

COVENANT STRUCTURE

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God's irrevocable promises and His faithfulness

by Scott and Anna Kennedy

COVENANT STRUCTURE-GODS IRREVOCABLE PROMISES AND FAITHFULNESS

- In the sacred tapestry of Scripture, there resounds a love story unlike any other—a transcendent romance woven before the foundations of the world. It is the eternal covenant of the Sovereign Creator, Lord of all realms, who stoops in glory to claim His beloved. Here stands the Bridegroom, robed in splendor, calling forth His radiant Bride, adorned in purity and grace. This is no fleeting passion, but a divine union sealed in eternity—a triumph of love that conquers death, a harmony that binds heaven and earth beneath His throne.”



COVENANT STRUCTURE-GODS IRREVOCABLE PROMISES AND FAITHFULNESS

In other words, we believe the Scriptures reveal a divine love story between the Creator of the Universe and His people—a union of the Bridegroom and His Bride

Hosea 2:19-20 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

COVENANT STRUCTURE

- From Genesis to Revelation, the heartbeat of God's love story is revealed through covenants—sacred bonds that frame the entire narrative of Scripture. At the center of His Word stands this unwavering declaration: 'I will be their God, and they shall be My people.' These covenants are not mere agreements but divine promises, binding heaven and earth in a relationship of eternal faithfulness and grace.
- **Jeremiah 31:33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- **2 Corinthians 6:16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,
- "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."



COVENANT STRUCTURE

- Before we discuss covenants and their structure, we need to return to the foundation—the beginning of God’s redemptive story. Many people misunderstand the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Some have been taught that the Old Testament was written for the Jews and the New Testament for Christians. This is a serious error.
 - When we submit to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, He reveals truth to us, just as John declared: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* The Scriptures—the Old Testament—are not merely historical writings; they are a masterpiece, a vivid picture of God’s salvation plan fulfilled in Yeshua HaMashiach.
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COVENANT STRUCTURE

- Many people avoid reading the book of Leviticus because it's often considered the driest book in the Bible—I used to think the same. “Leviticus? Yawn.” But with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we discover something extraordinary: those detailed instructions reveal God’s divine order and purpose.



COVENANT STRUCTURE

- Leviticus is not a random collection of laws; it is part of the golden thread of redemption that runs through all of Scripture. Every sacrifice, every ritual, every detail points forward to Yeshua—the ultimate fulfillment of God’s covenant. The entire Old Testament exists to reveal the Son, Yeshua, God in the flesh, who came to reconcile His creation to Himself.
- Yeshua confirmed this truth. In **John 5:45–46**, He said: “It is not I who will accuse you before the Father—Moses will! You trust in his laws, yet you refuse to believe him. He wrote about Me, but you won’t believe what he wrote, so you don’t believe Me either.” After His resurrection, Yeshua reminded His disciples in Luke 24:44: “Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” From Genesis to Malachi, every word is pointing to Him.

COVENANT STRUCTURE

- This truth bridges the gap between the Old and New Testaments. Both tell one continuous story:
- the Old Testament declares Yeshua will come
- the New Testament proclaims He came.
- This thread of redemption weaves through Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—and that thread is our Messiah.



COVENANT STRUCTURE

- What does this have to do with covenants? Everything. God is intentional. Isaiah tells us that **the end is declared from the beginning**. Yeshua's coming and His shed blood established and completed the covenant God made with Abraham. This blood covenant was necessary for humanity to approach a holy God. Jesus is the golden thread, the atonement, the covenant-keeper. The blood covenant runs through the entire Bible, revealing God's eternal love and His commitment to enter into an everlasting covenant with us.

SO, WHAT IS A COVENANT?



A sacred and binding agreement between two parties, built on promises, defined terms, and sealed by a confirming act. In Scripture, covenants are not casual arrangements—they represent an unbreakable relationship initiated by God to reveal His purpose and love.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Each covenant is a link in the thread of redemption that runs through Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—culminating in Yeshua, the covenant-keeper and redeemer. His blood is the ultimate seal, making it possible for us to approach a holy God.



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

From the very beginning of creation, Scripture records many covenants. These covenants reveal how God relates to humanity and His plan for redemption. In the Bible, we see two primary types of covenants:

- **Unconditional Covenants**: Promises God will fulfill regardless of human actions.
 - **Conditional Covenants**: Promises that require obedience to specific terms in order to receive the blessings.
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COVENANT STRUCTURE

The Garden of Eden Covenant is especially significant because it establishes a pattern repeated throughout Scripture:

- Humanity sins.
 - God judges' sin.
 - God shows grace and provides a way to redeem humanity and restore relationship with Him.
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COVENANT STRUCTURE

Covenants also remind us that sin always carries consequences. Understanding these covenants and how they connect is essential for grasping God's covenantal relationship with His people and His overarching plan of redemption.



