

CIRCUMCISION

A SIGN OF A COVENANT



An insight into Xhosa circumcision about its spiritual significance, implications (dedications) and the remedies

Edition 1.2

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Author's Note

Dear Reader

It is my prayer that this book will be most useful to you and that it will enable you get new spiritual insights about Xhosa circumcision. It is my hope also that from the understanding and insights that you will begin to ask your own question about the implications and provoking you to action.

I also hope that you will be patient enough to read it through and see if you reach the same conclusions I have come to.

This book was birthed out of my own experiences and dealing with the Lord and His precious word as God was answering our prayers together with the prayers of those before us, asking Him to teach us the fullness of His word.

Remain Blessed

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Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge my Heavenly Father who has inspired me to put this book together, my Lord and savior Jesus Christ who has guided me through the journey by making a way for me. I also want to acknowledge the precious Holy Spirit of God who has been my most present help in everything.

I also want to thank the many servants of the Lord who have shared their experiences and revelations of the Word of God. A special thanks to Mama Laurette Mkati for every investment in my life, may the Lord show her favour for my sake. I take this opportunity to thank Pastor Victor Uchebulam, Pastor Uche, and Pastors/Ministers Prayer Network Schools for taking time to come to our nation to reaching us in South Africa with God's revelation, may the Lord do you much good.



1. The Rainbow a sign of Covenant

“I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the **sign of the covenant** that I make **between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations**: I have set my **rainbow** in the clouds, and it shall be a **sign of the covenant between me and the earth.**” Genesis 9:11-13

The scripture above is the first recorded account in the bible that God talks about a covenant. This particular covenant that God was establishing was between Himself (*God*), Noah, the future generations of people and all living creatures in the whole earth. In this first covenant God set a sign that would be an indication for how He, God the Father, would show that He remembers this covenant not to destroy all flesh with water of the floods.

God says the sign of this covenant is the rainbow in the clouds, so this tells us that the rainbow which appears after a rain storm is not just a nice thing or just a scientific thing that can be explained only by saying “*phenomenon that causes a spectrum of light to appear in the sky when the **Sun shines on to droplets of moisture** in the Earth's atmosphere*” [according to Wikipedia.org]. Although that is true and is a right explanation for a rainbow, the bible here gives us a deeper spiritual insight about the rainbow according to the wisdom and counsel of God. Considering that God is the one who created the earth and whole universe, therefore what He says about the rainbow is of greater importance, deepening our understanding.

In Genesis 9:16, the bible adds on to this and says “*When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.*” This therefore tells us that when God sees the sign of the covenant which He set in place, God will remember His covenant not to

destroy all flesh with the floods of rain. This further highlights the fact about why the rainbow was set in place by God, which is for a sign of a very serious “covenant between God and all life on earth” (*Genesis 9:17*) established by God to Noah many years ago.

Many people might not be aware about the existence of this covenant, but God still keeps it until our present generation, even after thousands of years has passed since it was established. This is evident in that even when we have had some very serious rains, through the years, that has resulted into dangerous and destructive floods, God has always remembered this particular covenant and that is the reason that God has not destroyed all flesh by rain until our day present.

It is therefore safe for us to conclude from this that the rainbow is not just some arrangement of colours that are wonderful to look at or that the rainbow exists on its own having no other significance. But that it has a main/primary reason and purpose for it to have been establishment by God, that purpose and reason is that the rainbow is there as **a sign of a covenant** that God made with all of creation.

2. What is Circumcision in the bible?

⁷***“And I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.***

⁸*And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”*

⁹*And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.*

¹⁰ ***This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.***

¹¹ *You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.***

¹² *He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,*

¹³ *both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. **So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.***

¹⁴***Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”***

Genesis 17:7 - 14

The scripture above is the first account in the bible that talks about circumcision, so let us examine this scripture slowly to see what was God talking about, in order that we may get the full meaning of physical circumcision that the bible talks about.

God starts by saying that He will establish His covenant with Abraham and Abraham’s descendants, which is a covenant without end, (everlasting). The first promise in this covenant is that God will be the God of Abraham and the God of the descendants of Abraham.

The second promise that God makes to Abraham is that He will give Abraham and his descendants the whole land of Canaan as an **everlasting possession**. Then in verse 9 God gives a responsibility to Abraham and his descendants that they must keep this covenant that God was establishing, by following the instructions He gave to Abraham.

Now in verse 10 God says “***This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcise***”. God here tells Abraham what is the actual thing that Abraham and his descendants must do to show that they are keeping their covenant with God.

Verse 11 says “*You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.*” This give us an insight into what the circumcision that the Abraham and his descendants were to keep was all about, which was set as a sign of a covenant between them and God.

This was a very serious sign of the covenant that if any one does not keep, would be cut off from the covenant that God established (verse 14). So this indicates that if someone wanted to be included in the promises that God made they will have to undergo circumcision which is a **sign for the covenant**.

*And He gave him the **covenant of circumcision**. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and **circumcised him on the eighth day**, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs. **Acts 7:8***

The scripture further shows us that physical circumcision is not just a certain ritual with spiritual implications and, that it cannot be fully explained and understood without realizing that it as *a sign of a covenant between God, Abraham, and his descendants*.

*“At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met [Moses’ son] and **was about to kill him**. But **Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin** and touched [Moses’] feet with it. ‘Surely your are a*

*bridegroom of blood to me,' she said. So the LORD let him alone. (At that time **she said 'bridegroom of blood,' referring to circumcision.)**"*

Exodus 4:24 – 26 [NIV]

The scripture above shows the seriousness that God meant when He said to Abraham that any of his descendants that would not follow the sign of the covenant, would be cut off. It was only by the wisdom of Moses' wife who immediately circumcised their son, Gershom (*Exodus 2:21*), that God let the boy to live. This was as if God was saying to Moses why his son did not keep God's covenant, so because of that God was to cut him off.

*⁶ For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not show them the land, which **the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that flow with milk and honey.***

*⁷ And their children, whom He raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: **for they were uncircumcised**, because they had not circumcised them by the way.*

⁸ And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were healed.

Joshua 5:6-8

In the scripture above [*Joshua 5:6-8*] it was the point when the Israelites were just about to begin to possess the promised land according to the covenant God established with Abraham. Here God was about to fulfill what He told Abraham in Genesis 15:16, saying "*In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here ...*"

Even at this critical point that God wanted to fulfill His promise, God had to make sure that the people that were going to take part in possessing the promised-land had legal grounds to possess the

promised. This legal ground means that they had to fulfill the requirement of being in the covenant of Abraham, meaning that every male had to be circumcised.

Even though this circumcision of the men that were with Joshua were old in age and it took some time for them to recover or to be healed, God still required them to go through circumcision. This is another example that show us the seriousness that God takes in regard to covenant and its requirements (*specifically here the covenant of circumcision*).

In the covenant that God made with all life on earth, God gave a sign of the rainbow, so also for this later covenant between God, Abram and his descendants; God also gave circumcision as a sign. In both these biblical examples the bible gives us important spiritual insight and explanation about things that could be taken lightly as having little meaning or just a natural/scientific meaning.

From this we can therefore conclude, about the circumcision of Abraham, that it does not exist apart from it being **a sign of a covenant** that God made with Abraham and His descendants/offspring. Meaning that any

Israelite boy or man who was not circumcised that means he is

→ NOT IN COVENANT WITH GOD, and

Israelite boy or man who was circumcised that means he is

→ IN COVENANT WITH GOD.

3. Did Circumcision originate from Xhosas or other Africa tribes?

When we look at the nations of the world trying to find the origin of circumcision there is not really another nation with a definite origin of circumcision except for Israel, which is given in the bible's account. Looking at the nations of Africa you would come up with a conclusion that circumcision is a common practice in Africa and it is done in similar ways. Then this is not such a strange thing given that according to Africa's history if one would go many years back, there was a time were the people in Africa lived in one place. This is evident even in the very close similarities in the languages of different tribes and nations found today even though these tribes and nations are living in different parts of Africa in the present time.

When trying to find the actual roots of Xhosa circumcision there is no real agreement of how it started and about who started it, although there are common stories about Somagwaza as being the first Xhosa to be circumcised. Even in the custom of circumcision there are many similarities in how Xhosas perform it and the rest of the other nations in Africa. With this in mind it seems as if there must have been a common origin between the Xhosa circumcision and the way other tribes and nations in Africa perform circumcision.

Whichever origin of circumcision in Africa or for the Xhosas, it is not the focus here, so I will not be in argument to establish that fact. But the main point here is that the way circumcision is done in other nations in African has some common aspects found in Xhosa circumcision, showing a possible common origin circumcision in Africa as a whole.

4. Is Xhosa circumcision a sign of a covenant?

Is Xhosa circumcision / ulwaluko a sign of a covenant also? Are there any elements in Xhosa circumcision that would testify to this? Is it a biblical pattern? Does it have spiritual insight or is it just a custom having nothing to do with the spiritual realm?

These are some of the questions that I have been wondering about also in my mind, after understanding the circumcision of Abram and his descendants.

In trying to answer these questions and also wanting to establish the truth, we need to look to see if Xhosa circumcision is a covenant or not. Then how do you know if something is a covenant or not.

Covenant making is a very common ancient practice mostly in the Middle-East and in Africa, where there would be agreements between individuals, families, tribes, etc. There are also testifies of many examples, patterns of covenant making and God Himself as a God of covenant who keeps and remembers His covenant. From this background it can be said that the common things in covenant making are:

1. Promise(s) or agreement(s)
2. A sign for the covenant
 - a. Specifications to follow that symbolic of a spiritual thing
 - b. Offering or sacrifice in the form of:
 - i. blood (Human or animal) or
 - ii. element of the earth (drink, crops, vegetables)

Let's evaluate if the two covenants that we have mentioned so far have these two elements:

- **Evaluating the covenants God made with Noah and all of creation**

The promise God made here was that He would never again destroy the whole earth with floods.

Then the sign of this covenant is the rainbow. And we should note that before God made the promises and this covenant Noah first made a burnt offering onto the Lord, with “*some clean animals and clean birds*” Genesis 8:20. Note also here the bible make specific note about the condition of the animals and birds that they were **clean**. This tells us that for Noah’s sacrifice to be accepted and approved by God it had meet some conditions according to what God regards as a clean animal and a clean bird.

- **Evaluating the covenant between God and Abram, and his descendents**

The promise that God made here was that He will give Abraham and his descendents a land which God even set out the boundaries for. And Abraham had to promise that every male descendents would be circumcised on the eighth day. There was also a time when Abraham made a special offering to God and God came down to receive that offering. Genesis 15:9 - 18

These two elements of a covenant are the most common and basic elements in any covenant making. So does Xhosa circumcision have these two elements?

4.1 What Promises or agreements are there in Xhosa circumcision?

In Xhosa circumcision the first promise could be said to be that of a boy becoming a man, meaning he would be someone important, a real person. As a boy is regarded as a dog or not important, as a result of this a boy can do whatever they like and behave in any way. So there is this promise that when a boy goes through this they would be transformed into a “man”, they would be equipped, trained to be a man. If one wants to be taken seriously, wanting to start a family,

wanting to be an important part of society, wanting to have wisdom to advance in life, then one must be circumcised to be a man.

Although these promises might not be complete, but they demonstrate a conclusive argument for things promised to a boy and agreement that if they undergo circumcision they would gain. As a result of this every young Xhosa boy would always desire to reach that stage to be circumcised and be a man.

4.2. Offering or sacrifices

4.2.1 What specifications to follow that symbolic of a spiritual thing?

Are there special requirements that one needs before they can be circumcised? Is there a specific way that one needs to be circumcised? Ask these questions to any Xhosa the answer would be definitely yes, to both these questions.

a) IMBELEKO

The first requirement would be that one needs to have had what is called “Imbeleko”, this is a ritual that is performed for each member of the family for every Xhosa although there is not real set age for this. In this ritual there is the slaughtering of an animal preferable a goat or sheep. The individual puts their hand on the animal then is taken with the animal to their kraal; there the head of the family would address the ancestors to introduce the member of the family with their offering.

Although this is not our focus here, this ritual is a dedication of that member of the family to the evil spirits (demons), by that entering into the family covenant with evil spirits; those spirits will have legal involvement in the life of that individual.

(As in the bible children were dedicated to God by presenting them before God’s altar with an animal sacrifice)

b) WHICH ANIMAL TO SLAUGHTER

Other requirements involve is that there is a specific way that one must be circumcised by as Xhosas say they must do “Isiko” (ritual) of the father of the child. This simply means that a child must have “Imbeleko” done in their father’s house or else it must be done according to one of the close relatives’ dedicated/special/specified way of doing the ritual.

