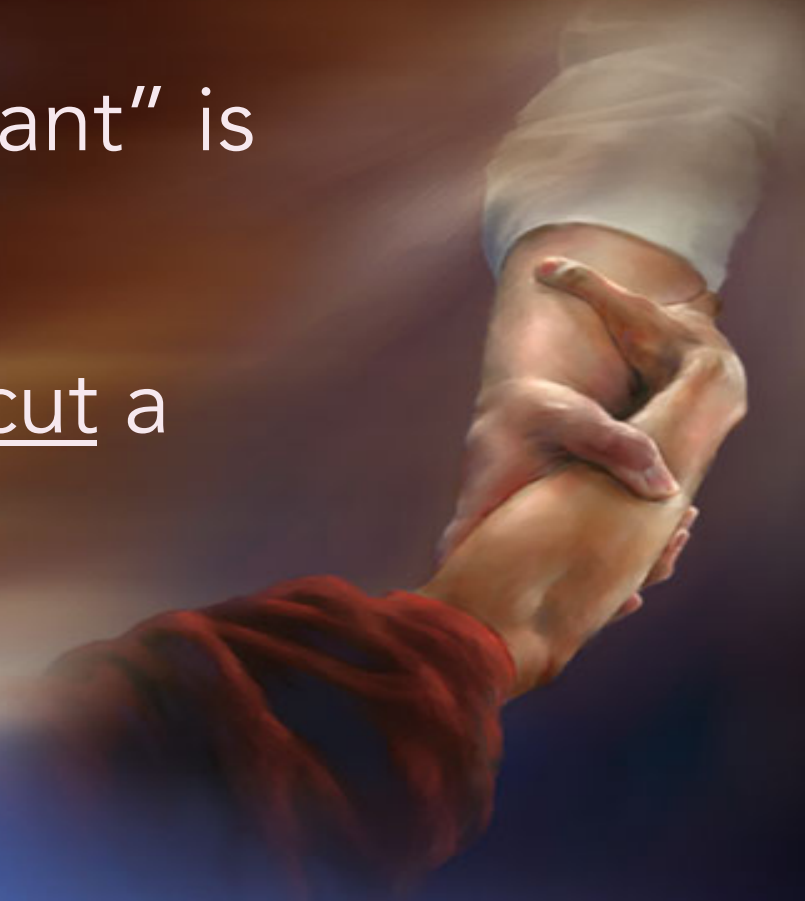


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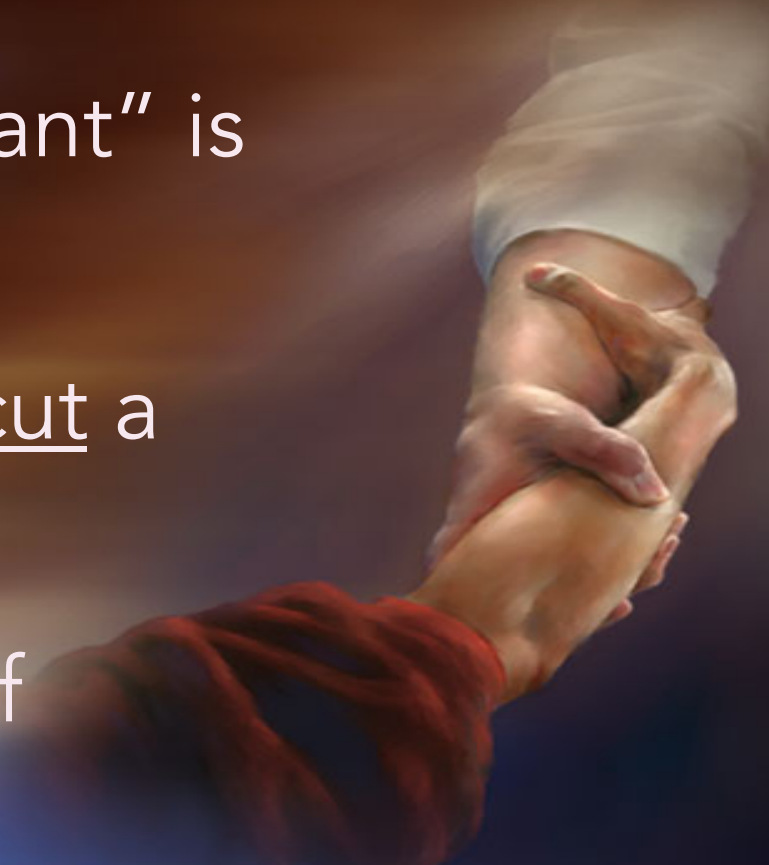
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Covenant was a social arrangement of convenience or necessity.