Here are some of the major covenants found in Scripture (though there are others):

THE GARDEN OF EDEN COVENANT

- **Type:** Conditional
 - **Description:** Adam was required to obey God's command to avoid the consequences of breaking the covenant.
 - **Promise:** God offered life and blessing, conditional upon obedience to the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**Genesis 2:16–17**).
 - **Penalty for Disobedience:**
 - Physical and spiritual death
 - A curse on the ground, making work difficult
 - Lifelong toil until death (**Genesis 3:17–19**)
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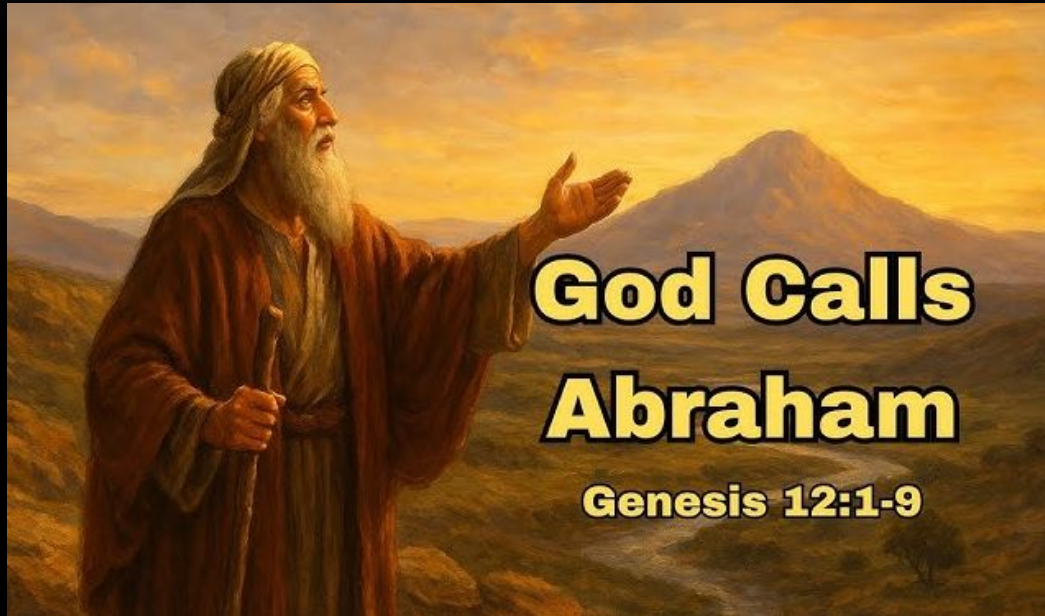
THE COVENANT WITH ADAM

- **Type:** Conditional - Genesis 1:28–30 and Genesis 2:16–17
 - **Description:** This covenant establishes Adam's responsibilities as steward of God's creation and outlines the consequences of disobedience, including the entrance of sin into the world.
 - **Two Parts:**
 - **Covenant of Creation** – Adam's role and authority over creation
 - **Covenant After the Fall** – Includes curses and promises following sin
 - **Significance:** Highlights human responsibility and divine sovereignty, forming a foundation for covenant theology.
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THE COVENANT WITH NOAH (GENESIS 9:8–17)

- **Type:** Unconditional
 - **Promise:** God will never again destroy the earth by flood.
 - **Sign:** Rainbow
 - **Significance:** Demonstrates God's mercy and commitment to preserve life despite human sinfulness.
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ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



The Abrahamic Covenant marks a pivotal moment in Scripture, shaping the future of Israel and revealing God's redemptive plan for humanity. It is introduced in **Genesis 12:1–9**, where God calls Abraham (then Abram) to leave his homeland and promises him three key elements: *land, descendants, and universal blessing*.

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Key Elements of the Covenant

- **Land**

- God promises Abraham a specific land, later identified as Canaan.
- This land symbolizes a permanent inheritance for Abraham's descendants and serves as a tangible sign of God's faithfulness.

- **Descendants**

- God assures Abraham that he will become the father of a great nation.
 - In **Genesis 15:5**, God compares Abraham's descendants to the stars in the sky, emphasizing the vastness of his lineage.
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ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Key Elements of the Covenant

- **Universal Blessing**
 - Through Abraham, *“all families of the earth shall be blessed”* (**Genesis 12:3**).
 - This foreshadows the coming of Yeshua (Jesus Christ), through whom salvation is offered to all humanity, transcending ethnic and national boundaries.
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ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Nature of the Covenant

- **Unconditional**
 - Based on God's promises rather than Abraham's performance.
 - In **Genesis 15**, God alone passes between the pieces of sacrificed animals, signifying His sole commitment to fulfill the covenant.
 - **Sign of the Covenant**
 - Circumcision established in **Genesis 17** as a mark of belonging to God's chosen people.
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ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Nature of the Covenant

Significance

- Shapes the identity of Israel as God's chosen nation.
 - Extends God's redemptive purpose to all nations, highlighting the inclusivity of His salvation plan.
 - Serves as a critical link in the **golden thread of redemption** that runs through Scripture, pointing to Yeshua as the ultimate fulfillment.
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MOSAIC COVENANT

The Mosaic Covenant is a **conditional covenant** made between God and the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai (**Exodus 19–24**). It is sometimes called the Sinai Covenant but is more commonly referred to as the Mosaic Covenant because Moses was God's chosen leader at that time.



