

***Intro:***

Main Point of Text: God calls His people to formally commit to Him together under His rule; they covenant with God in blood, and so receive and celebrate the blessing of God's life and fellowship.

Sermon Point: *Celebrate the Covenant of Grace.*

***Move 1: Rejoice that God calls you into a covenant relationship with Him.***

Ratification of the covenant: vss. 6-8. Covenant: agreement/pact. Two parties facing one another in formal ceremony of commitment. Establishes a relationship. Blood seals the deal (altar, God's glory; pillars, God's people, vs. 4). Meal typical of such suzerain covenants (vs. 11). Means of reference. Imposed by God, but consent desired/required for real relationship: Ex. 19:5, 8: initiated, established. Here, confirmed.

***Move 2: Rejoice that God calls you into covenant with Him together.***

Nation represented by Twelve Tribes: vs. 4. Federal headship representation: priests, and "seventy elders" (vss. 1, 9): commit their people, receive the symbol of people's reception (just like Ex. 3:16; 4:29; 12:21; 17:5-6; 19:7). Vss. 3, 7: All the people are there, respond with one voice in agreement (with children).

***Move 3: Resolve to worship and serve your covenant God with righteous reverence.***

Reverence: vs. 1: approach at distance, "come up" and "bow down". Vs. 2: people separated from the Mediator who alone goes up (like Ex. 19:21; 20:21). Vs. 4: Early morning, built an altar: must approach through atonement. Vs. 10: describes only manifestation). Righteous: Proclaimed Book of the Covenant to people: vs. 7. 19-24, or 21-24?. Mainly, Membership Vows. Contract of loyalty and obedience. Vss. 3, 7: "we will do": "obedient" (Like Ex. 19:8-9). Moses wrote all words of the Lord. Deut. 4:7-8/Ps. 147:20).

***Move 4: Receive and remember the covenant with solemnity and security.***

Blood of the Covenant, vss. 6, 8. Solemnity: blood is shed. Security: seals the deal. Janzen: blood = willingness to lay down life for the sake of the relationship. Calvin: blood increases the sanctity and security of the covenant. Matthew 26:28. Jesus laid down His life, for you His friends, to sanctify you and seal you: Hebrews 9:14-28 (allusion to 18-21). Thus, Hebrews 13:20-21

***Move 5: Recognize your privilege and purpose as covenant people and be thankful.***

Vs. 11: Eat/drink: meal. Peace offering: “happy fellowship”. See God and live! (Gen. 32:30; Ex. 33:20). Vs. 10: heavenly dwelling (sapphire tiles), pure, pristine, high, holy, glorious. Life. Romans 5:21: ... *as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***Conclusion:***

Lord’s Supper is “Eucharist”, thanksgiving.

***Celebrate the Covenant of Grace.***