

A landscape photograph of a mountain peak at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the mountain's ridges. The sky is filled with wispy, white clouds. In the foreground, a stack of several large, flat, greyish-brown rocks is balanced precariously on top of each other, forming a cairn. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

# COVENANT





Are there  
different  
levels of  
devotion?





The Bible reveals  
one level of  
devotion formally  
called **covenant**.



“In scripture, covenant is also the most comprehensive concept covering an individual’s relationship to God.”

Alexander T. Desmond — New Dictionary of Biblical Theology



## Matthew 26:26-28

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As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take and eat it; this is My body.” Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them and said, “Drink from it, all of you. **For this is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.**





What don't we understand  
about **covenants**?



# What don't we understand about **covenants**?

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- ❖ **We think of it in Western/American terms**
- ❖ **Covenant in English is defined as:**
- ❖ **(n.) an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified.**
- ❖ **Synonyms: treaty, pact, convention. or contract**





# Contracts or **covenants**?

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- ❖ Contracts are often limited or finite
- ❖ Contracts are relatively easy to break
- ❖ Contracts carry few guarantees
- ❖ Contracts always seem to have a winner
- ❖ **Contracts do not address relationships**





# Words matter to understanding







How do we define  
**covenant?**



A covenant is a binding, unbreakable obligation between two parties, based on unconditional love sealed by blood and sacred oath, that create a relationship in which each party is bound by specific undertakings on each other's behalf. The parties to the covenant place themselves under the penalty of divine retribution should they later attempt to avoid these undertakings. It is a relationship that can only be broken by death.

Malcolm Smith — “The Lost Secret of the New Covenant”



“A formal relationship between two parties who agree to a set of promises so they can work together toward a common goal.”

The Bible Project — “The Study Guide for Covenants”

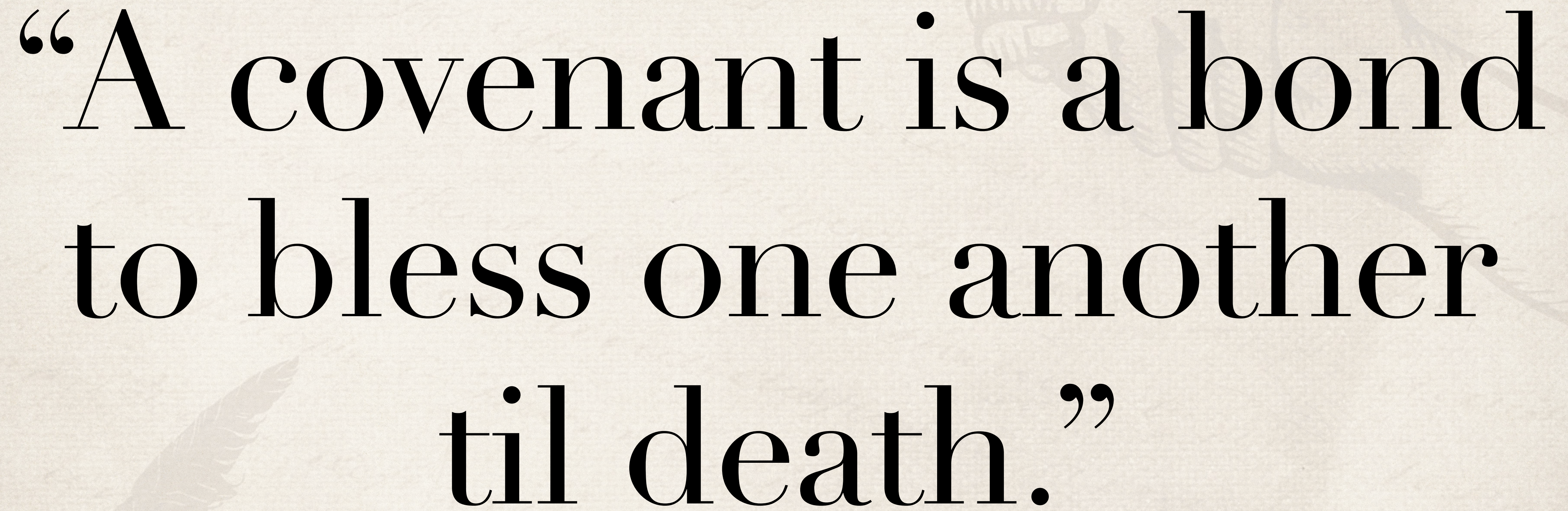




“A bond in blood  
sovereignly  
administered.”

O. Palmer Robertson — “The Christ of the Covenants”





“A covenant is a bond  
to bless one another  
til death.”



A faint, sepia-toned illustration of a hand holding a quill pen is visible in the background, positioned in the upper right quadrant. The hand is rendered in a sketchy, artistic style, with the quill held between the fingers. The overall background has a textured, parchment-like appearance.

What hinders us from  
living out the **covenant**?



**GENESIS 1-2: God Creates  
The World — the word used  
is God (Elohim: Creator)**

Genesis 1:26-28

**GENESIS 2: God Creates  
Covenant — the word used  
changes to LORD God**

**GENESIS 3: Man breaks  
covenant — the word used**

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did **God** really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, **God** said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

"No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. "In fact, **God** knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like **God**, knowing good and evil."



# Genesis 3:17-21

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- ❖ Death is now our mortal enemy
- ❖ God provides us resources for survival but at a cost
- ❖ Toil from the land necessary for survival
  - ❖ Man will be distracted / controlled but them
- ❖ Original relationship is now severed
- ❖ No returning the garden by our own works
- ❖ **We need a redemption - this is the THEME of the whole Bible**





God's intention with a  
**covenant** is relationship.