MOSAIC COVENANT

Key Features

- **Type:** Conditional
- **Parties:** God (sovereign King) and Israel (His people)
- **Pattern:** Similar to ancient covenants between kings and their subjects
- **Confirmation:** Israel agreed by saying, *“All that the Lord has spoken we will do!”* (**Exodus 19:8**)

Significance:

- Set Israel apart as God’s chosen nation
 - A blood covenant, equally binding as the Abrahamic Covenant
 - Through Israel, God would bless the world with His written Word and the Living Word—Jesus Christ
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MOSAIC COVENANT

Nature of the Covenant

- **Centered on the Law:** God gave His divine law to Moses on Mount Sinai
 - **Conditional Blessings:**
 - ▢ **Obedience = Blessing**
 - ▢ **Disobedience = Punishment**
 - **Blessings and Curses:** Detailed in **Deuteronomy 28**
 - **Comparison:**
 - ▢ Unlike the Abrahamic Covenant (unconditional – meaning God will fulfill it Himself), the Mosaic Covenant is conditional and mutual, meaning it involves responsibilities on both sides—God and Israel each have obligations to fulfill.
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MOSAIC COVENANT

Purpose and Significance

- **Israel's Role:**
 - *"A kingdom of priests and a holy nation"* (**Exodus 19:6**)
 - Called to be God's light to the nations
- **The Law as a Schoolmaster:**
 - Points to Christ (**Galatians 3:24–25**)
 - Reveals human sinfulness and need for a Savior
- **Christ's Fulfillment:**
 - Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it (**Matthew 5:17**)
 - Salvation has always been by faith, not by keeping the Law (**Galatians 3:16–18**)

MOSAIC COVENANT

Limitations of the Mosaic Covenant

- **Sacrificial System:**
 - Did not remove sin (**Hebrews 10:1–4**)
 - Pointed ahead to Christ—the perfect High Priest and sacrifice (**Hebrews 9:11–28**)
 - **Law's Nature:**
 - Holy and perfect, but powerless to give new life
 - Humanity could not obey it perfectly (**Galatians 3:21**)
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PRIESTLY COVENANT (PHINEHAS COVENANT)

The Priestly Covenant, established by God with Aaron and his descendants, designates them as the exclusive priestly line for Israel, ensuring their perpetual role in religious service and sacrificial offerings. It is described as a “**covenant of salt forever**” (Numbers 18:19), symbolizing permanence and unbreakable commitment.



PRIESTLY COVENANT (PHINEHAS COVENANT)

Overview

- **Parties:** God and Aaron's descendants (the priestly line, or *kohanim*).
- **Purpose:** To set apart Aaron's family for priestly service in Israel's worship and sacrificial system.
- **Nature:** Permanent and enduring, emphasizing holiness and proper worship.

Key Biblical Passages

- **Exodus 28:1** – God commands Moses to bring Aaron and his sons to serve as priests, establishing the priestly lineage.
 - **Numbers 18:7** – God emphasizes exclusivity: only Aaron and his sons may serve in connection with the altar and sanctuary.
 - **Numbers 25:12–13** – God makes a covenant of peace with Phinehas (Aaron's grandson) for his zeal in defending God's honor, granting him and his descendants a perpetual priesthood.
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PRIESTLY COVENANT (PHINEHAS COVENANT)

Key Features

- **Perpetual Priesthood:** Aaron's descendants maintain their role as priests, essential for Israel's sacrificial system and spiritual leadership.
- **Covenant of Salt:** Symbolizes permanence and faithfulness in worship practices.
- **Theological Implications:**
 - Highlights God's commitment to holiness and proper worship.
 - Reinforces the need for a mediator between God and His people—a role ultimately fulfilled by Yeshua, the perfect High Priest ([Hebrews 9:11–28](#)).

Significance

- Establishes the priesthood as central to Israel's covenant relationship with God.
 - Foreshadows Christ as the ultimate High Priest who offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice.
 - Underscores God's desire for a holy people and the importance of worship according to His design.
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PROMISED LAND COVENANT

Overview

- **Origin:** First communicated in **Genesis 12:1**, when God commands Abram to leave his homeland and go to the land He will show him.
 - **Confirmation:** In **Genesis 15:18**, God makes a covenant with Abram, saying:
“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.”
 - **Nature:**
 - More than a physical territory—it is a divine gift where God’s people can flourish under His guidance.
 - Symbolizes covenant faithfulness and God’s presence among His people.
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PROMISED LAND COVENANT

Key Promises

- **Land:** Canaan as a permanent inheritance for Abraham's descendants.
- **Regathering:** Promise to gather scattered Israelites from all nations.
- **Heart Renewal:** Circumcision of hearts so they would love God fully (**Deuteronomy 30:6**).

Biblical Description of the Land

A "good land" rich in abundance:

- Brooks of water, fountains, and springs
- Wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates
- Olive oil and honey (**Deuteronomy 8:7-8**)

Represents prosperity and God's faithfulness.

PROMISED LAND COVENANT

Theological Significance

- **Not just geography:** The land is a theological space where God's presence and human life intersect.
- **Foreshadowing:** Points to the ultimate rest and inheritance in Christ.
- **Covenant Faithfulness:** Serves as a picture of living out God's calling in obedience.



COVENANT OF THE SABBATH

The Covenant of the Sabbath is a significant biblical concept that underscores the relationship between God and His people, emphasizing **rest, holiness, and divine provision**. It serves as a perpetual sign of God's covenant with Israel.