Then the animal that is slaughtered for the circumcision is specified by the family’ way either to be a goat or a sheep. The goat cannot be a black one as this is not legal according to the general specifications.

c) EATING OF THE CIRCUMCISION SACRIFICE

Eating of the circumcision meat has to be a special part of the animal which is the top right side/leg (*umkhono*) of the animal set apart for the person to be circumcised. There is also a small meat from that meat that is taken to be burned on open fire then be eaten by the individual to be circumcised. The rest of the meat is cooked while the meat of the person to be circumcised is cooked separately from the rest of the other meat. When the meat is to be eaten, the person to be circumcised has to eat their meat first, and if he cannot finish the meat the rest of the family can help in that.

d) OTHER SPECIFICATION

In some cases hair from the tale of the slaughtered animal (*goat*) is taken to be put in the neck as necklace for the person to be circumcised, it is said that the reason is that the person does not get lost. This kind of necklace is also not only common to circumcision but also in other Xhosa rituals were a member of the family has to do what is known as “isiko”, which is something required for each family member.

(In bible terms this would be called a covenant requirement or specification, as Moses did not do anything by chance but as He receive instructions from the Lord)

There has to be the building of a “ibhoma”, small shelter in the wild for the circumcised person to stay in. This must be built by other men, who after they finish building are given a bottle of alcohol that must be finished there. The “ibhoma” cannot just be built by boys or women; it is a requirement that only men should take part in building it.

For the first week the circumcised boy has to eat samp, or food without fat, food without salt and also must not drink water or very little water. This is believed to help with healing the circumcised boy. This can be said to be a certain type of fasting that is required, although not fully observed at times or even done in other incidences.

After the first week, an animal (sheep or goat) is slaughtered to release the circumcised boy to eating normal food.

The other thing to note is that the circumcised person has to put on “ifutha” or “inceka”, which is a white powder on their face. This is said to protect them from the sun, but also beyond that, it is said to also provide “spiritual” protect for the initiate. The reason I say “spiritual” protection is because the initiate has to put this all the time even before he sleeps, at-least on the face if not in the other parts of the body, and if an initiate does not put it even if he would not be exposed to the sun the man that will see him will make sure the initiate put it on the face at-least. And also if a man is visiting an initiate and the man has to go, he would ask the initiate to first put on the “ifutha” before he goes or otherwise cover him self. ***(Consider also the use of this white powder for initiates is the same as the one used by witch-doctors for those who are being initiated to become a witch-doctor)***

There are more things that one can mention here but these few show that the ritual of circumcision, at least for Xhosas in this case, that there are definite specifications that one has to follow. This shows us that it is not just done anyhow and that there is a dedicated way of doing things although some might differ slightly from families and clans.

5. Spiritual importance of following specifications for an offering

A careful study of the way God in the bible commanded specifications for Moses in how the children of Israel had to bring a sacrifice before the Lord. There were also specifications on the animal to be scarified and condition of that animal. The specifications that God gave them were according to His pattern and show His wisdom, this is evident in the laws that God gave then for health purposes.

Now we will look at some examples of this, where God was specifying to Moses about how the Israelites should make an offering to the Him. A good place to see this is the book of Leviticus, if you go through this book there are many examples here that presents us with the spiritual principles that God gave His people:

*If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male **without blemish**: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation **before the LORD**. And he shall **put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering**; and it shall **be accepted** for him to make atonement for him. And he **shall kill** the bullock **before the LORD**: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces. And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire: And **the priests**, Aaron's sons, **shall lay the parts**, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar: But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the LORD.
(Leviticus 1:3-9 KJV+)*

*“And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; **the fat that cover the inwards**, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, And the **two kidneys**, and the fat that is on them, which is by the **flanks**, and **the caul above the liver**, with the kidneys, it **shall he take away**. And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the*

*burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of **a sweet savor unto the LORD.***"

(Leviticus 3:1-5 KJV+)

*If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he **shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil**, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings. And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for a heave offering unto the LORD, and it shall be the priest's that sprinkle ^{the} blood of the peace offerings.*

(Leviticus 7:12-14 KJV+)

*And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover: There shall **no stranger eat thereof**: But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou **hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof**. A foreigner and a hired servant shall not eat thereof. In **one house shall it be eaten**; thou shalt **not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house**; neither **shall ye break a bone thereof**. All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.*

(Exodus 12:43-47 KJV+)

In the scriptures above we can extract the following parallels about the sacrifice presented to the Lord:

- i) The sacrifice animal had to be without blemish
- ii) The sacrifice was before the Lord, this was by faith because the priest did not actually see the Lord.
- iii) The priests were a very important part of the sacrifice.
- iv) There were specific directions about how to offer, the Lord specifying what to do with the parts and insides of the sacrifice.
- v) There can be other food(s) or earth elements offered with the main offering (as we see in this case of bread (*unleavened cakes*) with oil.
- vi) There are some sacrifices that the blood is used then the meat and food (bread) is eaten only a special group of people.
- vii) The sacrifices that are eaten must be eaten within a set time (only one day), then nothing must be left behind and the sacrifice cannot go around to any place but must remain at the place it was sacrificed.

As God was the one giving these specifications to Moses, it means that God was saying as they follow them He will come to accept their offering. When you read further in the book of Leviticus you will discover that there are many types of offerings or sacrifices to the Lord, which the Lord gave specific direction on how they should be conducted. To name just a few sin offerings, fellowship offerings, guilt offerings, burnt offerings.

The main principal here is that when the Israelites appear before the Lord they had to have something as a sacrifice or an offering as God told them in Exodus 23:15c saying “...**No one is to appear before Me empty-handed**”. In this specific part it was when God was telling Moses about the annual festivals or celebrations onto the Lord.

This brings the conclusion that when people follow special specifications or directions for doing something, especially involving a form of sacrificing, it is not by chance that they do that, but it is according a specific pattern or guidance. There is a specific source for that wisdom that they are using. The fundamental point also is that from God’s pattern we can learn important spiritual insight about things that without knowing the spiritual insight and understanding, those things could be taken as been just common ways people do something.

We must also come to the recognition and acceptance of the existence of covenant making not only as something we can only make with God alone, but also amongst ourselves as peoples, tribes, nations, and also with the devil or his demons (fallen angels, which are known as spirits). The following scripture shows us this:

*Because ye have said, We have made a **covenant with death**, and **with hell are we at agreement**; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: (Isaiah 28:15 KJV+)*

Therefore it is important to recognize that there are positive and negative covenants, this is because there are **only two spiritual kingdoms that exist**, those are the kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. The positive covenants therefore being covenants with God for blessing, and the negative covenants being covenants with the devil and his agents for death, as the bible says that in John 10:10

*“The thief cometh not, but for **to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**: I am come that they **might have life**, and that they might **have it more abundantly**.”*

Therefore if a covenant is not of God, then we can be sure that it is of the devil, there are no two ways about it as this is the reality of things we should accept it. Then the main point also to take from this is that, in covenant making the principles are universal and have the same application when it come to the spiritual realm, for both positive and negative covenants.

We must remember that God is the creator of all things that exist, as the word says:

*All things were **made by Him**; and **without him was not any thing made that was made**. (John 1:3 KJV+)*

*Through Him all things were made; **without Him nothing was made that has been made**. (John 1:13 NIV)*

This therefore means that the devil has created nothing, this means whatever ideas and things that he uses are not his own but has taken what is of God to abuse it and corrupt it, then use it in the way it was not to be used. This therefore implies that when the devil wants to make negative covenants with us or our families, tribes and nations, **the devil can only copy from God’s own pattern of making covenants (agreements) with people**. What we should always keep in the back of our mind is that **God is the creator of all things, in heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible**.

Because of this fact we can learn from the positive covenants of God and also in the bible spiritual truths that can help us to also understand negative covenants in our own environments.

6. Ingredients or elements used in covenant making

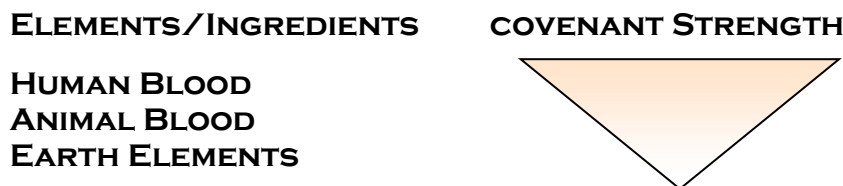
Ingredients in covenant making are the things that are used for offering or sacrifice. We can see that the ingredients are an important part in making a covenant as God took a lot of time and care to make sure that the Israelites knew exactly what to use when they are presenting an offering to the Him.

Ingredients in covenant making can be: Human blood, Animal blood, and elements of the earth like oil, bread, wine, wheat, etc.

After a covenant is made, the ingredients that are used to show the covenant can different from the ones that were used to make/initiate the covenant. The ingredients at this level are used as tokens/signs for a covenant. When ingredients are used as a token/sign, they carry special significance and power to provoke or remind the parties who have made a covenant about their agreement and promises made in the past.

6.1 The use of Blood in covenant making

This brings us to the point that ingredients or elements offered for a covenant sacrifice determine the strength of that covenant. The diagram below shows us this:



Covenants made using human blood are very strong covenants, because the blood speaks. That is why the bible says in Genesis 4:10 – 11

*The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s **blood cries out to Me** from the ground. **Now you are under a curse** and driven from the ground ...”*

*“And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening **meat offering**, and the **king's burnt sacrifice**, and his meat offering, with the **burnt offering of all the people of the land**, and their **meat offering**, and their **drink offerings**; and **sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering**, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brazen altar shall be for me to inquire by.” (2 Kings 16:15 KJV +)*

That is why the Lord commanded the priests to sprinkle the blood, when they were making a sacrifice. The Israelites had to put the blood of their sacrifice upon the door posts when the firstborns of Egypt were going to be killed.

*When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, **He will see the blood on the top and sides if the door-frame** and will pass over that doorway, and **He will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.** (Exodus 12:23 NIV)*

So from this we can see that **the blood speak** something good or a curse. It is important that we are also aware that even in blood covenants the strongest or most binding covenants are covenants made using human blood. This is because we as people we are made in the image of God and God gave man authority on the earth over all of His creative, the results of this is that in the realm of the spirit human blood is more valuable than animal blood.

*That **innocent blood be not shed in thy land**, which the LORD thy God give thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee. But if any man hate his neighbor, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and flee into one of these cities: Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the **avenger of blood**, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt **put away the guilt of innocent blood** from Israel, that it may go well with thee. (Deuteronomy 19:10-13 KJV+)*

In human blood there are also distinctions, were the more the blood is pure or innocent, then the stronger or binding it is for a covenant or dedication. Pure here means free from sin. This is the reason why satanists, sangomas and witchdoctors use babies, young children and

virgins to make their sacrifices that they may have a strong agreement. That is the reason why some sangomas and witchdoctors use human parts, as ingredients /tokens in making some of their medication, producing strong witchcraft powers.

We can also see from the scriptures that there are distinctions between even animal blood although minor, in the sense that the clean animal's blood seem to have the same class except when it comes to their age. The scriptures give a testimony of this, in the different animals that God told Moses to offer for different or special offerings. The distinction in animal blood is more clear in **Genesis 8:20 – 21**, when Noah was making a sacrifice to the Lord he did not take just any animal, but he took some of the clean animals.

*And Noah built an altar unto the LORD; and **took of every clean beast (animal)** , and **of every clean fowl (bird)**, and **offered burnt offerings on the altar**. And the **LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in his heart**, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.*

(Genesis 8:20-21 KJV+)

If Noah here did not take of the clean animal, His sacrifice could not have been a “sweet savor” and pleased God. The principle is that the elements\sacrifice used for an offering determines and affects if the offering is pleasing or not, as we would remember the example of Abel and Cain

*“In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The **Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering**, but on Cain and his offering **He did not look with favour...**” Genesis 4:3-5a*

We should notice that when Cain and Abel presented their offerings God looked at them to see what they were bringing to Him. Then from

what God saw according to the quality of the offering God was pleased with one offering and not pleased with the other.

6.2 The use of earth elements in covenant making

Now on the last part of ingredients/tokens there are earth elements, an example as we have mentioned in 2 Kings 16:15, about the *drink offerings* that the people were bringing with their sacrifice to the Lord. Drink offering might be the most common in the element as a token in covenant making, as scripture give us a testimony in Genesis 14:18, where Abraham meet with Melchizedek king of Salem.

*Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought **out bread and wine**. He was priest of God Most High (Genesis 14:18 NIV)*

*Then he ran to the herd and **selected a choice, tender calf** and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some **curds (butter) and milk and the calf that had been prepared**, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said. Then the LORD said, “I will surely turn to you about this time next year and Sarah your wife will have a son. ...” (Genesis 18:7 – 10 NIV)*

Any earth elements can be use as a sacrifice in covenant making, these elements are often use to accompany the main tokens of a covenant which in most cases would be a blood sacrifice. A covenant formed only on earth elements would not be a strong one, but never the less the earth elements really strengthen a covenant.