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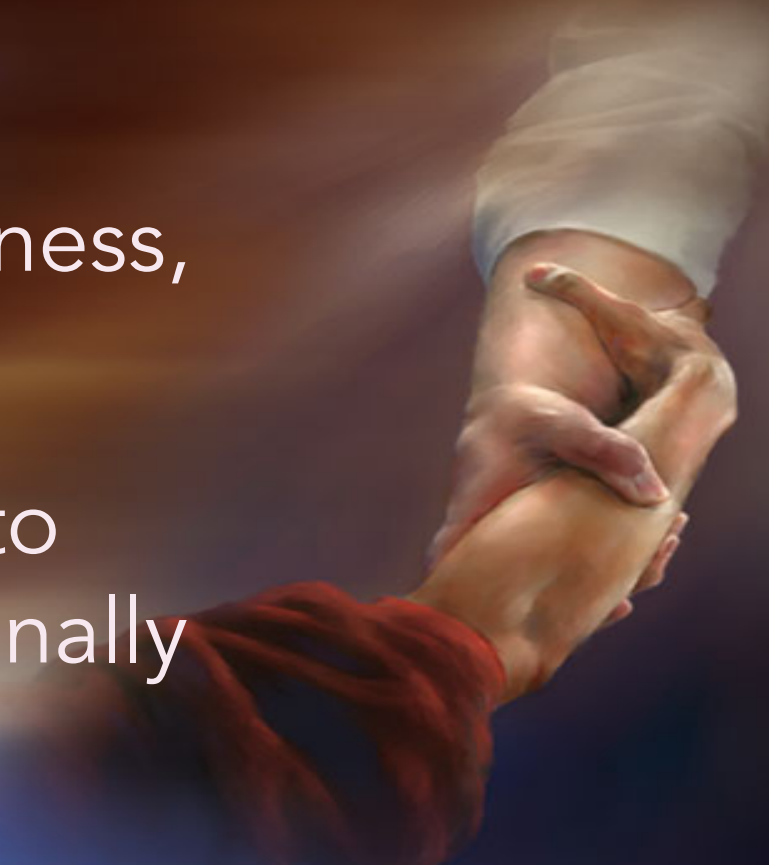


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Covenant partners die to their rights to independent living, becoming functionally one in the process.



The Concept of Representation



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My descendants—even if they’re not yet born—are “in” me.