COVENANT OF THE SABBATH

Origin

- **Creation Account:**
 - After six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day, blessing and sanctifying it (**Genesis 2:2–3**).
 - This divine rest established a pattern for humanity, reflecting God's completed work and His desire for His creation to enter His rest.

Biblical Basis

- **Exodus 31:16–17:**

*“The Israelites must keep the Sabbath, celebrating it as a lasting **covenant** for the generations to come. It is a sign between Me and the Israelites forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”*
- **Significance:**
 - The Sabbath is a **perpetual covenantal sign** between God and Israel.
 - Symbolizes God's creative power and His special relationship with His chosen people.

COVENANT OF THE SABBATH

Key Themes

- **Rest:** Reflects God's rest after creation and His invitation for His people to experience spiritual renewal.
- **Holiness:** The Sabbath is sanctified and set apart as holy.
- **Provision:** Demonstrates God's care and sufficient provision for His people.



THE COVENANT WITH DAVID

The covenant with David was established during the reign of King David—a man after God’s own heart (**1 Samuel 13:14**). After David settled in his palace and the LORD gave him rest from his enemies, he desired to build a house for the Ark of the Covenant. However, God, through the prophet Nathan, revealed a different plan: **instead of David building a house for God, God promised to build a house for David.**



THE COVENANT WITH DAVID

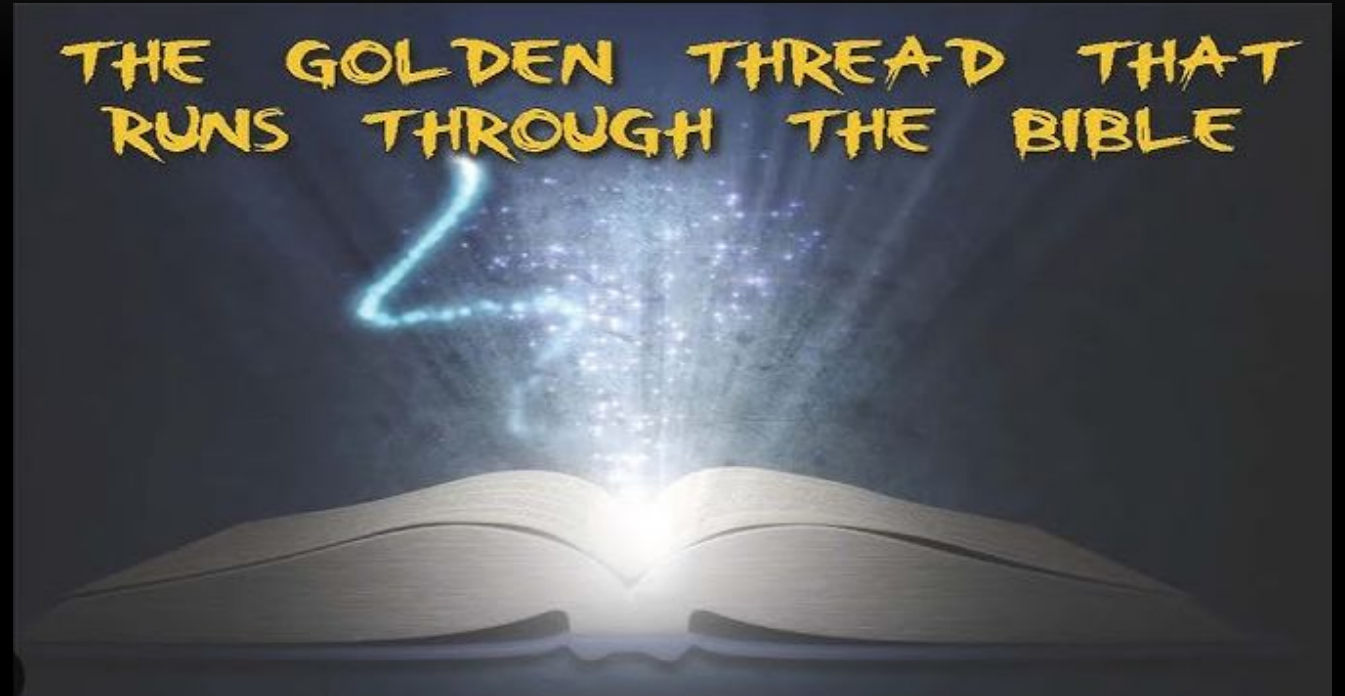
Key Elements (2 Samuel 7:12–16)

- **Enduring Lineage**
 - God assures David that his descendants will continue to rule.
 - *“I will raise up your offspring to succeed you...” (2 Samuel 7:12).*
 - **Establishment of the Kingdom**
 - *“He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2 Samuel 7:13).*
 - **Father-Son Relationship**
 - *“I will be his Father, and he will be My son.” (2 Samuel 7:14).*
 - Indicates a unique relationship between God and the Davidic king, emphasizing divine favor and guidance.
 - **Enduring Throne**
 - *“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.” (2 Samuel 7:16).*
 - This promise of an everlasting dynasty is central to the covenant and is fulfilled in **Jesus Christ, the Son of David**—the eternal King.
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THE COVENANT WITH DAVID

Significance

- Establishes the messianic hope: the coming of Christ through David's lineage.
- Reinforces God's sovereignty and faithfulness in His redemptive plan.
- Serves as a critical link in the **golden thread of redemption** running through Scripture.