## Exodus 6:7

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**I will take you as my own people,  
and I will be your God. Then you will  
know that I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you out from under the  
yoke of the Egyptians.**



Jeremiah 30:22

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"So you will be my people,  
and I will be your God."



## Matthew 1:23

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"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")."



# Revelation 21:3

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“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**”





God's invitation into a  
**covenant** relationship.



# Luke 14:31-33

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“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.** In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.





How have you viewed a relationship with God?

I agree to follow Jesus, forever

**UN-CONTRACT**

THIS TIME WE SIGN.

**WE JUST MADE YOUR PROMOTIONS PERMANENT**

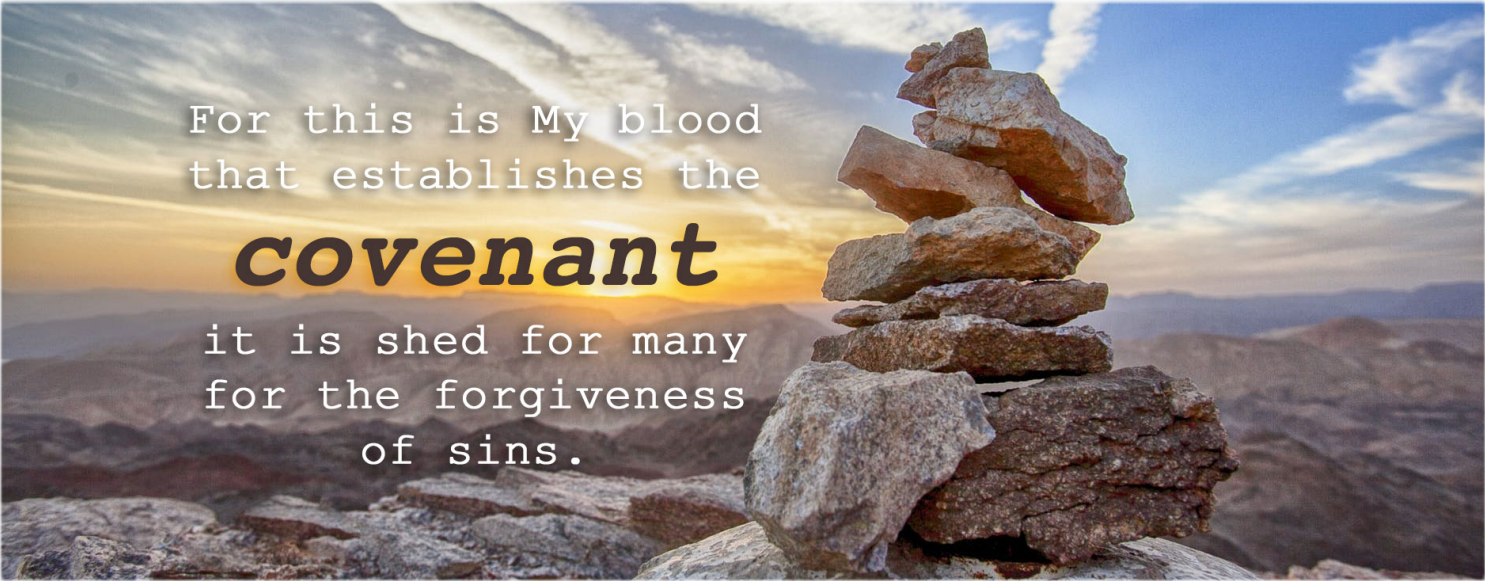




A landscape photograph of a mountain peak at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun. In the foreground, a stack of several large, flat, greyish-brown rocks is balanced on top of each other, forming a cairn. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

# COVENANT





For this is My blood  
that establishes the

## **covenant**

it is shed for many  
for the forgiveness  
of sins.

## Sermon Review

**A covenant is a bond in blood to  
bless one another til death**

### Key Scriptures:

- **Matthew 26:26-28** - We celebrate the covenant
- **Covenant is about relationships**
  - Exodus 6:7
  - Jeremiah 30:22
  - Matthew 1:23
  - Revelation 21:3
- **Luke 14:31-33** - We have a choice to commit

### Key Questions:

1. Does my level of commitment match the covenant description?
2. How does God display his love for us in the covenant agreement?

## Further Study

**Watch:** [thebibleproject.com/explore/covenants/](http://thebibleproject.com/explore/covenants/)

### Study:

Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24-8:5  
Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21; 17:1-4  
2 Samuel 7:10-16  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Read:** "The Christ of the Covenants" - Robertson

## D-Group

**Start:** Answer the Key Questions in the Sermon review

**Read: John 15:1-8**

How does this passage speak to covenant relationship? How can you live/obey this passage.

**Pray:** Commit in prayer to a covenant level devotion

## Family Devotional

A covenant with God is a relationship that is strong.  
Nothing can break it.

**Read: Psalm 132:11-12**

This is a review of the covenant that God made with David. What words stand out to you?

### Challenge

What are the strongest connectors in your house?  
(Collect a number of "connectors" like Legos, tape, rope, etc)

Now make a connection using your items that you think could hold up the smallest person in your home?

What happened?

### Review

Often times our connections break, but God gives us his promises and his love to hold us close to him.

What are some things that God gives us to help us stay close to him? How do these support a relationship?

### Conclude

Pray and thank God for his covenant love that lasts forever. Sing a song like "His Love Endures Forever"