The Public Ceremony



The Public Ceremony

Selection of Representatives



The Public Ceremony

Selection of Representatives

Exchange of Outer Garments



The Public Ceremony

Selection of Representatives

Exchange of Outer Garments

Exchange of Weapons



The Public Ceremony

Selection of Representatives

Exchange of Outer Garments

Exchange of Weapons

Exchange of Token Possessions



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Exchange of Names



The Public Ceremony

Selection of Representatives

Exchange of Outer Garments

Exchange of Weapons

Exchange of Token Possessions

Exchange of Names

Exchange of Vows and Blood



The Public Ceremony

Exchange of Places between Blood



The Public Ceremony

Exchange of Places between Blood

Exchange of Firstborn Sons



The Public Ceremony

Exchange of Places between Blood

Exchange of Firstborn Sons

Exchange of Bread and Wine



The Public Ceremony

Exchange of Places between Blood

Exchange of Firstborn Sons

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Cf. A Marriage



The Shock of the Bible



The Shock of the Bible

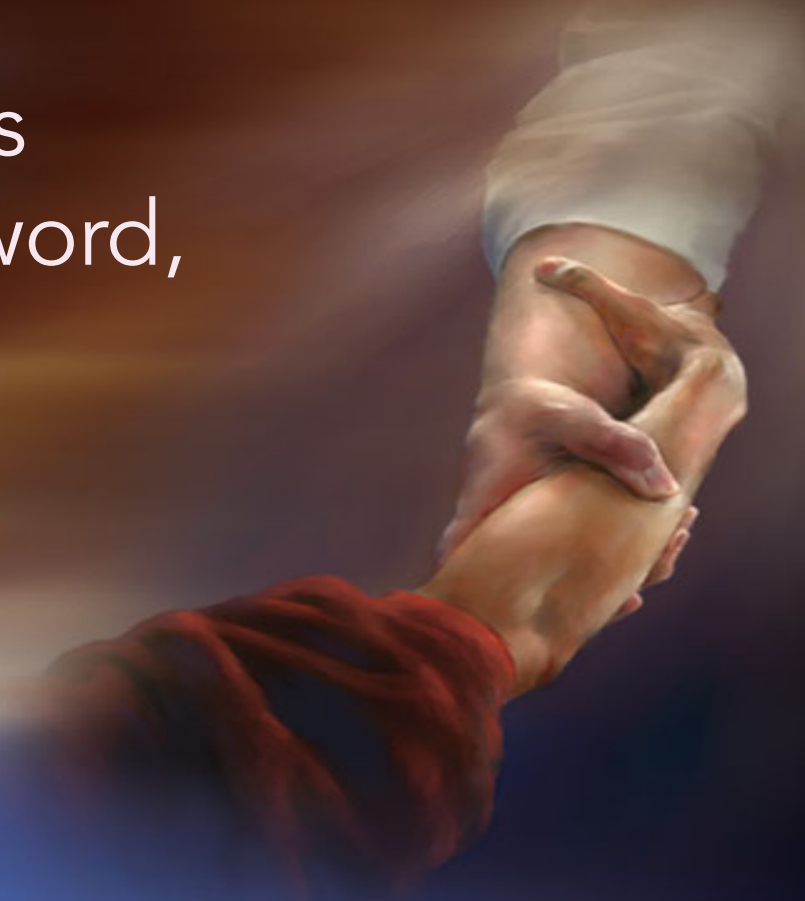
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The Shock of the Bible

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God has “married” his people; he has sworn on covenant oath to keep his word, even upon pain of death.

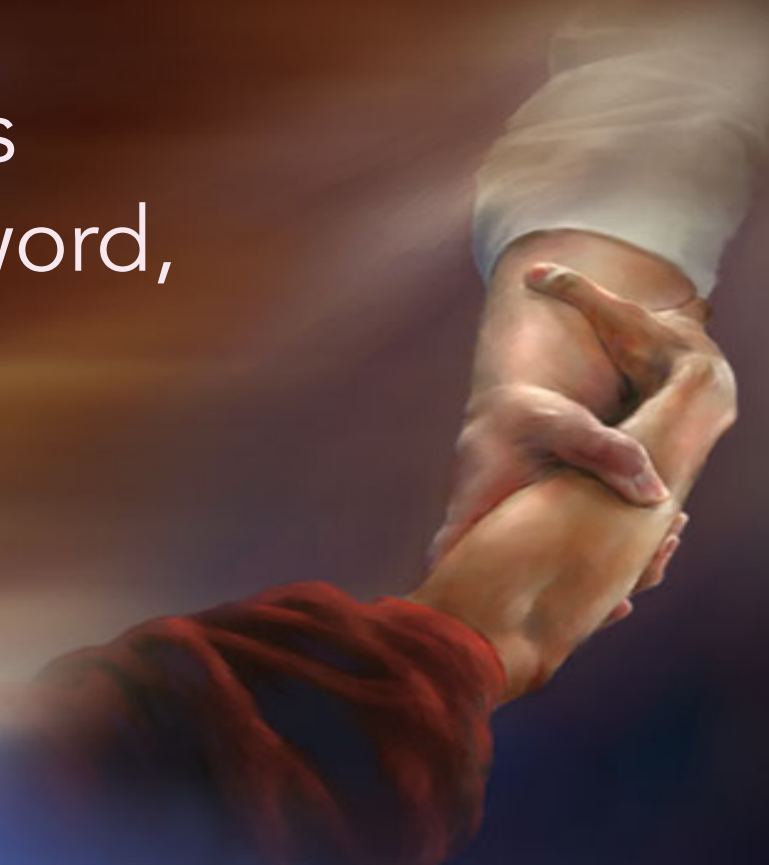


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It all starts with a man by the name of “Abram.”