CONTRACT VS. COVENANT

There is an important distinction between a **contract** and a **covenant**.

- **Definition of a Contract**

A contract is a relatively modern legal construct—a binding agreement to do or not to do something. It typically includes penalties for breach. If a contract is broken and the penalties are paid, that payment is considered adequate compensation. There is no inherent moral failure in breaking a contract because the agreement assumes the possibility of breach. For example, if a tenant signs a one-year lease with a \$1,000 penalty for early termination, and later decides to leave and pays the penalty, the contract is fulfilled. The landlord may not be pleased, and the tenant may not enjoy paying the fee, but both parties have honored the terms.

- **Definition of a Covenant**

A covenant is an ancient concept involving a solemn promise between two parties to do or not to do something. Because of humanity's fallen nature, covenants may include penalties for breaking them. However, unlike a contract, breaking a covenant is considered a moral failure-betrayal of trust. There is never a scenario in which breaking a covenant is morally acceptable, even if the penalty is paid. The seriousness of a covenant lies in its relational and ethical weight, not merely in legal obligation.

CONTRACT VS. COVENANT: A COMPARISON

Contracts and covenants are often confused, but they are fundamentally different. Here are some key distinctions:

- **Nature of Agreement**
 - A **contract** is a legally binding agreement.
 - A **covenant** is a spiritual and relational pledge.
- **Duration and Commitment**
 - A **contract** can be broken; it assumes the possibility of breach.
 - A **covenant** is a perpetual promise, intended to endure.
- **Formality**
 - You **sign** a contract.
 - You **seal** a covenant.

CONTRACT VS. COVENANT: A COMPARISON

- **Purpose and Relationship**
 - A **contract** is typically a mutually beneficial exchange.
 - A **covenant** is about fulfilling a commitment, regardless of benefit.
- **Exchange vs. Self-Giving**
 - A **contract** trades goods or services.
 - A **covenant** involves giving oneself to the other party.
- **Exit Options**
 - You can opt out of a **contract** by meeting its terms.
 - A **covenant** calls for strength and integrity to uphold your promise, even when it's hard.
- **Response to Failure**
 - In a **contract**, If one party does not fulfill its obligations, the other party may suspend its duties.
 - In a **covenant**, the party not receiving their needs, supports the failing party to help them fulfill their obligations.

CONTRACT VS. COVENANT

Why Covenants Build Stronger Relationships

Covenants foster trust and long-term commitment. In a contract, failure by one party often releases the other from obligation. In a covenant, you remain faithful to your promise—even if others do not. While covenants share some similarities with contracts, they operate on a higher principle: integrity, trust, and discipline.



CONTRACT VS. COVENANT IN MARRIAGE

The difference between a contract and a covenant can be clearly seen in modern attitudes toward marriage. Many people today view marriage as a contract between two parties. They willingly enter into the agreement, and later—if one or both decide to end the relationship—they simply negotiate the terms of exit: payments, penalties, alimony, property division, and custody arrangements. In this view, divorce carries little or no moral stigma. Some couples even sign prenuptial agreements before marriage, outlining how assets and responsibilities will be divided if the marriage ends.

Biblically, marriage is not a contract—it is a covenant. A covenant involves two people pledging themselves to one another before God, with the community as witnesses. It is not entered into with an eye toward what will happen if—or, for some, when—the relationship dissolves. A covenant reflects permanence, faithfulness, and accountability to God, not just to each other.

(We will return to the covenant of marriage and expand on it later.)

ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS OF COVENANTS

The everlasting nature of God's covenants reveals His **unchanging character** and **eternal purposes**. These covenants are not merely historical agreements; they are **living promises** that continue to shape the faith and hope of believers today.

- **Dynamic and Ongoing:** God's covenants remain active, influencing our relationship with Him across generations.
- **Reveals God's Heart:** They demonstrate His desire for a lasting relationship with humanity, marked by grace, mercy, and steadfast love.
- **Assurance of Redemption:** Through these covenants, God guarantees His unwavering commitment to our salvation and ultimate restoration.
- **Covenants in the Bible:** In Scripture, there are covenants that God made with people and covenants that humans made with one another. The covenants between God and humanity **always originate with God Himself**. He alone possesses the authority, ability, and wisdom to make them effective. These covenants reveal God's heart and His merciful nature, which motivated Him to establish them. Their specific purpose is to serve as instruments through which God expresses His will and accomplishes His plans. God is always consistent with His character—He acts with careful planning and precision. Who He is determines what He does.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Today, we focus on the Blood Covenant. The concept of the “Blood of the Covenant” is a central theme throughout the biblical narrative, symbolizing the solemn and binding nature of God’s promises to His people. This term is deeply rooted in ancient Near Eastern covenant-making practices, where blood served as a powerful symbol of life and death—sealing agreements with a sacred and unbreakable bond.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Across cultures, blood covenants were common because humanity has an innate, inborn desire for relationship and trust. The shedding of blood represented ultimate commitment, signifying that the agreement was not merely legal but life-binding. The Hebrew people practiced blood covenant rituals similar to those of surrounding nations, yet with a distinct purpose: to reflect God's holiness and His enduring relationship with His people.

