



The word *covenant* is found 311 times in the Bible. That's significant. When a word shows up that much in God's written revelation to mankind, we should pay attention. We're being taught something, and what we're being taught deserves our attention.

- ✿ In your own words, what's a covenant?

- ✿ Can you think of some modern examples of covenants?

- ✿ Why are covenants even a thing? Why do people enter into covenants?

- ✿ What makes covenants work? If they get broken, how does that happen?

GENESIS 17 AS AN EXAMPLE

We'll get into the specifics of the covenant God made with Abraham in a later lesson. For now, let's read what God did in Genesis 17.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am _____ Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my _____ between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. _____ make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

And God said to Abraham, "As for _____, you shall _____ my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations." (Gen 17:1-9)

- ☀ What stands out to you about the way God interacted with Abraham? What can we learn as we're looking to grow in our understanding of covenants?
- ☀ In our last lesson, we talked about promises. We know God has made many promises throughout human history, but how is his interaction with Abraham in Genesis 17 different? Is there any difference between a promise and a covenant?

JEREMIAH 31 AS AN EXAMPLE

Again, we'll dig deeper into the covenant God is foretelling through the prophet Jeremiah in a later lesson. For now, pay close attention to what God communicates in Jeremiah 31:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when _____ make a _____ covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 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 _____ shall be _____ people."
(Jer 31:31-33)

- ☀ How does this example help us understand what God means when he describes a covenant?
- ☀ In your own words, what did God want with these people?
- ☀ What did God expect of these people?
- ☀ Putting everything we've learned in this lesson together, if I enter into a covenant with God, what does that mean? Why do I need to understand the Bible idea of covenants?