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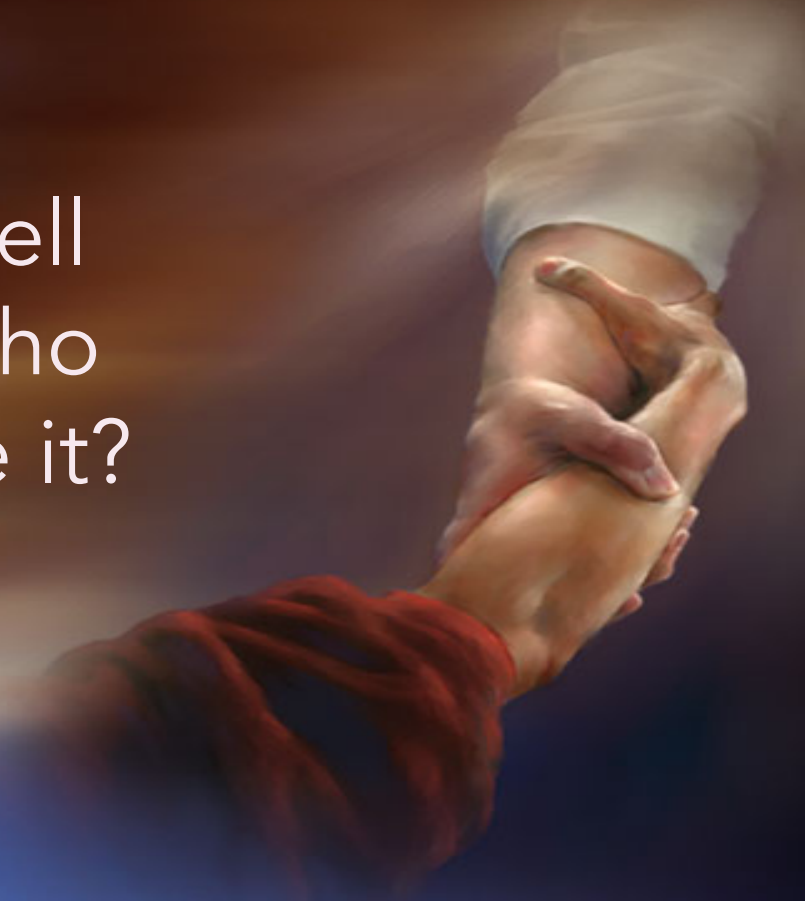
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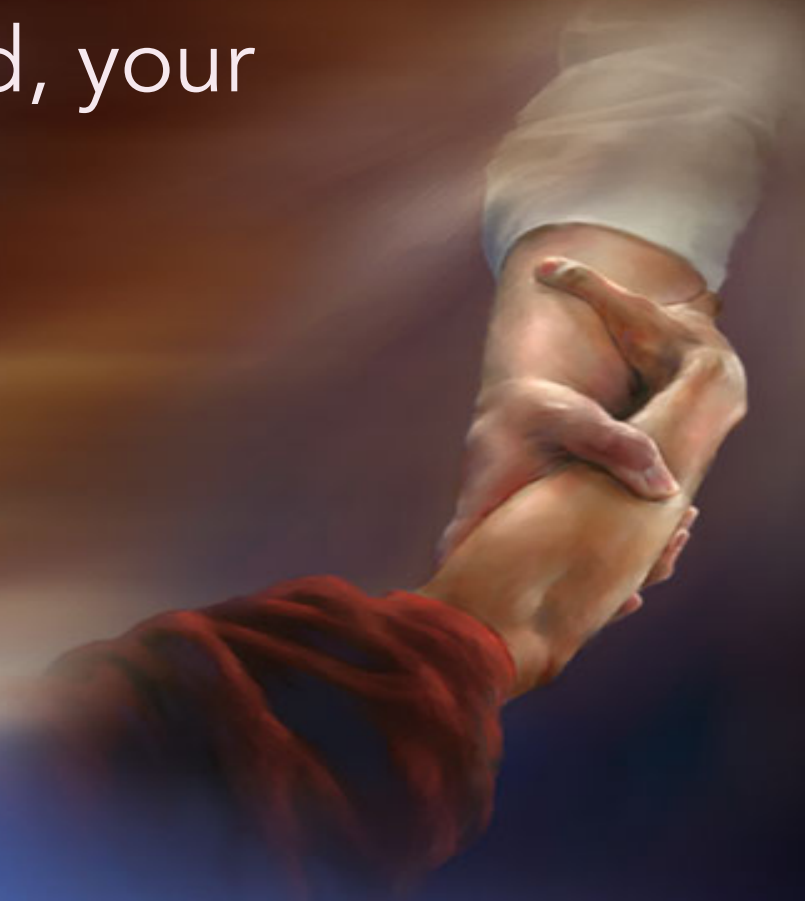
Why does God choose two people well past age instead of two young kids who are highly fertile—and eager to prove it? God helps those who are helpless themselves!