The Word for Covenant in Scripture

Hebrew:

בְּרִית (Berith) — *Strong's H1285*

Definition: A covenant, alliance, pledge, or agreement. In the Old Testament, *berith* refers to a solemn and binding arrangement between two parties, often involving obligations and blessings. It is used extensively to describe God's covenants with His people.

Greek:

διαθήκη (Diatheke) — *Strong's G1242*

Definition: A disposition, arrangement, or testament. In the New Testament, *diatheke* conveys the idea of a covenant or will, emphasizing God's gracious initiative in establishing His promises through Christ.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

“Cutting a Covenant”

The term covenant literally means “to cut a covenant.” By definition, it refers to an agreement established through the **shedding of blood and walking between pieces of flesh**—a solemn act signifying life-and-death commitment. This imagery underscores the seriousness and permanence of the covenant relationship.

In Scripture, the two major divisions of the Bible reflect this concept:

- **The Old (or Former) Blood Covenant**
- **The Renewed (or Later) Blood Covenant**

Both are rooted in God’s initiative to bind Himself to His people through promises sealed in blood.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

- Throughout history, blood covenants have appeared in various forms, ranging from simple, primitive agreements to more elaborate and structured rituals involving multiple steps. While the basic covenants were straightforward, the complex ones carried deeper significance and symbolism, often outlining a detailed process of commitment and relationship.
- In this study, we will focus on the more intricate form of the blood covenant, as it provides the clearest roadmap for understanding the covenantal framework revealed in the Bible



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #1 – Exchange of Robes

The first step in the blood covenant ritual is the **exchange of robes**.

Symbolism of Robes

- **Identity and Personhood**

In ancient Hebrew culture, a robe represented the person wearing it—their character, position, and life. Exchanging robes in a covenant ritual symbolizes giving your entire self to the other party. It was a way of saying:

“All that I am—my identity, my resources, my life—is now shared with you.”

- **Authority and Covering**

Robes often signified rank or authority (e.g., Joseph’s coat of many colors, royal garments). When two people exchanged robes, they were pledging mutual protection and honor. It meant:

“Your enemies are now my enemies; your battles are my battles.”

- **Unity and Oneness**

The act of exchanging garments expressed deep relational unity. It was not just a legal transaction but a personal and spiritual bond—two lives becoming intertwined.

By taking off and exchanging robes, each party symbolically declares:

“I am giving you all of myself—my total being and my life. I pledge everything I am to you.”

This act signifies complete surrender and mutual commitment, forming the foundation of the covenant relationship.

THE BLOOD COVENANT



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #2 – Exchange of Belts

The second step in the blood covenant ritual is the **exchange of belts**. In Hebrew culture, belts were not used to hold up clothing but to secure weapons and armor—such as the dagger, sword, and bow. The belt represented **strength, protection, and readiness for battle**.

Symbolism of Weapons in Covenant

- **Strength and Ability to Defend**

Weapons were a sign of a person's power and capacity to fight. By exchanging belts (which held weapons), each party was saying: **"I give you my strength and my ability to protect you."**

- **Commitment to Mutual Defense**

The act symbolized a promise that: **"Your enemies are my enemies. If anyone attacks you, they attack me. I will fight alongside you."**

This created a bond of solidarity—your battles become mine.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

- **Sacrificial Loyalty**

Weapons represented life-and-death stakes. By offering them, a person pledged to risk their life for the other party if necessary. It was not just symbolic—it was a covenant of ultimate loyalty.

- **Unity of Purpose**

Exchanging weapons meant aligning goals and standing together against common threats. It was a declaration of shared destiny.

“Here is my strength and all my ability to fight. If anyone attacks you, they are attacking me. Your battles are my battles, and my battles are yours. I will fight with you, defend you, and protect you.”

This act signified an unbreakable commitment to mutual defense and support.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #3 – Cutting the Covenant

After the exchange of robes and belts comes the most solemn act: **cutting the covenant**. This involves taking an animal and splitting it in half—a practice unique to covenant-making in Scripture. Animals were never divided this way except in the context of a covenant ceremony.

Once the animal is cut in two, each half is laid opposite the other, creating a path between the pieces. The covenant partners then stand back-to-back, walk through the blood in a figure-eight pattern, and return to face each other. This ritual carries profound meaning:

- **Dying to Self**

Walking through the blood signifies that each person is surrendering personal rights and beginning a new life together as covenant partners—bound until death. Each half of the slain animal represents the covenant makers themselves.