Here are some examples from the word of God of the use of earth elements as offerings:

“When someone **brings a grain offering to the LORD**, his offering is to be of fine **flour**. He is to **pour oil on it**, put **incense on it** and take it to Aaron’s sons the priests. The priest shall take a handful of the fine flour and oil together with all the incense, and burn this **as a memorial portion on the altar**, an offering made by fire, **an aroma pleasing to the**

LORD. The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons; it is a **most holy part** of the offerings made to the LORD by fire” (Leviticus 2:1 – 3 NIV)

“Season all your grain offering with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings”
(Leviticus 2:13 NIV)

*These are the **offerings** you are to receive from them; **gold, silver and bronze**; blue, purple and scarlet **yarn and fine linen**; **goat hair**; **ram skins dyed red** and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; **olive oil** for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stone and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breast piece (Exodus 25:3-8 NIV)*

6.3 The use of tokens in remember (renewing) a covenant

Blood or earth elements can be used in another level where they form tokens or signs for an existing covenant. At this level the use of a token is not to establish a covenant, but rather it is to confirm the existence of a covenant that is already made. The main reasons for the use/existence of a token are for:

- Recommitting to the agreement(s).
- Confirming/renewing commitment to the agreement(s) made.
- To remind the parties involved about the agreement(s), promise(s) and commitment(s). [*assurance, expectations, contract, guarantee, engagement*]

We have already mentioned the covenant that God made with Noah and all life on earth, were God says “**Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on earth**” Genesis 9:16

It is a very powerful statement when God says “**I will see and remember the covenant**”, as if God is saying for a while I had forgotten something then when this sign/token appears God would be reminded of what He had promised and because of that He acts. We can see this in the many times in the bible where God would use this statement before He does something for the Israelites.

*“God heard their groaning and He **remembered His covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them” Exodus 2:24 – 25*

God then says to Moses when He was speaking from the burning bush

*The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drives, and **I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...**” Exodus 3:7 – 8*

These are very incredible words because of the things that God says here, remember that God is the ancient of days, the one who made heaven and earth, the One who rules the whole universe. So then imagine Him coming down from His throne, where He rules over all of creation in the whole universe, because He is concerned about the suffering of the Israelites people. God saying that He has come to respond to their suffering because it is His business how they are doing (**they are in a covenant**). And the action that God wanted to do at that time was to fulfill His promise about bringing the Israelites to a good and spacious land.

Such a response from God came because God was **reminded of His covenant with Abraham and his descendants**. The principle to

remember here is that a token has the effect of reminding parties that have made a covenant about promises made and commitments that they are responsible for.

Even for the new covenant (testament) believers there is the Lord's supper as a token for the Lord Jesus' sacrifice.

For I have received of the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for your; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood: do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV)

The first thing to notice here is that what Paul was telling the believers is something that he has **received from the Lord Himself**, so that same thing he is passing to the believers. Here the Lord Jesus was eating normal meal with His disciples, as it is said that bread and wine were (still are) common elements in a Jewish meal. So now the Lord then turned what was a normal meal to use those same elements for a special dedication, as bread and the fruit of the wine has not power in themselves. So the Lord says that believers can use bread and the fruit of the wine as a token for the new covenant that He has made as He says: "**do this in remembrance of Me**".

Verse 26 tells us an important thing to remember as it says "*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** until He comes*", so this tell us the when believers partake in the Lord's Supper proclaim the Lord's death. This means if believers do not even speak themselves, just because they are taking part in the Lord's Supper they are proclaiming. The word *proclaim* also means to **declare, preach, shew** (*Establish the validity of*

something), **speak of, teach, praise, glorify, honor, exalt, promulgate** (*State or announce or put a law into effect by formal declaration*).

So this gives us a **picture and description of the spiritual activities** that are taking place as the believers are taking part in the Lord's Supper.

In the Old Testament (covenant) the Israelites also had festivals and feasts that Moses commanded them to do according to God's own instructions. This is clearly shown in:

*“In addition to what you vow and your freewill offerings, **prepare these for the Lord at your appointed feasts: your burnt offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings and fellowship offerings**”* Moses told the Israelites **all that the Lord commanded him**. Numbers 29:39 – 40

The scripture above gives us summary of the whole of chapter 29 and 28, where the Lord was giving Moses commandments and direction about the feasts and festivals (celebrations) that they had to do unto the Lord from time to time. For each of the feasts and festivals the Lord gave specific direction for it, where God would say “*prepare this ... as a ... offering*”:

*“On the fifteen day of this month there is to be a festival; for seven days eat bread made without yeast ... Include one male goat **as a sin offering to make atonement for you**”* Numbers 28:17, 22 (Passover festival)

*Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old **as an aroma pleasing to the LORD**. With each bull there is to be a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah [tenth deals] of fine flour mixed with oil; with the ram [adult male sheep], two tenths; and with each of the seven lambs, one-tenth. Include **one male goat to make atonement for you**. Prepare these **together with their drink offerings, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain***

offering. *Be sure the animals are without defect.* Numbers 28:27 – 31 (Feast of weeks)

We can notice from here that God gave reasons for each of the feasts and festivals that the Israelites had to celebrate. This tells us that at those times God had specific things He wanted each of the feasts and festivals to accomplish, the Lord gives us hints of these things He wanted to accomplish in the words like: “**as a sin offering, as an aroma pleasing to the LORD, to make atonement for you, as a fellowship offering**”. So that means at those times where the Israelites were to celebrate (*eating*) to the Lord if it was as:

- a sin offering or to make atonement → the Lord would forgive their sins.
- an aroma pleasing to the Lord → to give thanks and worship God
- a fellowship offering → To associate, Be a companion with God

So even if other people who did not know what the feasts or festivals are for, take part in them, those people would also share in the significance of the feasts or festivals. These feasts and festivals therefore served as a certain token between God and the Israelites.

In summary or principle **a token for a covenant can just involved doing certain specified simple or complex festivals, that involves actions done in the natural but in the spiritual side those simple or complex activities have special meaning(s) and result in much spiritual activities to taking place** (*though not visible to us at times and we might not feel anything as they are taking place*).

6.4. Covenant meal (dedicated meal)

Another very important and significant thing in covenant making is a covenant meal. It is often that after two parties agree on something,

they then have a meal together to symbolize their fellowship with one another and confirming the agreement. This can even be seen when a marriage takes place, after the exchange of vows (*agreements and promises*) for the marriage covenant the two families would have a meal together with the guests.

6.4.1 Main principle in a covenant meal or dedicated meal

The main principle in a covenant meal or dedicated meal, is that any food or meat that is eaten for any special reason, like a covenant being made or a special feast or ritual, when that food or meat is offered to God or gods that food obtains spiritual significance and can then serve as a symbol of agreement or fellowship. This principle is visible especially in the book of Leviticus, where Moses obtains direct instructions (regulations/specifications) from God about how the priests should and should not offer offerings to the Lord.

*“When someone brings a **grain offering to the LORD**, his offering is to be of fine flour. He is **to pour oil on it**, put incense on it and take it to Aaron’s sons the priests. The priest shall take a **handful of the fine flour and oil, together with all the incense, and burn this as a memorial portion on the altar**, an offering made by fire, **an aroma pleasing to the LORD**. The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons, **it is a most holy part of the offerings made to the LORD by fire.**” Leviticus 2:1 – 3*

*The LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron and his sons, “These are the regulations for the sin offering: The sin offering is to be **slaughtered before the LORD** in the place the **burnt offering is slaughtered; it is most holy**. The **priest who offers it shall eat it**; it is to be **eaten in a holy place**, in the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting. **Whatever touches any of the flesh will become holy**, and if any of the blood is*

spattered on a garment, you must wash it in a holy place. Leviticus 6:24 - 27

The two passages above shows us what happens when a person brings an offering of an animal or grain (earth element) to the Lord. The person would bring the offering to the priests of God then the priest, depending on the kind of an offering, would take a certain part of the offering and offer it to God then what is left over is for them to eat. We can also observe from this that certain animal sacrifice would be brought and then slaughtered “**before the LORD**”, this means that they are dedicated to God. Notice also this part that is leftover, God says that “**it is the most holy part**” of the offering.

The spiritual principle therefore is that when something is dedicated to God either by bringing that offering before the LORD or by taking any part of it and offer it to God, then whatever is left becomes holy onto the LORD. Therefore what is left over has spiritual significance.

6.4.2 Positive use of covenant or dedicated meal (God and Abraham)

A testimony of a covenant meal with God is also found in Exodus 24:8 – 11, where God was confirming a covenant with the nation/people of Israel. In this scripture God shows us what He did to confirm His covenant with the nation of Israel, where He invited the leaders of Israel to have a covenant meal with Him after Moses had told the people about the covenant and they had agreed to it.

*“Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, **This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you** in accordance with all these words. Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel **went***

***up and saw the God of Israel.** Under His feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise His hand against these leaders of Israelites; they saw God, and **they ate and drank.** Exodus 24:8 – 11*

Notice in the scripture above firstly in verse 8, that Moses says “...This is the blood of the **covenant the LORD has made** with you...” This Moses said before they, (Moses, Aaron, elders – *representing the tribes*), went up to the mountain to have a covenant meal with God, meaning that the meal they had was a testimony of the covenant God had made with the nation of Israel.

The bible gives us another picture of what happens during a covenant meal in the testimony of Abraham, as God make a covenant with him. God took Abraham step by step in making a covenant with Him, in that God did not just do every thing in one day but over a period of time to give us insight into His wisdom and spiritual truths.

*The **LORD appeared to Abraham** near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and **saw three men standing nearby.** When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, “If I have found favour in your eyes, my Lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought and then you may wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat ...” So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick he said, “get three measurements (seahs) of fine flour and knead it and bake some bread”. Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. Genesis 18:1 - 7*

This example of Abraham having a covenant meal with God, gives us a picture of what takes place during a covenant meal. Firstly we see that God came to Abraham “*The LORD appeared to Abraham*”, but for God to accomplish this, the bible says “*Abraham saw three men standing*

nearby". This means that God sent three angels (*representatives*) to represent God in the covenant meal. Although Abraham did not actually eat in the meal, "*While they ate he stood near them under a tree.*" Gen 18:8b, this highlights an important aspect that Abraham was actually entertaining/hosting God, by giving Him a special treat.

The evidence that really testifies and shows us that the meal between Abraham and God (three angels), was really a covenant meal is the fact that after the meal there was a release of blessing:

"Then the LORD said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.'" Genesis 18:10

After the covenant meal, God told Abraham about fulfilling His promise for a child. From the words that God used we can see that He was really pleased with the covenant meal, God said "*I will surely return to you*". To rephrase this "*Abram I'm so pleased with you about the fellowship we just had that now since we are so close, let Me tell you that next year by this time, of our special fellowship we just had, your wife will finally have the baby I have promised you*"

Later in this same chapter (18), God says to himself in verse 17, "*Then the LORD said, 'shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?'*". After the covenant meal God had such close fellowship with Abraham that God took Abraham as His friend that He can just tell him anything. The Lord Jesus also gives us an insight about such friendship/fellowship:

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My father I have made known to you" John 15:15

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and **he (Abraham) was called God’s friend.** James 2:23*

Here the Lord Jesus gives us a testimony that only to a close friend does one tell very sensitive information, as even Himself did this in that He would tell His disciples what He did not tell the crowds. So this shows us the close fellowship that Abraham had with God that even God Himself testifies that Abraham was his friend in the scriptures.

6.4.3 Negative use of covenant or dedicated meal.

A covenant meal can also be used on the negative side, resulting in people having fellowship with demons. This comes as a result of people eating something dedicated to any other god or gods besides Jehovah the Most High God, the God of Israel.

*When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” So the next day the people rose early **and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings** afterwards **they sat down to eat and drink** and got up to indulge in revelry (revelry means → celebrate noisily, often indulging in drinking; engage in uproarious festivities). Exodus 32:5 – 6*

*“At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. They **exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracle in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. They yoked (joined/linked/attached/unite) themselves to Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;**” Psalms 106:19 – 22, 28*

The scriptures above give us an account of what happens when people make offerings to other gods and even eat those offerings. Notice that the bible says that they sacrificed “**burnt and presented fellowship offerings**”, presenting this kind of offering as if they were making them onto the Lord. This would mean that the positive impact/significance of those offerings, if they were made to God, they are now reversed to be negative as they are made to other gods or demons.

Notice also the part that says “*They yoked (joined/linked/attached/unite) themselves to Baal of Peor*”. The word join here has the same implication as in a marriage, as the bible tells us in:

“For this cause, shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined [united] to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Ephesians 5:31 – 32

Now this scripture shows us the full picture of what it means when two parties are joked, joined, linked, attached, united together that the two actually become one with each other. The second verse also gives us an important insight into the mystery of when two parties are in covenant, meaning that the same principle in the marriage covenant is the principle revealing the truth between Jesus Christ Himself and His bride, which is the church.

The second part of Psalms 28 tells us that “*and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods*”, this shows us the strong agreement for relationship the people were entering into. This is therefore the reason why the Israelites had curses instead of God’s blessing on them and because of this God disowned the people:

“Then LORD said to Moses, Go down; for your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have corrupted themselves”
Exodus 32:7

God disowned the people for that time because they had corrupted themselves in joining [uniting] themselves to an idol (demons).

