

The Mystery of Covenant Love

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1. In biblical times, making covenants was a common practice between people, tribes, or nations. Covenants were promises to display loving-kindness and loyalty.
2. Most people, and many Christians, have little or no understanding of what a Covenant relationship with God looks like.
3. Contracts involve obligations and consequences for failure, but a covenant involves selflessness and sacrificial commitment.
4. There are two types of covenants:
 - Equal Party Covenant: Mutual benefit between two equal parties.
 - Unequal Party Covenant (Suzerain – Vassal): A greater party imposes a covenant upon a lesser party out of mercy.
5. God initiates the covenant with Abraham. Abraham's role is to surrender and cling to God. The seal with a blood sacrifice symbolizes a transition from an old life to a new one.
6. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac mirrors God's ultimate covenant fulfillment through Jesus.
7. Jesus fulfills the covenant offering eternal unity with God through His sacrifice.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Berith “to cut, to bind together in an unbreakable obligation based on love.”

QUOTES

“Over the past 125 years the word Covenant has gone missing. As a result a substitute has come on the scene, called a ‘personal relationship’ with Jesus.”
-Unknown

“One of the words of Scripture, which has nearly gone out of fashion, is the word ‘Covenant.’ There was a time when it was the keynote of theology and the Christian life.”

-Andrew Murray

5 Reasons Why God Created You

1. To pursue Him
- *Matt. 6:33, 1 Tim. 6:11, 2 Tim. 2:22*
2. To know and understand Him
- *Jer. 9:23-24*
3. To grow in love with Him
- *Hosea 6:6, Mark 12:28-30*
4. To abide in Him
- *John 15:4-5*
5. To become like Him
- *1 Cor. 11:1*

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Faithful Then Faithful Now
Praise
There is One Gospel
Way Maker

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself through covenant making instead of another method? How does this shape our understanding of our relationship with him?
2. What is the difference between a covenant and a contract? How does this distinction change the way we think about our relationship with God?
3. The text mentions that in the modern, Western world, the idea of a “personal relationship” has replaced the “covenant relationship.” What do you think is lost or misunderstood because of this shift?
4. The Hebrew word *Hesed* is described as steadfast love, faithfulness, and loyalty. How does this concept help us understand God’s character and covenant with us?
5. Abraham’s faith was tested when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac. What does this teach us about true faith and commitment in a covenant relationship with God?

Consider:

This week, spend time reflecting on God's faithfulness in your own life. Are there prayers you've been waiting for Him to answer? Take a few moments each day to trust in His timing, knowing that He fulfills His promises in ways that are best for us. Pray and ask God to strengthen your faith, just as He did for Abraham.