**THIS IS OUR STORY, pt. 2 – COVENANT**

**A Promise Sealed in Blood**

**Read *Genesis 15***

**Abram/Abraham**: Semi-Nomadic Shepherd (prosperous); from the Pagan city of Ur; married to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Abram means “exalted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is exalted”; advanced in age and childless.

**The promise vs reality:** Sarah is barren, but God promises Abram that he will be an ancestor of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The land belongs to the Canaanites, but God promises Abram that it will belong to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Covenant –** An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or a treaty between two parties, to perform certain actions or to refrain from certain actions. In some ways like a modern contract.

Covenants are the main vehicle through which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is applied.

**“Cutting a Covenant” – 3 types of covenants**

1. Unconditional covenant between “a big guy and a little guy”, a.k.a. a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” A king would give it to a loyal servant.
2. Covenant between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“brothers”)
3. Conditional covenant between “a big guy and a little guy” (king and vassal; referred to as “father and son,” or “lord and servant”). The ritual involved cutting up animals, which symbolized the “little guy.”

The shocking part was that in the ceremony of ratifying the covenant with Abram, God took on the position of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ party and evoked curses on himself!

**Parallels With the Covenant at Sinai (Moses)**

1) Language (Gen. 15:7 and Exo. 20:2). 2) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that Abraham was told to slaughter (v. 9) are also used when the covenant at Sinai was instituted. 3) The great terror and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that overcame Abraham (v. 12) is also present at Sinai (Exo. 19:16-18). 4) The presence of \_\_\_\_.

**New Covenant** – see Jer. 31:31-33 and Matthew 26:27-28