This is the reason why God many times He warned the Israelites that they are not to join themselves with other nation and do their practices.

*“Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they **will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices**” Exodus 34:15*

In the book of 1 Corinthians 10: 18 – 22, the bible gives us an insight into why God was so specific about the issue of telling the Israelites not to eat food sacrifices to other gods.

*Consider the people of Israel; Do **not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?** Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but **the sacrifice of pagans are offered to demons, not to God,** and I do not want **you to be participants with demons.** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and **the cup of demons too;** you cannot have a part in **both the Lord’s table and the table of demons.** Are we trying to **arouse the Lord’s jealousy?** Are we strong than He? 1 Corinthians 10: 18 – 22*

This scripture first makes a note from the old testament priest, that it was the priest or Aaron son (Levites) that could eat the remain of an offering. This scripture also point out that the same principle that applies to God’s priests is the same principle that applies to the sacrifices offered to idols/demons by *satanic* priests. This scripture also point out to us that **any sacrifice that is not offered to God then that automatically means that that offering is offered to demons,** there is no exception or any other 2nd or 3rd gods that are not demons.

The other point from this scripture is that it paints for us a picture that when one is involved in an offering it means that that person is like in a table having fellowship with the other person (party) whom the offering is sacrificed/offered to. This table/fellowship it can be with God or with demons, the principle is the same for either one.

Another point of significance from scripture is found in:

*“The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons; **it is a most holy part of the offerings made to the LORD by fire**”* Leviticus 2:3

*“Any meat of the sacrifice left over till the third day must be burned up. **If any meat of the fellowship offering is eaten on the third day, it will not be accepted. It will not be credited to the one who offered it, for it is impure; the person who eats any of it will be held responsible. Meat that touches anything ceremonially unclean must not be eaten; it must be burned up. As for other meat, anyone ceremonially clean may eat it. But if anyone who is unclean eats any meat of the fellowship offering belonging to the LORD, that person must be cut off from his people**”* Leviticus 7:17 - 20

This brings us to the reason and explanation why the part of an offering left behind has so much spiritual significance, this is because of the whole part of the sacrifice offered it is the **most holy**. The part left over after an offering has been presented to the LORD is **spiritually charged** up with power and then because it belongs to God the people had to be careful what happens to it and who is allowed to partake off it.

That is why God was angry with Eli and his sons:

*“**Eli’s sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.** Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was*

*being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand. He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how **they treated all the Israelites** who come to Shiloh. But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say the man who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast; he would not accept boiled meat from you, but only raw. If the man said to him, ‘Let the fat be burnt up first, and then take whatever you want,’ the servant would then answer, ‘No, hand it over now, if you do not, **I’ll take it by force**’.*

This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD’s sight, for they were treating the LORD’s offering with contempt.”

1 Samuel 2: 12 – 17

In verse 12, the bible gives us the conclusion that “**Eli’s sons had no regard for the LORD**”, then after this tells us where this conclusion comes from the fact that Eli’s sons did not respect the offerings offered to the LORD. Then as a result of this was not just any sin but it was a **GREAT SIN** before the **LORD**, this tells us God was concerned about how they treat His offering because the it actually belongs to Him, although He said the priests can have a reminder of it.

*Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal Myself to your father’s house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh I chose your father out of all the tribes Israel to be My priests, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in My presence. **I also gave your father’s house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites. Why do you scorn My sacrifice an offering that I prescribed for My dwelling? Why do you honour your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?**”* 1 Samuel 2:27 – 29

God was giving Eli a message of judgment, so in the scripture above God wanted to first present to Eli the case that He has against him, as a judge before he hands over a sentence he first gives the reason why the offender is guilty. In the reasons for the judgment God says that **Eli scorned** or **ridiculed** or **made mockery of** or **disrespected** or **laughed at** or **made fun of** the God's sacrifice (*the sacrifice made onto God*). Also God say they were “**enjoying themselves of the choice/best parts of every offering**”, this shows us that God was jealous because the offering they were enjoying was not made primarily to them so they should not enjoy themselves any how. Notice also that God says “...the choice parts of EVERY offering...”, this tells us that God was taking record that is was not just a number of offering that they were enjoying themselves on but it was every offering.

The judgment God release was for the whole of Eli's house, this shows us the significance and seriousness that God takes towards the sacrifice made to Him (*especially the one that **He has prescribed for His dwelling***).

“Prescribed for His dwelling” or **an offering that invites His presence**, giving a picture of God saying ‘*when you offer an offering to Me, I God, will come there and receive the offering*’.

For sacrifices offered to demons it means the same effects, but on the negative side which would be in opposition to God and results in corrupting ourselves.

6.5 Conditions for the covenant

The conditions or rules of the covenant are also a very important part of the covenant, weather they are written or spoken to be adopted and obeyed by the parties making the covenant. This is the reason why Moses had to write the Ten Commandments (book of the covenant) for the covenant God made with the Israelites:

*“Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, **This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you** in accordance with all these words.” Exodus 24:8*

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write down these words, for **in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel**’” Exodus 34:27*

*“These are **the terms of the covenant** the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant He had made with them in Horeb” Deuteronomy 29:1 [NIV]*

This tells us that God used the Ten Commandments, which He commanded Moses to write down for the people, formed the base/foundation for their covenant, that is the reason why the Ten Commandments are often referred to as the “book of the covenant”. The book that has the guidelines (words) for the covenant which God made with the whole nation of Israel.

Then in Deuteronomy 29:1 the scripture says “There are the **terms of the covenant...**” this gives a picture of when for example two people make a business deal there would be a contract between them which are called the “terms and conditions”. For a business deal the terms and conditions have legal implications and are binding on the business partners. In the case where there might be disagreements between business partners the *terms and conditions* of their partnership can be presented in a court of law, then the judge can give a judgment according to what is written in the *terms and conditions* of the contract. As it is in this natural principle so it is in the spiritual principle about covenant terms and conditions without separation, distinction or exception.

The legal implications of the terms and conditions of the covenant can clearly be observed in the following scriptures

“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all His commandments that I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God” Deuteronomy 28:1 – 2

“However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all His commandments and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.” Deuteronomy 28:15

These scriptures testify to the fact that if the terms and conditions, for the covenant that God made with the Israelites, are to be fulfilled by the Israelites then there would be positive consequences (“*all these blessings*”) or if they are not fulfilled then there would be negative consequences (“*all these curses*”). Here I only talk about the consequences for the Israelites breaking the covenant and not God breaking the covenant, because it is the only exception that God can not and will not at any time break His covenant that He has made.

“This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not established My covenant with day and night and the fixed laws of heaven and earth, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them’” Jeremiah 33:25 – 26

“Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor [abominate, loathe] them so as to destroy them completely, breaking My covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I

brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to their God. I am the LORD. These are the decrees, the laws and the regulations that the LORD established on Mount Sinai between Himself and the Israelites through Moses.

Leviticus 26:44 – 46 [NIV]

These scriptures testify that God can not and shall not break His covenant, even when the Israelites where many times unfaithful, God was still faithful to them even to this day, that is what God says “**Yet in spite of, ... I will not reject them so as to destroy them completely, braking My covenant with them**”. This is the reason why Satan fights the nation of Israel so much, to destroy the nation of Israel completely to try to make God break His covenant, thus making God a liar as God can not break His covenant to change the thing that has said. Even for us a Christian we should not forget this and think that we have replaced Israel, for God even now has not forsaken Israel forever but He is seeking to make them jealous by us and win them back.

Therefore the words/terms of the covenant can be taken as a contract that both parties have to keep and honour all the time making both parties happy, but failure to do this, results in the one party being unhappy then there would be some negative consequences to force the other party to keep their part to honor the agreement.

The Lord Jesus brought us another point/depth in regard to the conditions or terms or words of the covenant.

“If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one that this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command.” John 15:10 - 14

Note from the words of the Lord Jesus that as the parties obeys the terms/commands of the covenant each party will be in good relationship with the other, **“you will remain in My love”**. And the Lord also says that doing or obeying or keeping the terms/commands of the covenant is a proof of the friendship.

The final point in talking about the terms/commandments of a covenant we find in:

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw”

1 Corinthians 3:10 – 12

Note that as the apostle Paul was preaching the message of Jesus Christ, the scripture says that He was laying a foundation; that is to say that the words he was telling the people, by God’s grace by the Holy Spirit, were the bases for them to believe in the Lord Jesus. As Leviticus 26:46 says that gave the people of Israel the decrees, laws and the regulations through Moses.

These are the decrees, the laws and the regulations that the LORD established on Mount Sinai between Himself and the Israelites through Moses.” Leviticus 26:46 [NIV]

So also in like manner as scriptures say that as Paul was preaching he was laying a foundation, remembering that what Paul was preaching was the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the new testament/covenant that the Lord Jesus made through His blood.

“And it was not without an oath! Others became a priest with an oath then God said to Him: ‘The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind: You are a priest for ever.’ Because of this

oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.” Hebrews 7:22

From this we can see the principle that the words or terms or commandments of a covenant form a foundation /platform/support which the parties operate from in their covenant. Notice that Paul says that as an expert builder he laid a good foundation, which would mean a good base/foundation results in a good support for what follows. Note also the need to use the right material to continue even on a good foundation that has been laid. The material here speaks of the things the parties do as they continue to build on the foundation.

We can note some of the bad material in the example of Israel which in many occasions continued to break God’s commandments after God had made a covenant with them. Many of the kings over Israel also made use of bad material on a previously good foundation laid by David, a man after God’s own heart.

*“Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up a leader over My people Israel. I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but **you have not been like My servant David, who kept my commands and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes. You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked Me to anger and thrust Me behind your back.**” 1 Kings 14:7 – 9*

The above scripture gives us a testimony about Jeroboam, who did not use the right material to build from the good foundation laid by King David.

7. Consequences & implications of Xhosa circumcision covenant

It is important to note that each and every covenant has its consequences or effects or implications, which can be better understood as outcomes/results that come because of the covenant that is made between parties. The results we will be talking about here you should think of them in the sense of mathematical calculations where you are given values for “x” and “y” then you must substitute the values according to the formula or theorem given, then depending on the values you will get the results. So for us here we have been talking so far about the spiritual formulas or theorems according to God’s truth about covenant making. As we look at some the results that come as an effect of Xhosa circumcision, we are only substituting the values (things done in Xhosa circumcision) into the formula (eternal truth of God’s word).

7.1 Deep bondage because blood dedications

Dedication is defined as “***Give entirely to a specific person, activity, cause***” or “***Open to public use, as of a highway, park, or building***”, the above mentioned dedications are the grounds that we give to the devil to have access into our lives as men when we go through circumcision. Bondage is defined as “***the state of being under the control of another***”.

We have looked into the meaning of offerings or sacrifices that are made to God which served a number of purposes, like for fellowship, sin offering, burn offering. When it comes to Xhosa circumcision the offerings made involves:

i) Drinking (umqombothi/African beer) offering dedications

The drink offering is made on the day the boy is to be circumcised, secondly when the initiate has completed a week in the bush and is to change to eat normal food. Thirdly umqombothi is also made when the initiate comes out from the bush. For the most part “umqombothi” is required in these three occasions even if it is accompanied by the new alcohol that is from the west in these days. In these three occasions, especially when the initiate is coming out, you will mostly find that many people drink and be out of control.

This would signify to us the level of dedication, and now this is even more clearly visible in the way that young men after circumcision tend to be drinking a lot some to an un-imaginable level. Drunkenness is a major effect of the Xhosa circumcision, which is why today you see that many men are given into much drinking and some find it very hard to stay away from drinking, it is because in the Xhosa circumcision covenant there is a strong drink offering dedication. This strong dedication results in much drunkenness of those men involved in circumcision.

ii) Blood offerings dedications

The blood dedication is in two levels, firstly animal blood and secondly human blood. The first animal blood that is shed is the blood shed for “imbeleko” (child dedicate), as it is said that one cannot be circumcised without first doing “imbeleko”. This “imbeleko” has to be done from the father’s side even if the father has passed away because it is called “isiko” (*ritual*). The spiritual truth about this is that this is done in order to join into the family dedication to the ancestors (family demos), as each family member has to do this where they are formally introduced to the family demons. (*Our fathers did not serve the Jehovah God, so the only other God they served are demos.*)

The other animal blood is from the animal slaughtered when the initiate is to be circumcised, then a week after he has been in the

bush, then thirdly when he comes out. Then the human blood comes from when the initiate's fore-skin is cut, when the blood falls upon the ground, some initiate then eat their fore-skip raw or burry it on the ground.

From this we can see the level or depth of dedications as a result of so much blood shed. Remember here even if there is no shedding of animal blood the fact that the human blood falls on the ground it is a deep dedication enough by its own. The bible gives us a spiritual truth and a picture about what happens when blood falls into the ground in Genesis 4:10-12, that when blood is shed on the ground the ground actually opens up its mouth to receive the blood.