The Shock of the Bible

Genesis 15:1

The LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."



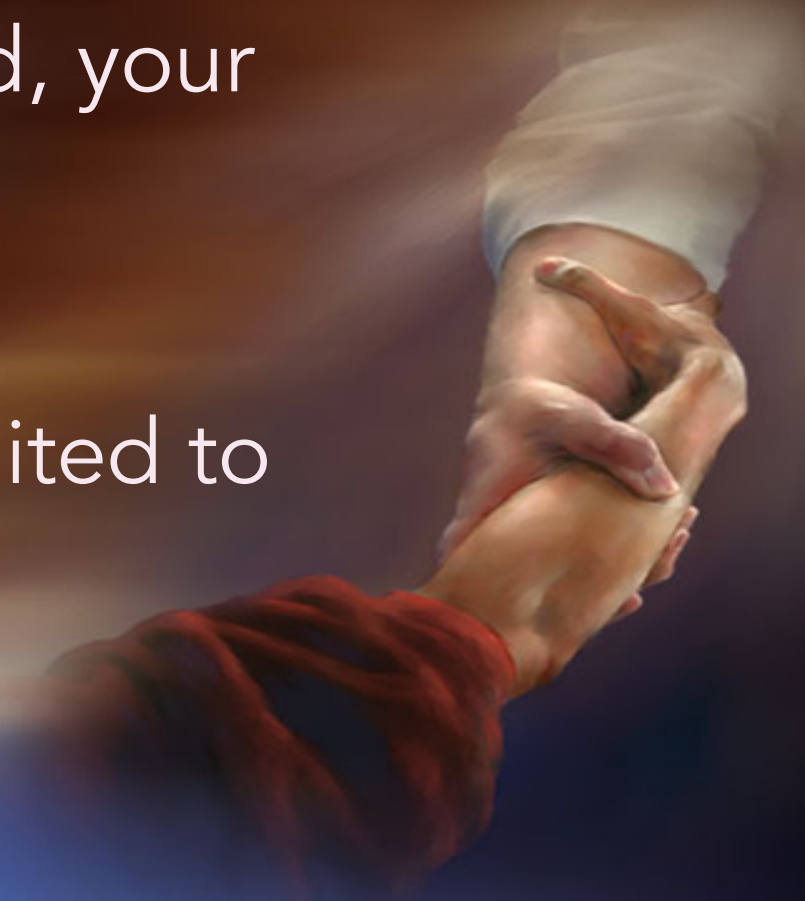
The Shock of the Bible

Genesis 15:1

The LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.



