

## Introduction to Covenants

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**Scripture Reference:** Hebrews 13:20-21

*Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,<sup>21</sup> equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.~ New American Standard Bible*

It is clear from Scripture concerning His Kingdom that God has chosen to deal with humanity by means of a covenant relationship.

The word “covenant” is used three hundred twenty-one times in three hundred verses in NASB.

1. Covenant - a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action.
2. Concerning God, it is more than a legal and binding agreement. It involves an intimate relationship between the agreeing parties.
3. The covenants of God are enforced by the spirit - 2 Corinthians 3:6; Galatians 3:18-19
4. Covenant is a relational and redemptive word - Hebrews 9:15 (not necessarily the case with human covenants).

### **The Significance of a Covenant - [Hebrews 6:13-19](#)**

1. God made a promise. God's promises are covenants.
2. He swore by Himself. He took an oath, "do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"
3. He showed the immutability of His covenant. God didn't have to put His promises in the form of a covenant but choose to for our benefit - HIS WORD. Testament is Latin for Covenant.

4. God takes personal responsibility for enforcing our covenant - Philippians 1:6
5. His covenant/promises are anchors of the soul. There is unquestionable security in God's covenant. They are faultless, guaranteed, and eternal.

**Covenant concerns the following :**

1. The manner in which God communicates to us
2. It is unilateral (the undertaking of one party)
3. His way to guarantee us His Promises
4. Covenant is the basis of Christianity

**The Pattern of Covenants in Scripture - Genesis 15; Genesis 17**

1. The initiating party describes himself and what he proposes
2. A list of obligations between the two is described
3. Rewards and punishments that govern the keeping and breaking of the covenant - Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 1