So from the above therefore you can see how much room we are giving to the enemy to have control/influence over our behavior and actions since we have given him so much room to operate.

*“They **yoked [joined]** themselves to Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods” Psalms 106:28*

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united [joined] to his wife, and the two will become one flesh**” Genesis 2:24*

*“You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, **the wife of your marriage covenant**” Malachi 2:14*

The effects of the dedications also mean the same result that come from a marriage, between a man and his wife, to become one flesh. Marriage is a covenant; therefore this means that when parties make a covenant they are joined together.

“The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife” 1 Corinthians 7:4

These scriptures also further confirms the deep implications of the marriage covenant, we can therefore see what this means for any parties who are in covenant.

7.2 Pollution of the land

“The Lord said, ‘What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its month to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.’”

Genesis 4:10 – 12

This scripture gives us the testimony of the effect/result of blood being shed upon the land. Notice that even the place, where Abel blood’s was shed, that Abel’s blood was crying.

“And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of the righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berakiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar”

Matthew 23:35

“Therefore for this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary, Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all” Luke 11:50 – 51

These scriptures shows us the spiritual principle about the records that are there even about the first innocent blood that was shed on

the earth, after many year had passed and many people had come and gone, the records were still there about the blood that was shed.

Notice also that because the blood of Abel was shed without a cause or was shed for the wrong reason, it brought a curse upon the land, which made the land to “**no longer yield its crops**”. This effect of the blood that is shed upon the land is a contributing factor for the decreased productivity of the land in the rural areas.

*“They **sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated [polluted, violated] by their blood.**” Psalms 106:37 – 38*

This scripture gives us another testimony about the full implications or effects when innocent blood is shed upon the land. The blood that is shed includes human blood and animal blood.

7.3 Demonic/Water spirits Baptism (New birth)

On the day when an initiate is to return from the circumcision school it is a requirement that they go to the river to be washed; this has very important spiritual significance as it is a symbol of baptism. Baptism according to the scriptures is regarded as “*signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth*”

*“By no means! **We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were baptized into death with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life**”*

Romans 6: 2 – 4

From this scripture we can notice the spiritual significance of baptism that happens when a person goes through water baptism. This means that when a person is baptized; what the person is doing in the natural is a sign of dying with Christ and rising again with Him in the newness of life.

The application in Xhosa circumcision is the same because when an initiate is washed it is a symbol of washing away everything and living behind the things of being a boy and an initiate (*ubukwetha*), into becoming a man. This is a very important requirement before an initiate can return home and be a man.

Another significance of baptism is the spiritual activities that happen during baptism, a testimony of this is clearly shown from the scriptures:

*“As soon as **Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased’.**”* Matthew 3: 16 – 17

*“Then John gave this testimony; ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, **‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.; I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.’**”* John 1:32 – 34

We can note from Matthew 3:16 that as John was baptizing the Lord Jesus in the natural, there was a lot of activity in the spiritual where the Holy Spirit came down upon Him and also God came down to speak in an audible voice. Then also John 1:32 – 34, by the testimony of John we

are assured by the scripture that it was not only that the Holy Spirit came down upon the Lord Jesus only because it was him, but that all the people that John baptized the Holy Spirit would come down upon them and then return back to God (as *the Holy Spirit did not remain*). So from this we can notice and get an idea of the spiritual activities that take place during baptism.

This spiritual activity is also true when it comes to the Xhosa circumcision baptism in the river. Most significantly when the initiate washes in the river, the result is the joining and agreement with water spirits to give them access. This is the reason why witch-doctors and sangomas for their initiation they wash in the river (*and even sea*) to obtain spiritual power from water spirits.

*“For we know that our old self was **crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”* Romans 6:6 – 7

The implication of an initiate washing in the river, are outlined in this scripture but in the negative side because the baptism is not for God's glory and purpose. This scripture would then be reversed to advance the devil's program not this scripture becomes:

*“... our old self was **crucified (in Xhosa circumcision) with my ancestors (demons) so that the body of righteousness might be done away with**, that we should **no longer be slaves to righteousness**, because anyone who has died has been bound to sin”*

As the Spirit of God has access and causes us to live a righteous life as we are baptized into Christ (*water baptism is only a sign this*), so also does the devil have access and causes us to live unrighteous lives when we are baptized negative baptism (*demons or water spirits*).

7.4 Satanic/Bush Anointing

After the washing in the river by the initiate, the initiate returns to where their *ibhoma* (*the house in the bush*) is, then there margarine (*substitute for butter*) is taken to be smear upon the initiate from the head to the toes covering the whole of the body. Generally margarine is mainly made from vegetable oils. This therefore the margarine speaks of the initiate being anointed.

“Take the **anointing oil** and anoint him by pouring it on his head”

Exodus 29:7

*“Make these into a **sacred anointing oil**, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil ... Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. Say to the Israelites, “This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come” Exodus 30:25, 30 – 31*

We must remember that Satan always steals from God whatever he uses, so as we can notice from the scriptures above that “anointing oil” is God’s idea. So as God would use the anointing oil so also the enemy has copied it. As the Lord Jesus was baptized He testified that:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because **He has anointing Me...**”

Luke 4:18

So also it is with Xhosa circumcision that as an initiate is baptized into it, there is a demonic anointing that the come upon the initiate. This demonic anointing results a different behavior of the initiate, this is the reason that there are certain things that are common to Xhosa man without anyone teaching the other one. These certain things Xhosa man do it under this demonic anointing, like abusing their children, women, some man being very violent especially towards woman, man having children out of marriage thereafter not willing to take responsibility and forsake their children, and also many other things

that we might consider to be normal but they as a direct result of the operation of this demonic anointing.

7.5 Exchange of glory

We as people we are made in the image of God, meaning that God has given us his authority on the earth and crowned us with glory and honour, the following scriptures testify to this:

“So God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground’ Genesis 1:27 – 28

*“What is man that you are **mindful of him**, the sun of man that you care for him? You made him a **little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with GLORY and honour**. You made **him ruler over the works of your hands**; you put everything under his feet: **all flocks and herds and the beasts of the field the birds of the air and the fish of the sea**”* Psalms 8:4 – 8

In the light of these scriptures above it is now improper for man to depend on or bow down to worship the same creatures that God commanded him to rule over to take care of them, as God’s steward or caretaker.

*“At Horeb they made a calf and **worshipped an idol cast from metal**. They **exchanged their glory for an image of bull, which eats grass**”*

Psalms 106:19 – 20

“and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Romans 1:23

These scriptures above (*Romans 1:23; Psalms 106:19 – 20*) give us a testimony of what happens when man now chooses to worship the created animals. Notice that because of the worshipping the created animals, instead of the creator, man exchanges the glory that God has placed upon him to that of the animal that is slighted on their behalf, whether it's a bull/cow or goat or sheep or even a reptile.

7.6 Pollution of the mind

When an initiate is in the circumcision school they are taught many things that are not consistent with God's word, like

- You are not to share everything with a woman because women are like flies that will go around spreading everything you tell them.
- Now that you are a man you must sleep with a girl immediately to release the bad luck of being an initiate (*ukukhupha ubukwetha*), this girl must just be for this purpose only and not for a meaningful or lasting relationship.

Other things which are not necessarily taught specifically but are promoted like

- A man must drinking,
- A man must buy alcoholic drink for other man, or for when he is introducing him self or visiting other man. (*ihambihlani*)
- Smoking is at times promoted especially the smoking of *daga*, for relieving the pain in the early stages of the initiation.
- Disregard of boys because being a man makes one better than a boy, and the man can now handle family issues, which are not for boys.

- And many other false arguments that since you are a man it is as if you have graduated from a big institution and have a big degree of manhood, this makes them to be over proud about being a man. Also that they now have extra rights to do what they like and at any time because they are now a man.

All these things brings about a pollution of the mind which the bible calls futility of the mind and darkening of foolish of hearts (***their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened***).

*“For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened**. Although they **claimed to be wise, they became fools** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore **God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – Who is for ever praised. Amen.**”*

Romans 1:21 – 25

After this pollution of the mind a man will now thinking differently and having a different outlook in life like:

- A man who is to marry will not trust his wife to share everything with her, which is contrary to what God says

*“For this reason a man will **leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame**”* Genesis 2:24 – 25

(“*man and his wife were both naked*” = speaks of the openness between the two)

- A boy who had not interest in drinking will now be having more opportunity and inclination to drink because he is now a man.
- A boy who did not have not started any relationship with girl will be put under the pressure of getting a girl to use her to just get rid of the bad-luck, from initiation school, this might result in the man having a child with that girl and then abandoning her as he did not love her or was not attracted to her as a person.
- The boy who used to be close to his mother will now not share or get advice from his mother because he is afraid that the mother will tell everyone, this might be even things that are related to life in general.

The level of pollution is wide that I would fail to cover it all, but the point is that it is great and some of its effects are things/mindsets that are considered to be normal.

7.7 God disowns the people and brings judgment

The Xhosa circumcision covenant which joins a man onto the demonic spirits, means in other words that the man has forsaken God because of being in another covenant. This then brings God's judgment which is His own response because of how this offends Him.

“They provoked the LORD to anger by their wicked deeds, and a plague broke out among them” Psalms 106:29

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn way from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and scarified to it and have said “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt” Exodus 32:7 – 8

Note that these scriptures are talking about the same event of the Israelites choosing other gods for themselves and making offerings to those gods. By what they did they “**provoked the LORD to anger**”, not that God wanted to do anything bad to them but by them making offerings to other gods they were competing with God, the Almighty God, Creator and possessor of heaven and earth. Any offerings made to any other false gods is offensive to God because “**the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it**”. Notice now that because the people’s offense, God firstly tells Moses that he must go back to the people whom God says its “**your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt**”.

*“Ask now about the former days long before the time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. **Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides Him there is no other. From heaven He made you hear His voice to discipline you. On earth He showed you his great fire, and you heard His words from out of the fire**”*
Deuteronomy 4:32 – 36

*“And **GOD SPOKE ALL THESE WORDS: ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.’**... When the people **saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trump tans saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die**”* Exodus 20:1, 18

The Scriptures above tell us that God Himself was the one who brought the people of Israel out of Egypt, so then the question is why did God in Exodus 32:7 say to Moses “*Go down, because **your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt***”. The answer to this is that because the people had made themselves god and said it was those gods in the image of a calf that brought them out of Egypt, God was offended and disowned the people as His and disassociated Himself as the one who brought them out of Egypt.

Now because of God’s anger Psalms 106:29 says that “***a plague broke out among them***”, that many people died numbered 24 000.

“... *Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; but **those who died in the plague numbered 24 000***” Numbers 25:9b

Part of the deaths of initiates has taken place as a direct result of God’s judgment on the land, because God have been speaking to us as the Xhosas since the time of Nstikana the first Xhosa prophet about the issue of ancestral worship which also comes into circumcision. Also the word of the Lord has come also in the generations that followed, even in pastor Nicolas Bengu’s generation about circumcision to us as the Xhosas. Even in this generation the word of the Lord is being proclaimed, if we after hearing it do not follow after His word then there is no excuse that we did not know the truth. For the time we did not know the truth God had mercy on us but in this generation when God is revealing His truth we should changes our ways to walk in the light of the LORD.

7.7 Sexual immorality

Sexual immorality in a level that has not been know before is also so evident in our land, breaking families and resulting in almost every young girls (*youth*) being impregnated by mostly young man. The level in which young man and woman are so involved in all kinds of sexual

immorality, it is the effect of the pollution on the land that people are inclined to this.

“While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices of their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them.” Numbers 25:1 – 3

Notice from the scripture above that because the Israelites when in Shittim the men started to be indulge [**give free rein to, enjoy to excess**] **in sexual immorality**. This happened as a result of the gods who were being worshiped in the land which created a certain spiritual climate in that area/territory. So also in our land part of the level of sexual immorality and problems in marriages it is as a direct result of the altars of circumcision on the land.

7.8 Multitude (cloud) of witnesses

“ONE WITNESS IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONVICT A MAN ACCUSED OF ANY CRIME or offence he may have committed. A matter must BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES” Deuteronomy 19:15

“Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness”
Numbers 35:30

These scriptures above show us the importance of witnesses to establish a matter and at least there should be two or more witnesses. Then seemingly the greater the number of witnesses the more or better

it is to establish a matter, where the bible puts it as **a cloud of witnesses.**

“Therefore, since we are **surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses ...**” Hebrews 12:1a

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night,** has been hurled down” Revelation 12:10

On the other hand the devil is the accuser who accuses us before God day and night, a further testimony of this is found in the testimony of Joshua (Zechariah 3:1-3 below) the high-priest.

*“Then he showed me **Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and satan standing at his right side to accuse him.** The LORD said to satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire? Now Joshua **was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.**”* Zechariah 3:1-3

Therefore because of this, when there are witnesses witnessing against us as men that we are in the covenant of circumcision with demonic spirits, it gives power/opportunity to the devil that he can accuse us before the Lord. When the devil comes before the LORD he can only bring true witnesses not false ones as they will not stand and he will have not place to accuse us.