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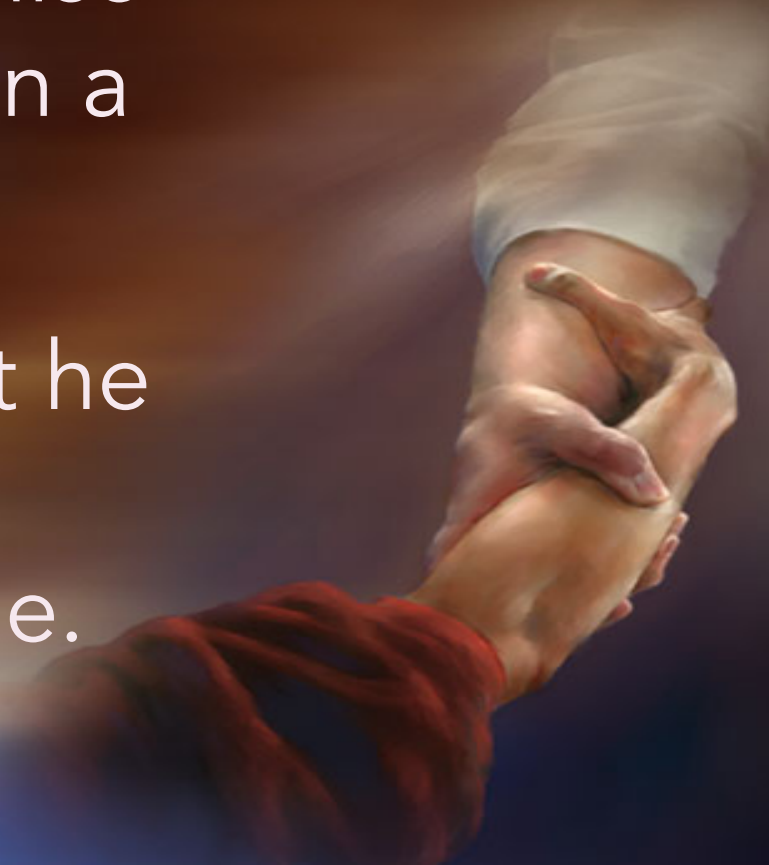
It is in response to Abram's questions about God's faithfulness to his promise that God reveals himself to Abram in a blood covenant.



The Shock of the Bible

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God loves his creation so much that he enters into covenant with us just to demonstrate that his Word is reliable.



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Abraham's circumcision was the covenant mark in flesh. (Genesis 17:10)

Abraham ate a covenant meal with the Lord. (Genesis 18:1-8)



The Bigger Shock of the Bible



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Genesis 15:17-18

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. [v. 12 = Abram is sleeping.]



The Bigger Shock of the Bible

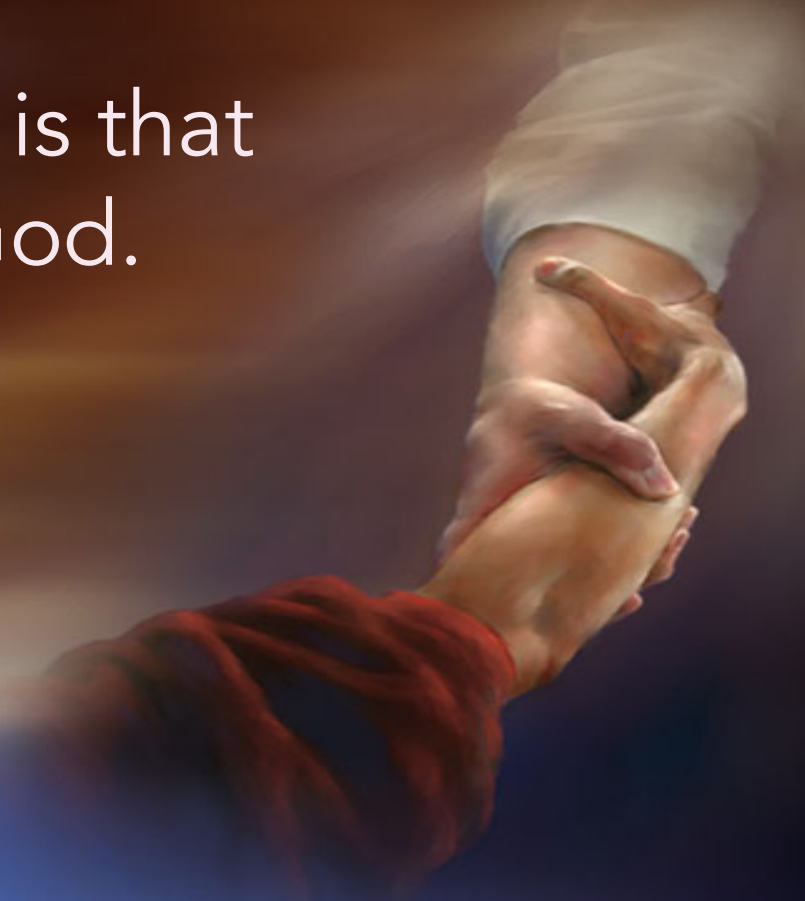
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Must God die?



