

24/7 THE BEGINNING MAKING A COVENANT

1. A covenant is a commitment between two or more people

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. 1 SAMUEL 18:1-4 TNIV

You can make a covenant with...

- **God**
- **A church**
- **A friend**
- **A spouse**
- **A country**

2. A covenant is unbreakable, no matter what

When a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised. NUMBERS 30:2 HCSB

Then David ran away from Naioth in Ramah. He went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How did I sin against your father? Why is he trying to kill me?" Jonathan answered, "No! You won't die! See, my father doesn't do anything great or small without first telling me. Why would he keep this from me? It's not true!" But David took an oath, saying, "Your father knows very well that you like me. He says to himself, 'Jonathan must not know about it, or he will tell David.' As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I am only a step away from death!" Jonathan said to David, "I'll do anything you want me to do." So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon festival. I am supposed to eat with the king, but let me hide in the field until the third evening. If your father notices I am gone, tell him, 'David begged me to let him go to his hometown of Bethlehem. Every year at this time his family group offers a sacrifice.' If your father says, 'Fine,' I am safe. But if he becomes angry, you will know that he wants to hurt me. Jonathan, be loyal to me, your servant. You have made an agreement with me before the LORD. If I am guilty, you may kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?" Jonathan answered, "No, never! If I learn that my father plans to hurt you, I will warn you!" 1 SAMUEL 20:1-9 NCV

Then Saul became very angry with Jonathan. He said, "You son of a wicked, worthless woman! I know you are on the side of David son of Jesse! You bring shame on yourself and on your mother who gave birth to you. As long as Jesse's son lives, you will never be king or have a kingdom. Now send for David and bring him to me. He must die!" Jonathan asked his father, "Why should David be killed? What wrong has he done?" Then Saul threw his spear at Jonathan, trying to kill him. So Jonathan knew that his father really wanted to kill David. Jonathan was very angry and left the table. That second day of the month he refused to eat. He was ashamed of his father and upset over David. 1 SAMUEL 20:30-34 NCV

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace. We have promised by the LORD that we will be friends. We said, 'The LORD will be a witness between you and me, and between our descendants always.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to town. 1 SAMUEL 20:42 NCV

3. Jesus taught that keeping covenants is really about character

You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, Don't break your promises, but keep the promises you make to the Lord. But I tell you, never swear an oath. Don't swear an oath using the name of heaven, because heaven is God's throne. Don't swear an oath using the name of the earth, because the earth belongs to God. Don't swear an oath using the name of Jerusalem, because that is the city of the great King. Don't even swear by your own head, because you cannot make one hair on your head become white or black. Say only yes if you mean yes, and no if you mean no. If you say more than yes or no, it is from the Evil One. MATTHEW 5:33-36 NCV

If a man makes a promise to the LORD or says he will do something special, he must keep his promise. He must do what he said. NUMBERS 30:2 NCV

4. God deals harshly with those who break covenants

When you make a vow to the LORD your God, be prompt in fulfilling whatever you promised him. For the LORD your God demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows, or you will be guilty of sin. DEUTERONOMY 23:21 NLT

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. ACTS 5:1-11 TNIV

4. God promises to bless those that keep Godly covenants

Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. DEUTERONOMY 29:9 TNIV

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. PROVERBS 12:22 TNIV

If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers... You will be blessed more than any other people... DEUTERONOMY 7:12-14 TNIV