The witness of creation talks of the records that creation keeps of the activities that takes place on the earth, creation meaning the earth, rocks, plants, trees, sky, mountains, sun, moon and stars, etc.

*“This day I call **heaven and earth as witnesses against you** that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live”*
Deuteronomy 30:19

*“Listen, **O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.**”* Deuteronomy 32:1 – 2

Note that Moses was calling heaven and earth to record the peoples’ choice that the people were choosing either life or death and that they made the choice for themselves. Then in the second scripture Moses is commanding the heaven and earth to record the words of his mouth.

*“Come now, **let’s make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as witness between us.**’ So **Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.** He said to his relatives, ‘Gather some stones.’ So they **took stones and piled them in a heap, and they ate there by the heap.** Laban called it **Jegar Sahadutha [witness heap]**, and Jacob called it **Galeed [witness heap]**. Laban said, ‘This heap is a witness between you and me today’ That is why it was called Galeed. It was also called **Mizpah [watch-over]**, because he said, ‘**May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. If you ill-treat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me.**’ Laban also said to Jacob, ‘Here is this heap, and there is this pillar I have set up between you and me. **This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness,** that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm and that you will not pass go pass this heap and pillar to my side to harm me”* Genesis 31:44 – 52

And also in Genesis 31:44 – 52 were used by Jacob and Laban as witness of the covenant that they had taken.

So also for the covenant of circumcision there are many witnesses that bear witness that a man is really in the covenant, those witnesses include:

- The building of the shelter for the initiate (*ibhoma*),
- The earth which the blood of the animals and the initiate himself falls upon,
- The heavens over the area which the circumcision took place,
- The grass, plants, and whole environment.
- The people who are there on the day of the initiation and when the initiate returns.
- The washing by the river
- The burning of the shelter of the initiate (*ibhoma*) when they are returning.
- The man who are there when the initiate is actually being initiated, that after the initiate is cut he will say “Hi, ndiyindoda” (*here I am a man*), and then the other man will say it too as witnesses. Then at times when the man do this witnessing, if they are visible to be seen by women, boys or other people in the village, they can see the man when the initiate is cut and it will be a testimony to them they also witness this.
- The way in which man drink especially bandy, it is like the way we take communion where we remember the covenant of Christ. So also, it is done in a way representing the Xhosa circumcision covenant to renew it and testify about it.

So all these serve to strengthen and testify to the fact that a man is really in the covenant and has partaken of it. Therefore when the devil will bring accusations against such a man he will not have problem to proving his claims.

7.9 Claims/access upon Xhosa men by demonic spirits

The claims/access upon a man, who has been initiated by demonic spirits, comes as a result of the covenant that has been made.

*“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **There above it stood the LORD, and He said: ‘I am the LORD, the GOD of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All people on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.**”* Genesis 28: 12 – 15

Before Jacob’s encounter with God from the above scripture, Jacob was a deceiver and had no personal encounters with God even though he stole the birthright from Esau by deception. But none the less Jacob was in covenant with God because he was circumcised on the 8th day. When now Jacob was not seeking God nor mindful of Him, but was just running away from his brother, God came to him as he was on the run and notice that God does a number of things when visiting him:

- God introduced Himself to Jacob, and He gives him a brief history about His’ dealings with Jacob’s family. That firstly God dealt with Abraham then Isaac.
- Then God proceeded to now tell Jacob of the promised that He made to his fathers:
 - o *I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.*

- ***Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.***
- ***All people on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring***
- Then God concludes by giving Jacob an assurance that ***“I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you”***

So from this we can note that God came to Jacob without any invitation from him and started to tell him about His intentions for Jacob and things that will take place in the future, God had access to Jacob's life because Jacob was in covenant with God through the covenant circumcision.

So it is with the Xhosa covenant of circumcision, the demonic spirits can access our lives, because it is not with God but with demonic spirits. This is the reason why people would say they had a dream from their ancestors telling them this and that; they are really telling the truth that they had a dream. The only deference is that the demonic spirits deceives them by taking the form of their ancestors who first made or renewed the covenant, because they knows that if they were to come as themselves (demonic spirits) taking their form the person would not associate themselves and will thus not obey their instructions. So the people who have such dreams think it is something harmless and take it lightly that they only want to make their ancestors happy by taking this advice from them.

Another example from the bible is when God visited Moses in the land of Midian.

“When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ and Moses said, ‘Here I am’. ‘Do not come any closer,’ Go said, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then He said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God

of Isaac and the God of Jacob' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." Exodus 3:4 – 6

Notice also here that God visited Moses without any invitation and Moses was not even praying, He visited him only because Moses was in covenant with him, the covenant of circumcision. After God introduced Himself He tells Moses of His plan and the purpose why God came to visit him. After God struggled with Moses and convinced him that he must go to Egypt to free the Israelites the following takes place:

*"At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met [Moses' son] and **was about to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin** and touched [Moses'] feet with it. 'Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,' she said. So the LORD let him alone. (At that time **she said 'bridegroom of blood,' referring to circumcision.**)"* Exodus 4:24 – 26 [NIV]

The Lord here was demanding of Moses that why he did not circumcise his son, so God was about the kill him, because he was out of the covenant.

So it is that at times when people fall into strange sicknesses, all the doctors' effort and even prayer from the church, does nothing to help the person become better, then when the family does something for the ancestors (demonic spirits) the person becomes well. What is happening in such a case? It is because the person in question has not obeyed a covenant promise which one of their forefathers made with demonic spirits, and then those demonic spirits come to demand of them to make a sacrifice to be once again in the covenant.

Notice from Genesis 28: 15b that God says "***I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.***" Because of the access and claim that demonic spirits gain by the covenant of circumcision they also will not leave you until they have done what they have promised to your forefathers. The only problem is that what they have promised is not a blessing nor is it a good thing. This is the reason

why someone will go to their village and do something for their ancestors and then when they return to their city where they live, they will seemingly have success or improvement of situations. It is because the demonic spirits were demanding an offering from such a person then when they are happily in covenant with them they will not trouble them that much as they have access to their lives.

Such a person will “seemingly have success” because the Bible says we should not be deceived because every good and perfect gift come from the LORD (James 1:16 – 17)

Then the devil comes only to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10b). Therefore what ever the devil is doing it is to achieve this purpose, only that at time he deceives people to make himself to look like the angel of light.

7.10 Easy/increased demonic access and demonic traffic upon the land

“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” Genesis 28: 12

Notice in the above scripture that there was a stairway or ladder that was on the land and it went all the way up to heaven and the angels of God was traveling on it to come down to land (where Jacob was) and go up to heaven.

This stairway or ladder was in a place where Abraham had built an altar many years before Jacob came to that land. This gives us an insight as Abraham built an altar to God, then the angels of God had free access to the land via the channel Abraham had established on the land.

If you compare the scripture above with the account of the angel that was sent to Daniel, who did not have free access to get to Daniel as he was delayed for 21 days.

*“But the prince of the **Persian kingdom resisted me 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.**” Daniel 10:13*

Notice that the angel was on the way to give a message to Daniel, but on the way he came across some demonic traffic and he was detained (*put in prison*). Now you would make more sense and reality of the scripture that says

*“we do not battle flesh and blood, but against rulers, against **principalities**, powers of this dark world, against **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**” Ephesians 6:12*

The reason therefore for the demonic traffic came as a result of the demonic altars and all that was taking place in Babylon in Daniel’s day.

This true therefore has the same implications for any demonic altar build on the land, that a demonic altar gives demonic spirits free access into the land. Now you can only imagine the amount of demonic traffic that is given access in the places where circumcision takes place and combined with all the ancestral worship. This is also part of the reason that many Christians in places, where there is a lot of circumcision taking place and ancestral worship, it is hard for them to be strong in the Lord or keep their faith in God.

8. Xhosa Circumcision Covenant Remedies (solutions)

After going through all we have discussed so far you might want to loose heart that now you are finished with not more hope since you have bound yourself in this covenant. But let me tell you that this is the reason why there is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that Jesus brings. There is hope for us because the bible declares in Revelation 5:9 – 10

“And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open the seals, because you were slain and with Your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’” Revelation 5:9 – 10

Jesus is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals meaning that in Jesus he can show us the mysteries in His word to enable us to be totally free from the control of the enemy. Also from this scripture we can have the assurance that the Lord Jesus made a way for us because He made provision to perchance [what ever it takes] men for God. That is to say He made provision for the Xhosa tribe and sub-tribes [clans], for the Xhosa speaking people. God made all this provision so that we may be a kingdom and priests to serve at altar of God and reign on the earth, not to serve demonic spirits.

We must however be careful that we deal properly with the things that are involved in the Xhosa circumcision covenant so that we may have all the benefits that Christ has made provision for, otherwise we will be saying all the good scriptures from God’s word but not really experiencing their manifestation in our lives. Therefore we must use all the keys of the kingdom to unlock all the doors that the enemy has locked us in as Xhosa man.

8.1 Personal confession and repentance

As you come to realize such truth about the word of God and how our customs offend God, you should not condemn your self for there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. Now it is important for you to come before the Lord to repent before the Lord for this covenant of death you have entered into, even if you got circumcised while a Christian because you have entered into this covenant.

At this point I want to also share with you the counsel the Lord gave me when He was opening these things to me, by that time I have already being circumcised and I was going to visit my brother who had just being circumcised against what I told him about the Xhosa circumcision covenant. I did not go to see him when he was to be circumcised and when he was release after a week to eat normal food. I felt that before he returns from the bush I should see him and how he is doing.

When he was to be circumcised my prayer was “Lord help my brother to stand and not be circumcised”, for he was already a Christian. Then after I saw that he was to be circumcised anyways, not withstanding my prayers and also my advice to his mother about the matter. Then my prayer was “Lord have mercy on my brother, let not the devil do anything bad to him because he knew Your truth before he went”. The Lord was very merciful I did not hear any bad reports about him. So the time I was going to see him I was very much relieved that no evil have happen to him outwardly and his life was preserved.

The Lord spoke to me from the book of Genesis 3:6 and James 1:16

“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.”

Genesis 3:6

What struck me in this scripture I wondered that “but why did God not stop Adam and Eve, by sending them an angel or a special message or something like that” because when I see what came upon the earth because of that first sin of Adam and Eve. That sin meant that Jesus had to come and suffer on the earth to die for us and pay the price for our redemption. Even though God was aware of this God did not send a special message to Adam to let him know that he must not break his command, to let Adam know about the consequences that will come because of his actions.

But God knew that Adam know what God has said, then God allowed Adam to make his choice in the light of him knowing God’s will.

“Do not be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” James 1:16

The Lord told me that ***“when you see your brother and nothing outwardly is wrong with him and there is no negative evidence of anything. Do not be deceived to think that all is well. Because the effects of the covenant of circumcision will surely come in one way or the other, they cannot just go away without dealing with them properly. Whether you see or do not its effect do not be deceived to think it has fallen away”***

So my counsel also is that even if you have gone through circumcision and you do not see any major changes or great bondages in your life, nonetheless as God told Adam not to eat of the tree the knowledge of good and wisdom and He said he will die. After Eve ate the fruit and she went to Adam maybe Adam must have thought that but “Why did Eve not die, because God said if we eat we will die”. But Adam was deceived to thinking that what God had said was not the full truth.

I speak these words with all humility according to the persuasion that the Lord has put in my heart through His word. I certainly do not pray that all the negative effect of Xhosa circumcision comes upon you, but I pray that the Lord would be merciful upon you even that you should not experience some of the effect of this covenant. But also at the same time I must speak God's word plainly according to what He has revealed to me and these things that I'm sharing I have personally gone through them.

I would not also claim that what God has revealed to me are all the effect and implication for the bible says "we know in part".

Empty your heart to the Lord according to the conviction of His Spirit, to bring complete (*comprehensive*) and heart felt repentance before God.

8.2 Repentance at the family crawl (family demonic altar)

After repenting to God for the covenant of circumcision, it is not enough to stop there because the covenant of Xhosa circumcision involved not only words but also the land was affected by it, for sacrifices were made on the land. The family crawl is a strategic place which is used as family altar because all things that take place in a family have to be performed there. You will further notice this when people are in the city and they want to make a sacrifice or something, they will build a small temporary crawl.

If you can notice in the bible that many times it is said that Noah or Abram or Isaac "built an altar to the Lord and made an offering on it or called upon the Name of the Lord"

"Then Noah **built an altar to the LORD** and taking some of the clean animals and clean birds, **he sacrificed burnt offerings on it**" Genesis 8:20

“There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD” Genesis 12:8b

“Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, ‘Father?’ ‘Yes, my son?’ Abraham replied. **‘The fire and wood are here,’** Isaac said, **‘but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’**”
Genesis 22:7

So also it is with the family crawl that it is like an altar where an offering is made. This is the reason why when there is a sacrifice the elders of the house will go to the crawl to speak to the demonic spirits taking the cover as ancestors, asking them to receive the sacrifice from the family or family member. The person who does this function is the family priest or representative to the demonic spirits; this is coping from God’s way where God had priest that minister before Him (Aaron and his sons).