The Bigger Shock of the Bible

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, didn't just walk *between* the bloody pieces of covenant, he *became* the bloody pieces of covenant on the cross.

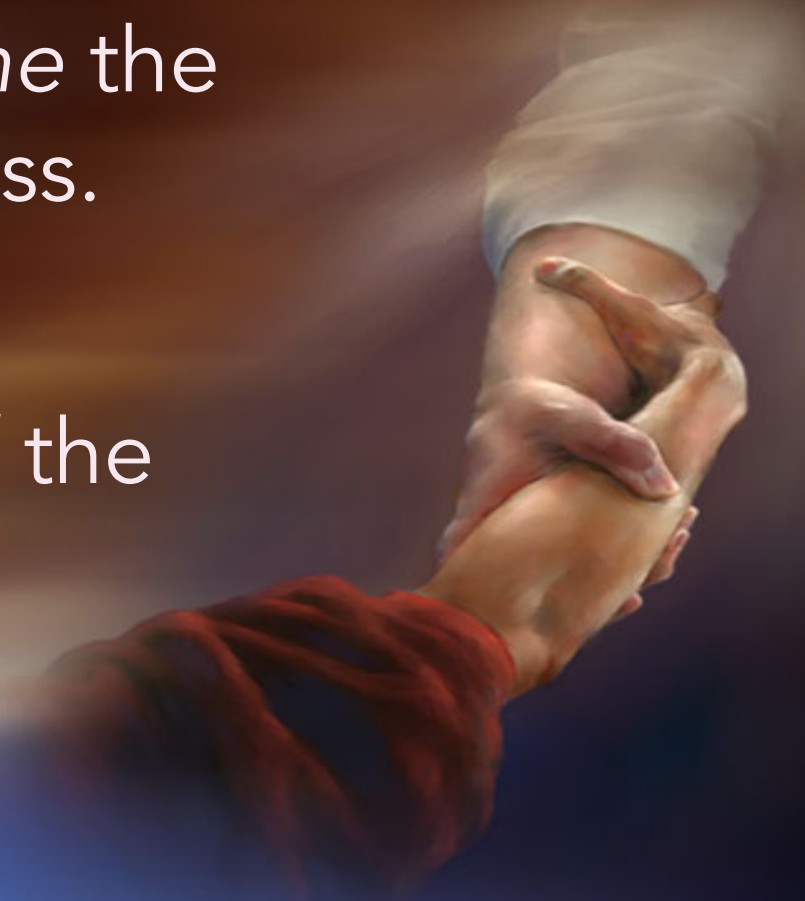


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Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, didn't just walk *between* the bloody pieces of covenant, he *became* the bloody pieces of covenant on the cross.

Galatians 3:13a

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.



The Bigger Shock of the Bible

Galatians 3:28-29

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



The Bigger Shock of the Bible

“In Christ” (e.g., 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1; Romans 6:3-6)



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There are New Covenant exchanges for the people of God...



The God of Covenant Love Today



The God of Covenant Love Today

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God hasn't promised to keep us from every painful situation, but he has promised to go through every painful situation with us.



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God has initiated this relationship of covenant love. What is your response to his initiative?





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