- **Invoking Judgment**

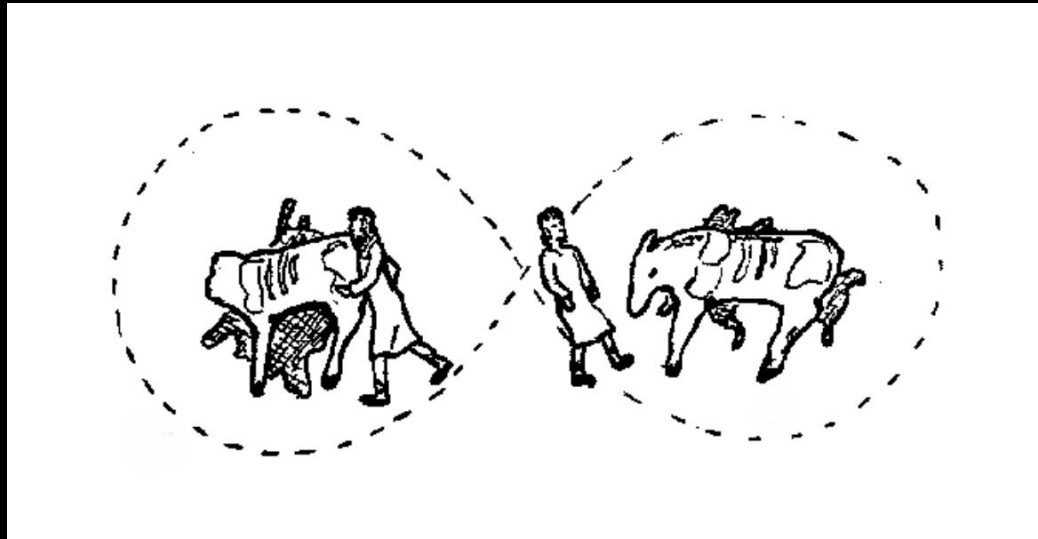
Because a blood covenant is the most serious of all agreements, each partner points to the slain animal and declares:

“May God do to me—and more—if I ever break this covenant. Split me in two and give me to the vultures if I violate this sacred bond.”

(Think of Abraham driving away the vultures in Genesis 15 as a vivid picture of protecting the covenant.)

This step underscores the gravity and permanence of the covenant relationship—it is a life-and-death commitment.

THE BLOOD COVENANT



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #4 – Raise the Right Arm and Mix Blood

In this step, the covenant partners **raise their right arms, cut their palms, and press them together** so that their blood intermingles. This act carries profound symbolism:

- **Life in the Blood**

Scripture teaches that life is in the blood (**Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 7:26; Leviticus 17:10–14; Deuteronomy 12:23–25; Acts 15:20**). By mingling blood, the two individuals symbolically share life itself. They are no longer separate—they become one life.

- **Exchange of Natures**

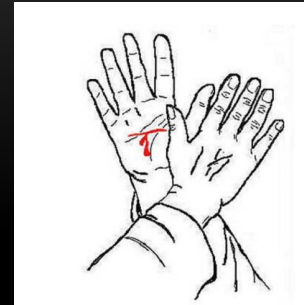
This act signifies putting off one's old nature and taking on the nature of the covenant partner. It represents complete unity and mutual identity.

- **Allegiance and Oneness**

By swearing allegiance during this ritual, the partners declare:

“Your life is now my life. We are bound together as one.”

This step emphasizes the depth of covenant commitment—far beyond a legal agreement, it is a union of lives.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #5 Exchange Names

As we stand with our blood intermingled, the next step is to **exchange names**. Each covenant partner takes part of the other's name—not as a replacement, but as an addition—signifying unity and shared identity. This act declares:

“Your name is now part of mine, and mine is part of yours. We are joined together as one.”

In Scripture, this is seen when God changed Abram's name to **Abraham** and Sarai's to **Sarah** (**Genesis 17:5, 15**), and when Jacob became **Israel** (**Genesis 32:28**). These name changes marked covenant relationship and a new identity. We will expand on this later.

Step #6 Make a Scar

In this step, the covenant partners mingle their blood and rub it together, creating a scar as a lasting testimony to the covenant. The wound is then left to heal naturally, forming a permanent mark. In some traditions, substances such as ash or soot are applied to the cut to make the scar more pronounced and enduring. This scar stands as a visible and lifelong reminder of the promises made and the responsibilities each partner carries. It serves as a tangible guarantee of the covenant, symbolizing loyalty, unity, and commitment.

If someone threatens or comes against us, we can show the scar as a sign of protection, declaring:

“There is more to me than meets the eye. If you fight me, you fight my covenant partner—and you don't know how strong they are.”

The more scars a person has, the more covenant partners they represent—and by extension, the strength of their partners' partner. This step underscores the seriousness and security of covenant relationships.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #5 Exchange Names

Step #6 Make a Scar



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Historical Example –Henry Stanley and Blood Covenants

If interested, look up [Henry Stanley](#), the famous explorer who reportedly cut **50 covenants** during his expeditions in Africa. This practice was common among African tribes as a way to establish peace and cooperation. By entering into these blood covenants with local chieftains, Stanley secured alliances that allowed him to navigate hostile territories safely.

The significance of these covenants was evident: whenever Stanley encountered an unfriendly tribe, he would raise his arm to reveal his **50 covenant scars**. Seeing those marks, potential attackers understood that harming Stanley meant fighting not just him, but all his covenant partners—and their partners as well. The result? Tribes reacted to Henry Stanley's scars with fear and respect because each scar represented a blood covenant with a powerful ally. In African tribal culture, a blood covenant was considered the most binding and sacred agreement—breaking it could bring severe consequences, even death.

When Stanley raised his arm to show his scars:

- Each scar was a warning: It meant attacking him was equivalent to attacking dozens of chiefs and their tribes.
- It signaled strength and protection: The more scars, the more allies. His enemies realized they would face not just one man, but an entire network of warriors.
- Immediate deterrence: This display often caused hostile tribes to retreat without conflict, understanding the risk was too great.

THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #7 State the Covenant terms

At this point, we stand before witnesses and clearly state the covenant terms:

“Everything I have is now yours—my money, property, and possessions. If you need something, you don’t have to ask; just take what you need. What belongs to me belongs to you, and what belongs to you belongs to me. If I die, all that I own becomes yours. My children become yours by adoption, and you take responsibility for my family.”

This covenant also includes our problems. If I am in financial trouble, I don’t ask for help—I simply take what I need from your resources like your checkbook. In this covenant, we share everything: both blessings and burdens. All that is mine is yours, and all that is yours is mine.”

This is why David cared for Jonathan’s son—because they were in covenant together.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #8 Share a Memorial Meal

Purpose of the Step

The memorial meal is a symbolic act that completes the covenant union. In ancient times, covenants were sealed with the sacrifice of an animal and the sharing of its blood. Today, we use bread and wine as symbols of body and blood.

Biblical Basis

- Wine is referred to as “the blood of grapes” .
 - Sharing a meal together signifies peace, unity, and commitment in covenant relationships.
-



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #8 Share a Memorial Meal

How to Practice This Step

1. Prepare the Elements: Bread and wine (or grape juice) to represent body and blood.
 2. Break and Share the Bread:
 - Each person breaks the bread and feeds it to the other.
 - Say: "This represents my body, and I am now placing it within you."
 3. Serve the Wine:
 - Each person serves wine to the other.
 - Say: "This represents my lifeblood, which now becomes your blood."
-

Teaching Points

1. The act is symbolic, not literal. It represents unity and shared life.
2. This step reaffirms the covenant and deepens relational commitment.
3. It mirrors biblical patterns of covenant-making and foreshadows Passover.



THE BLOOD COVENANT

Step #9 Plant a Memorial

The next step is planting a memorial to the covenant. Why? Because it serves as a constant reminder of the agreement we have made. Traditionally, this memorial is a tree that is planted and sprinkled with the blood of the sacrificed animal.

“That tree, marked by blood, along with the scar on our bodies, stands as a testimony that we are bound together in covenant.

This act completes the ceremony. From this day forward, we are friends”.

In biblical times, this term “friends” carried far more weight than it does today.



KEY TAKEAWAYS – PART 1: THE ANCIENT COVENANT

Blood covenants in Scripture symbolize the most binding form of agreement, involving life itself. They point to a progression of God's covenant relationship with humanity.

God's Faithfulness

Every covenant reveals His unchanging character and eternal purpose.

Golden Thread of Redemption:

From Genesis to Revelation, all Scripture points to Yeshua—the ultimate covenant-keeper.

Covenants Matter:

They are not casual agreements but sacred, binding relationships initiated by God.

Coming up in Part 2: We will explore blood covenant between God and Abraham— In **Genesis 15**, God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising descendants and land. The shedding of blood (sacrificed animals) signifies the seriousness and permanence of this promise.

God and Moses— At Sinai (**Exodus 24**), the covenant is confirmed with blood sprinkled on the altar and the people, representing mutual commitment: God's law and Israel's obedience.

Coming up in Part 3: God through Yeshua (Jesus) and us – The ultimate fulfillment comes in the New (Renewed) Covenant (**Luke 22:20**), sealed by Yeshua's own blood. This doesn't abolish God's law; rather, it writes His Torah on our hearts (**Jeremiah 31:33**), empowering us to live by it through the Spirit. Key point: Nothing is "done away with." Yeshua Himself said He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (**Matthew 5:17**). God's principles endure forever; the covenant deepens from external commands to internal transformation.

COVENANT STRUCTURE END OF PART I

God's irrevocable promises and His faithfulness

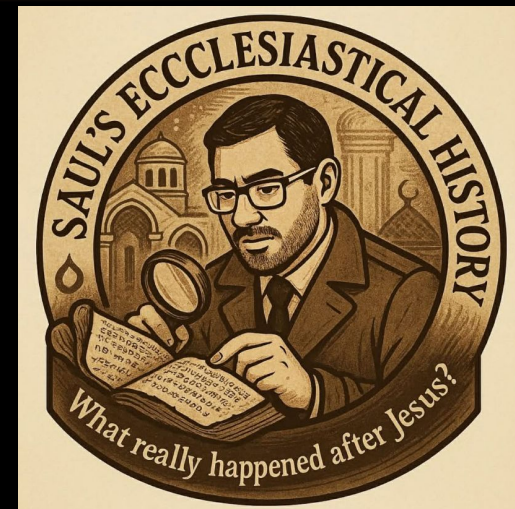
by Scott and Anna Kennedy

CREDITS

GOD THROUGH YESHUA
“THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH”



SAUL RUIZ
OF
SAUL'S ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY
OUR TRUSTED TECHIE FOR HIS TIME IN MAKING THE VIDEOS



BLOOPER



Q & A



Shabbat Shalom

A man with a long white beard and a blue cap is shown in profile, blowing a shofar. The background is a sunset sky with soft clouds. The text 'Shabbat Shalom' is written in a cursive font at the top.

"Keep My Sabbaths holy,
that they may be a sign
between you and Me.
Then you will know that

I AM
the Most High. "

Ezekiel 20:20