You are therefore require now to stand as God’s priest to represent your family before the Lord for all the negative sacrifices that have being made on that altar especially the one of circumcision. Be specific if you recall specific times that the family has scarified to demonic spirits even if you were not part of that, because when the family priest brings a sacrifice they bring it under you family name not as individuals.

Also be specific about the covenant of circumcision that the man of the family have all entered into to be dedicated in. The thing is that as Xhosa man we join the tribal altar to dedicate all Xhosa men to demonic spirits from our family altar. The family altar is the foundation of the Xhosa circumcision covenant is laid first in the family altar in that before a boy is initiated he has to have “imbeleko”. It is important to thoroughly deal and repent for that dedication of “imbeleko”.

In repenting before God you should also disassociate your self and your family from the previous dedications and also renounce those dedications coming on the Lord's side and in the covenant of life.

It is also very strategic that if it is possible take communion at the crawl even if you are by your self to covenant yourself and family to God and say you are not partaking of the table of the Lord. This is very powerful as the bible says that by doing this we proclaim to powers and principalities the victory of Christ on the cross.

If in your family there is a house where the bear stays in when there is a sacrifice, normally called "indlu ephakathi", it would be good to also bring repentance there fore its dedication and dedicate it afresh to the Lord.

I can tell you that from my personal experience that when the Lord revealed this to me I went to my village, the Lord gave me favour that I had a time when I was the only one left at the house. So I swept through all the 3 houses and rooms as a prophetic active before the Lord to sweep away of the negative dedication of the houses and concluded that time by going to the crawl to bring repentance to God on behalf of my family and my self and dedicated it to the Lord, raising a new altar onto the Lord there.

Then when I came to the city in East London, I heard something I had never heard from my mother she said while talking to my other aunty "Next year I must go to church", then my aunty "You mean you want to join a church", my mom said "No I do not want to be a member of a church but I really want my heart to be changed". Although my mom has not at this point given her life to the Lord but I know that the Lord is opening her eye more and more.

So I know that because of your repentance at the crawl on behalf of your family God will allow you to see a difference in you family that more and more members of your family will be more open to the gospel of Christ. You should also maintain going there regularly to intercede

for your family in repentance or dedicating them afresh. I have made it a point to go regularly to my village especially when there has been a sacrificing to repent before God there immediately and rededicate the land.

8.3 Repentance at the bush

The repenting is not completed even at this point because of the pollution that the covenant of circumcision has brought on the land.

*“He had a dream in which he **saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it... I will give you and your offspring the land on which you are lying ...He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.**”*
Genesis 28: 12, 13b, 19

*“The **LORD appeared to Abraham and said ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.**”* Genesis 12:7

Notice here that the area/territory where Abraham built an altar to the LORD is the same land that Jacob was lying on what He had the dream about the angels going up and down. We can learn from this that because Abraham built the altar to the Lord the angels of God had free access to that land unlike in the event of Daniel who had to pray and fast 21 days before the angel had access to give him the answer when he was in Babylon. As we can see from the scripture below that the angel that was sent to Daniel did not have free access to bring a message back to Daniel because of the other sacrifices that were made in the land of Babylon.

“Then he continued, ‘Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia” Daniel 10:12 – 13

This is the reason why it is important to bring repentance before the Lord in the place where your circumcision took place so that the demonic spirits may not have free access on the land by so doing resisting God’s own angel sent in response to God’s people in that land/territory. You should stand here at the place where you were circumcised to repent for your self and also on behalf on your family member who where also circumcised on the same land and also on behalf of the Xhosa men who have built a tribal altar of circumcision.

Dedicate the land afresh to the Lord and bring the blood of Jesus to make atonement on behalf of your tribe to bring cleansing on the land. Also ask the Lord to open the eyes of more man to understand this that the Lord may deliver the Xhosa man from this wicked covenant of circumcision.

Another thing here when you are praying to the Lord, repent for the demonic anointing that you have being anointed with from there. Break it over your life, renounce it and its effect on your life. Ask for the Holy Spirit to anoint you afresh that you may bring comfort, peace and a blessing and not pain. Isaiah 61:1 – 7

I remember the first time when I came to understand this I went to the place where I was circumcised and where my initiate shelter (*ibhoma*) was. That day it was in the morning when I was returning from taking the cows to eat at the bush and I thought that when I return from them I will go to that place for the first time since I was circumcised, since it is regarded as a place you must not go to because on when you are

returning from there and the ibhoma is burnt you are told not to look back to see the place. As I went there I had such a fear as if someone was looking at me but I was alone. So I came before God and repented for defiling and polluting the land with my blood. I could recall that the blood defilement on the land came firstly on the day I was circumcised then the other times when private part is changed each day, a number of time, using plants or leaves to rap the private part then those leaves will be put into the ground and buried under my bed. So I really repented from my heart about this on my one knee as I still felt the fear. As I cane back I still having the fear over me.

But I had an assurance that my repentance was expectable to the Lord but the demonic spirits were not happy about it that is the reason for me feeling a fear.

Since that first time I have since returned a number of time when every I go to my village to pray there bringing repentance on behalf of the man in my family and also on behalf of men in my village, and as Xhosa men. I have also went there and repented before God for the demonic anointing that I was anointed with and I even brought anointing which I dedicated to the Lord and used it as a prophetic action that the Lord was anointing me with new oil, removing all the shame and the joke of the enemy upon me. After this I had communion to proclaim the victory of the Lord Jesus and declare that I'm in a new covenant with the Lord that all creation be a witness to it, hearing a new thing.

8.4 Repentance at the river

Now because of the water demonic baptism it is important to deal with this because through this baptism you have aligned your self with water spirits. The alignment with water spirits is a serious matter as you can notice that witch doctors also wash at the river to gain spiritual power from water spirits. When the man young talks of their initiation experience they would also mention that “I washed at river unizinyobo,

where I left my initiate-hood” (ndahlamba kumlambo unozinyobho apho ndabushiya khona ubukwetha bam). This also indicates some spiritual insight that when the initiate was washing at the river they put off their old garment of being a initiate (*umkwetha*) and boy-hood and pick up another garment of manhood.

*“Go to Pharaoh in **the morning as he goes to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake**” Exodus 7:15*

*“But you, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the earth. It was you who split open the sea by your power; **you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert. I was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever-flowing rivers.**” Psalms 74:12 – 15*

*Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, my river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst, of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales.**” Ezekiel 29:3-4*

In Exodus 7:15 we see God asking Moses to go to meet Pharaoh by the river, were Pharaoh would go in the morning to consult and worship his gods (water spirits). Then note that in the other scriptures the bible talks about the water spirits (*spirits that live in the waters*) naming specific one as **Leviathan** and another one also called **Pharaoh** which claims that the river Nile belongs to it.

We can see from these scriptures that there are certain spirits that dwell on the waters then this means that when we partake in initiate

washing by the rivers there are some transactions that take place with these water spirits and because of this they gain access to our lives.

In the light of this truth then bring repentance before the Lord for joining your self with these water spirits. Disassociate your self from aligning your self with them, ask the Lord to take off the water spirits' garment and give you a new garment. Confess that you are baptized into the Baptism of Christ in the newness of life. Remove every record in the waters by the blood of Jesus. Wash away the effects of this by the blood of Jesus.

When the Lord opened my eyes to this I also likewise went to the river where I have washed to repent before the Lord and close the opening I have made for water spirits to have access on to the land. I also repented on behalf of the other men who have gone to the other rivers to wash there. I took off, renounced the old garments (demonic priesthood) and put on the new priestly garments in Christ.

8.5 Prophetic praying and declarations

It is important that in dealing with the effects of the covenant of circumcision you should may prophetic declarations over your life and over creation that creation might witness a new think and also to re-write the records in creation according to the word of God.

*“The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look [behold], **the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!** ... When He sore Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look [behold], **the Lamb of God**”* John 1:19, 36

The prophetic understanding of these above scriptures is important to bring its benefit onto creation. Jesus is the lamb of God, meaning that

as previously in the old testament Moses gave the Israelites ordinance about sacrifices God according to the same principles presented His own sacrifice in the Lord Jesus to make atonement for the sin of the world. Therefore Jesus is the:

- Burnt Offering: To make a sweet smelling aroma pleasing on the Lord (Leviticus 1)
- Fellowship Offering: To restore fellowship with God and assurance (Leviticus 3)
- Sin offering: To make atonement for personal family, community, tribal, and national sins (Leviticus 4)
- Guilt offering: To take away every kind of guilt for any wrong doing against the Lord (Leviticus 5:14 – 19)

Therefore especially in repentance prayers over the land you should bring God's perfect sacrifice that is without spot or blemish for your self, family, community, or tribe; to make atonement before the Lord.

Key scriptures to declare:

- Colossians 1:15 – 18 → In Jesus all things were created by Him and for Him
- Colossians 1:19 – 20 → Through Jesus to reconcile all things
- Colossians 2:9 – 10 → Jesus the head over every power and authority
- Colossians 2:14 – 15 → He disarmed the powers overcoming them by the cross
- Ephesians 2:10 – 11 → Jesus the name that is above all names
- Ephesians 1:4 → He choose us before the creation of the world to be adopted sons
- Hebrews 9:12 – 14 → Eternal redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Hebrews 9:26 → Once and for all sacrifice of Christ.
- 1 Peter 5:5 – 6 → God give grace to the humble, humble your self He will lift you up

- 1 Peter 2:9 – 10 → You are a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God
 - Ephesians 4:23 – 24 → To be made new in the attitude of your mind
 - Revelation 4:8, 11, 5:12 → Worthy to receive glory, honour, power, wisdom, praise
 - Revelation 5: 9 – 10 → You purchased men for God from every nation to serve God
 - Galatians 3:13 – 14 → Christ curse for us to gain the blessing given to Abram.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3 – 6 → God made His light to shine in our hearts.
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8.6 Have a minister experienced in deliverance minister to you

This is an important aspect that I personally at first I did not think much or consider to be vital after I had personally repented before the Lord in all the places mentioned previously. This was until my eyes opened to the truth that when I did imbeleko (*child dedication to ancestral/demonic spirits*) and when I did initiation, there was a family priest that had to be there. The family priest here is the person that is said they have to make sure the ritual (*isiko*) is done properly; this is normally the oldest man in the family like the father or an old uncle.

The family priest is the one who presents the imbeleko offering (sheep or goat) before the crawl and who plays an important role in circumcision like the anointing with margarine when a man is to return from the bush.

This is also an application of truth of God's word that the man is the priest of the home. (Ephesians 5:23)

“The LORD said to Moses, Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them ... So they will

put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them”
Numbers 6:22, 27

Notice here that Aaron and his sons were the priests of God, therefore as the priests were blessing the Israelites it means that they were putting God's name upon them and because of that God would bless the people. This priesthood of Aaron and his sons was for all the Israelites, for us today is like the 5 fold ministers in the body of Christ.

This principle and truth about priesthood was the reason why Jacob and Esau were fighting over the father's blessing, because the father was God's priest in their family that is the reason he could release the first born blessing. Another testimony of the family priesthood operation is evident when Jacob blessed his sons to speak over them and release God's blessing.

The devil stole this from God to ensure that circumcision dedication together with imbeleko (*also in any other ancestral worship dedications*) covenants have a strong foundation to operate in Xhosa men.

It is because of this truth and principle of priesthood that as much a demonic priest dedicated a man so also it needs a priest of God (5 fold minister) to break the demonic dedications and rededicate you afresh to God. This no one can do it by himself as a king could not anoint himself. This breaking of dedications has to be done most importantly at the family altar (crawl) and at the place of circumcision, and also for breaking the line of demonic inheritance according to Hebrews 7:10. (*where the blood was shed and anointing by margarine took place*).

“One might even say that **Levi**, who collects the tenth, **paid the tenth through Abraham** because when Melchizedek meet Abraham, **Levi was still in the body of his ancestor”**
Hebrews 7:9 -10

Notice in this scripture that it gives us a prophetic or actual meaning of the events that took place when Abram meet with Melchizedek the priest of God Most-High. It means therefore that as Abraham paid the tenth for the priest of God, Abraham did not just represents himself there but he represented his descendents after him to the 4th generation.

Another testimony of the 4 generation inheritance is found in the ten commandment where God says “... **punishing the children for the sin of the fathers** to the **third and fourth generation** for those who hate me” Exodus 20:5 and 34:7

So God’s minister would break this line of demonic inheritance that it may not continue for you and the generations after you. “**This far you may come and not farther**” Job 38:10 - 11

Another important aspect is to also break the demonic anointing that brings pain and destruction to families/marriages, and bring a new anointing by the Holy Spirit according to Isaiah 61:1-4.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the **LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted...**”* Isaiah 61:1-4.

So that as a Xhosa man you may correct some of the errors of our fathers, to binding up the broken hearted and to become “**a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour**”. So that God can restore the Xhosa men in our generation to be in His image and represent God correctly in families and society, bringing good news to wives and children manifesting God’s love and healing deep wounds.

If it is possible, the minister can also minister to you by the river, where you washed before returning, to break any linking and dedication with water spirits. I say if possible because it is important to close every door that can give the enemy access into our lives.

But the first two (*crawl and bush*) are very important / essential as they included the participation and dedication by demonic priest.

The minister can also make some of the following prophetic declarations:

- Let every demonic veil covering you be broken, NOW, NOW, in the name of Jesus!
- Let your eyes be opened, no more will you walk in darkness but in the light of God!
- Let every tribal mind sent be broken, that you may see through the mind of Christ!
- Let every demonic lie, be washed away in your mind Now, in the name of Jesus!

You can also make some of the following declarations over your life:

- Today I cross over into the Lord's side to stand only by the truth of God's word.
- Today I cross over to me a man according to God's truth and not Xhosa beliefs.
- I let go of pride and values that are against God's word and truth.
- I renounce every demonic covenant I and my fathers entered to the 4th generation.
- Let it be recorded in all of creation (*land, sun, moon, stars*) today that I have entered into a covenant with God most High and have rejected every demonic covenant.

9. Can or should Christian under go Xhosa circumcision

In coming to conclude all that we have talked about in this book this is the question we need to specifically answer, as the Lord Jesus sometimes spoke in parables and then at other time he spoke plainly for us clear understanding. Can I under-go circumcision without entering into the covenant or having the demonic influences? Can I do Xhosa circumcision in a Christian way, it is possible?

The first thing we much realize here is that Xhosa circumcision is really “Xhosa circumcision” meaning something that is done by us Xhosas, it is a Xhosa ritual/custom. Xhosa circumcision has specific meanings for Xhosas. Xhosa circumcision although it came be regarded similar to the bible circumcision of the Israelites, Xhosa circumcision is not Jew circumcision, these are two different ends.

When a Jewish man got circumcised in the Jewish way it was not for health purpose, although medically speaking the 8th day is the most perfect day for any one to have an operation, it was to enter into a covenant with God. So also a Xhosa man who undergoes circumcision the Xhosa way he does it to fulfill the Xhosa tribal custom. Now remember that that Xhosa circumcision tribal/customs fall under the same category as ancestral worship, both are demonic covenants/dedications.

9.1 What does circumcision mean for the Jews currently?

There is the question of that the Jews are doing circumcision in the present day and they are still doing it on the 8th day, then ‘Do the circumcision they do now have the same meaning that they are doing it to fulfill a sign of a covenant?’. This is answered in Romans 2:28 – 29

*“A man is not a Jew if he is **only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.** No, a man is a Jew if he is **one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit,** not by the written code. Such a man’s praise is not from men, but from God.”*

Romans 2:28 – 29

This then answers the question about the circumcision of the Jews, but now can this same reasoning be applied to Xhosa circumcision, meaning that “one can still undergo Xhosa circumcision without being in covenant with demonic powers because they would do it in a Christian way”.

In answering this lets consider the following scripture:

*“You shall therefore **keep all My statues and all My ordinances and do them,** that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out [as it did those before you]. You shall **not walk in the customs of the nations** which I am casting out before you; for they did all these things, and therefore **I was wearied and grieved by them.** But I have said to you, You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey. **I am the Lord your God. Who has separated you from the peoples [nations].**” Leviticus 20:22 – 24 (Amplified)*

The words in the scripture above were given to Moses for the Israelites after God had given Moses specific laws, statues and ordinations [**the act of conferring (or receiving) holy orders**]. Notice that God says to the Israelites the ‘**holy orders/guidelines**’ God was separating them for Himself.

In understanding this scripture we must understand and accept that all the nations of the world departed from God and formed their own ways that we contrary to God. This is the reason why God choose Abraham who did not know God to reveal Himself to him and made him to be a

holy nation. The point is that God gave the nation of Israel ways in which they should live according to His divine guidance, pattern and wisdom.

The problem then with all the other nations and tribes of the world is that although there are some of God's divine guidance, pattern and wisdom; (*God's patterns like ubuntu, Xhosa music rhythm and respecting old people in Africa culture*) the devil has corrupted some of the things in our cultures to advance his agenda to opposes God's purposes.

Now because the Jewish circumcision is after God's pattern and wisdom there are health benefits from it, as it has been proven medically that on the 8th day it is the best time of any person to have an operation and thus when the Jewish circumcision is done in this day it take a much quicker time for the body to recover.

But for us in Xhosa circumcision it is not after God's divine pattern and wisdom, at the roots of Xhosa circumcision it is a corruption by the devil, who imitated God's holy covenant to form an unholy covenant. Now even when someone would say that they want to do Xhosa circumcision only for medical reason you will observe that it is not the best way to do it in the Xhosa way that takes place in the bush.

This is clearly visible in all the interventions that the government has had to bring in to prevent the death of many young boys. You will also observe the lack of God's wisdom in some of the regulations that must be observed like no water in the first week and other things. If you think of this considering the gift and wisdom of God that God has given the Xhosas in terms of natural herbs and plants, then 'Why is that we have not really used this knowledge in circumcision?'

For an example if I was from another tribe/nation and was looking at Xhosa and Jewish circumcision I would choose Jewish circumcision purely for the medical benefit. Therefore if something is really a gift from God and God's wisdom, that thing is easy to import to other

tribes/nations as those tribes/nations will also experience the goodness of God by following the same pattern.

The point here is that Xhosa circumcision is not patterned after God's wisdom like Jewish circumcision, but rather it is patterned after demonic bondage and oppression; therefore those who continue with it will not experience any goodness of God in it.

“When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, **do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there ... You must be blameless before the LORD your God”**
Deuteronomy 18:9, 13

Although we can learn and apply many of God's pattern and wisdom from the old covenant (testament) and thus experience God's blessing. It is important to understand that within God's pattern and wisdom we should not mix it and by that misunderstanding or applying God's principles amiss.

An example is that an Israelite or a person from any tribe/nation can be circumcised on the 8th day today, although this is not to be in-covenant with God, and this would be acceptable to God.

If you were to consider some of the ordinance God gave to the Israelites like

- Clean and unclean food : Deuteronomy 14:1 - 21
- Year for canceling debts : Deuteronomy 15:1 - 11
- Feast of weeks and feast of tabernacles : Deuteronomy 16:9 – 17
- Atonement for an unsolved murder : Deuteronomy 21:1 – 9
- Uncleanness in the camp : Deuteronomy 21:9 – 14
- Other laws : Deuteronomy 23:15 – 25:19
- Curse : Deuteronomy 27:9 – 26

From the scriptures we see some of the examples for God's ordinance that we can still apply its principles and enjoy God's goodness.

9.2 Personal observation of the effects of circumcision

The final thing at this point is that I have personally experience from people that I know directly and also from other people sharing what they have experienced about Christians who have done Xhosa circumcision about how they really struggle to enjoy walking with Jesus.

There was a brother that I knew very well though he was young than me, he had a great passion for the Lord and he really inspired me a lot when he would share about his relationship with God. This brother then after a while did circumcision the “Christian way” with not alcohol and his church was involved when he went to the bush, they built *ibhoma (shelter for an initiate)* for him, prayed over the place. Then when he came back they washed him at the river, anointed him and with all this done by pastors and with prayers to God. But I can tell you that that brother immediately after returning from there his passion for God was not as strong and within a short-time he went into drinking and girls.

There is also many other stories of young men who really did love God and had lots of passion for God, witnessing and preaching to others, that after circumcision all this passion for God seems to just go away and vanish into thin air.

I can also assure that I have also observed other Christian brothers whom you might not really see a decreased level of passion for God but at the same time you will find that those brothers are having one struggle or another. This struggle is especially evident in the area of sexual immorality and drinking.

I know a number of brothers who really loved God and were save for a good while and when they seemed to be very strong in the Lord they suddenly back into drinking and sleeping with girls. Some of them

would one season be saved but then in another season they would turn from the Lord.

I have also observed that while some brother might not really go into sin or back slide, they would be experiencing a limitation in an area of their life that they may even consider normal for them or a struggle that can never go away.

With me I remember that when I dealt with this covenant in all the things I have shared in this book, I immediately notice that there was an improvement in my passion for God like a new found love for the Lord and really enjoying my Christian walk. This does not mean I had this joy in the absence of any challenges, but in the midst of them all. Its like each time God has revealed something for me to deal with in this covenant of circumcision and then I have dealt with it my spiritometer has gone up by a measurable degree. (*as speedometer measures speed so spiritometer measures the level of spiritual passion and joy in the Lord*).

Therefore from a scriptural evidence, also personal experience and observations I can confidently see that it is not good for Christians to under go circumcision. The reason for this is so that they can avoid all the things one deals with in Xhosa circumcision from a spiritual perspective (*demonic covenant*) and also from a health point. And also so that as Christians one can experience the goodness of walking with God without any demonic struggles and hindrances.

So that in whatever test we can stand like the Lord Jesus who said “the enemy has come but has found nothing in me”, because there were not hidden covenant that he had made with the powers of darkness. Otherwise we would be like Joshua who was the high priest but was resisted by the devil because of his dirty garments.

10. Conclusion - Our responsibility

In the last we have dealt with the issue of personal repentance and the deferent aspects we must deal with to ensure that we remove any legal room for the devil operate in our lives. After we have discovered this for our selves we then have a further responsibility to creation (*for both to the peoples and the land*).

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and **preach the good news to ALL CREATION.**” Mark 16:15

“For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him [*Jesus Christ*] **to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross**” Colossians 1:19 – 20

“The **creation waits in eager expectation for sons of God to be revealed.** For the **creation was subjected to frustration**, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, **in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.** We know that the **whole creation has been groaning as in pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**” Romans 8:19 – 22

In the light of the scriptures above, we can firstly note that the gospel (good news) is not only for the people but for **all of creation**. The reason for this is because Christ made a provision for reconciling **all things** to God. In the “**all things**” there is the whole creation, including the peoples, land, plants, heavens, waters, etc (*every thing that God has created on earth*). And this creation we are talking about is in expectedly waiting for the son, not just the children of God, but the sons of God. Creation is looking for these sons to enable it to also experience freedom from its bondage (*demonic dedications and defilement*).

The bondage is in the form of the pollution we have talked about that comes as a result of bloodshed of both human (initiates) and animals, and the activities that take place on the land, which are not pleasing to God because they do not in any way glorify God. Therefore God is looking to us as His agents on the land to make intercession for this through prayer and prophetic actions on the land.

10.1 Joining the Josiah company

King Josiah was a king who “did what was **right in the eyes of the LORD** and walked in all of ways of his father David” (2 kings 22:2).

*“The king stood by the pillar and **renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD** – to follow the LORD and **keep his commands, regulations, and decrees with all his heart and all his soul**, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then **all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.**” 2 kings 23:3*

The scripture above gives us further testimony of how king Josiah had really turned to the LORD and was following Him and Josiah also influenced the people to follow the LORD too. But beyond this the scriptures that follow Josiah pursued/cleansed the land of all the demonic places that the kings before him had built.

*“Josiah brought all the priests from the towns of Judah and **desecrated the high places, from Geba to Beersheba**, where the priests had **burned incense**. He **broke down the shrines** at the gates – at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua, the city governor, which is on the left of the city gate.*

*The king **also desecrated the high places** that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the **Hill of Corruption** – the ones **Solomon king of Israel had built** for Ashtoreth the vile*

*goddess of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molech the **detestable god of the people of Ammon**. Even the altar at Bethel, **the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin – even that altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also.** 2 Kings 23:8, 13, 15*

After king Josiah had turned to the Lord he did not rest but also went through out the land to bring spiritual cleanse destroying all the demonic altars.

At least 5 kings as recorded in the book of the kings (1st and 2nd kings), it is said of them that “he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, **however did not remove the high places**” (1 kings 15:14, 2 kings 12:3, 2 kings 14:4, 2 kings 15:4, 35).

*“With the noise like that of chariots they **leap over mountaintop**, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle. ... They **rush upon the city**, they run along the wall. They climb into the houses; like thieves they enter through the window” Joel 2:5, 9*

*“He makes **my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze**” Psalms 18:33 – 34*

Like this army described in the scriptures above, so God is looking to us to bring proper cleansing on the land so that the demonic traffic is cut off from the land and the angels of God have free un-interrupted access on our land. As Josiah had to go from city to city or place to place, where the altars were, also us as the body of Christ united we should be looking to bring cleansing in all the places that circumcision altars are established. This we need to do at various levels starting at individual village level, city level, regional/specific-territory level,

provincial level and even at national or tribal level (*as circumcision is a tribal covenant*).

This would be us bringing the gospel to all of creation that creation would be set free from its demonic bondage. The gospel of the kingdom and the desire of God may manifest on the land “**Thy kingdom came and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**”, where God’s angels can have free access on the land to ensure God’s purpose even before the 1000 years of the Lord Jesus reigning on the earth.
