

SERIES: LOVE AFFAIR #3    TITLE: I PROMISE.

- A COVENANT: Is a blood bond of life and death.
- Today we might call it: a commitment on steroids!
- The word covenant is used in the Bible 286 times.

God was always making covenants with His people:

**ABRAHAM** Genesis 12:1 (NIV) The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

- Abram was rich - think (Bill Gates rich)!
- Abram was commissioned by God to move all his stuff to Canon!
- Moving from one area to another was a huge undertaking!
- Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV) <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
- Blessing = to be on the receiving end of the supernatural favor of God!
- SO: Abram is on the move and asks God a question: Genesis 15:8 (NIV) But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”
- How do I know for sure I will get it?
- God responds to Abram with a covenant: Genesis 15:18 (NKJV) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—
- Tell story: So Abram brought a heifer, a goat and a ram and he cut them down the middle and arranged the bloody halves opposite each other, God came and walked thru the bloody pieces of animal, taking the initiative in the covenant. God said Abraham, I’m going to pour out my supernatural favor on

your life, I’m going to bless you. I love you unconditionally. I will make your name great.

- God said: I am in covenant with you = Abraham was in covenant with God!
- God changed his name from Abram to ABR “HAH” HAM?
- Hebrew language: HAH represents the breathe of God!
- After this covenant: Abraham had the breathe of God on his life!
- COVENANT = BLOOD BOND OF LIFE AND DEATH.

ANOTHER COVENANT: David and Jonathan.

1 Samuel 18:3-4 (NIV) <sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> 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.

- That’s interesting: back in the day covenants occurred often.
- David and Jonathan exchanged ROBES = becoming one in heart. BELTS = helping each other with their weaknesses. WEAPONS = would fight each other’s enemies.
- THEN: took animal, cut in 2 halves, arranged opposite each other, they walked back to back thru the pieces in a figure 8 = illustrating the eternal nature of the covenant; saying to God if we break this covenant, you do to us what we did to this animal!
- CALLED: THE WALK OF DEATH.
- Then they took one another’s names and made a public announcement: were in a blood covenant = bound in life and death!

SHOW VIDEO:

- We live in a contract crazy culture don’t we?!
- Have to sign a contract to do anything:
- Cell Phone: sign contract. Direct TV: sign contract. Lease a car: sign contract. GET MARRIED: sign contract.
- How good are contracts? Really, how good?
- CONTRACT = if you keep your end of the deal, I’ll keep my end of the deal.
- The moment I don’t feel like you doing what you should (I’m out)!

- I'll rip up the contract - what good is a piece of paper?!
- DEF. CONTRACT = 1. An agreement between two or more parties, especially one that is enforceable by law. 2. Marriage as a formal agreement.

How good was their marital contract on the short film?

- 67% of all marriages end up as relational wreckage!
- Would you buy a cell phone or rent a car if it didn't work 67% of the time? NO!
- Most go into marriage planning for failure = a divorce!
- It's great we've learned about his needs and her needs and can watch Dr. Phil talk on the subject.
- But you don't have to be too smart to figure out: it's not working!
- Marriage is not about a contract: if I feel like your short on your end of the deal; it's too easy to cut and run.

Marriage is about something deeper, more profound:

- I want you to understand the foundation of marriage: what it's built upon.
- It's about a covenant: that is what gives us the energy and power to be the kind of husband or wife that God wants us to become.
- A CONTRACT IS ABOUT LOOP HOLES, A COVENANT IS ABOUT LOYALTY!
- Contract is about feelings, covenant is about faith.
- A contract is selfish, a covenant is selfless.

Picture a wedding ceremony in your mind:

- I want to write a book about crazy wedding events! LOL!
- What are you thinking at wedding? Can you believe she tried to get into that dress, I wonder how much this cost, wonder where their going on their honeymoon.
- Oh, girl I would never use those colors = hideous! LOL!
- LET'S THINK DEEPER:
- A wedding for a Christian is a covenant.
- The ceremony is all about the covenant.

- When a man and woman become husband and wife before God and friends; they are cutting a covenant.
- A BLOOD BOND OF LIFE AND DEATH.
- Well I didn't realize that: but you did it - I did it!
- Bride walking down isle = walk of death
- Wedding runner = holy ground.
- Parents prominent position: they are giving their blessing.
- Father walks bride down isle = God walked down isle and gave Eve to Adam.
- Hands joined = two becoming one.
- Pastor = represents God the Father, man woman and God.
- Groom in first = he is the first to make the covenant.
- Vows = reflect the nature of God - scriptural.
- Rings = no beginning, no end, pure - outward symbol of inward covenant.
- Diamond = 7 colors - God made a covenant with Noah never flood entire world again, rainbow 7 colors.
- They take the same name = become one!

You see the covenant: blood bond of life and death.

- In a covenant your thinking about the other person's needs, not your own.
  - It's unconditional love, commitment on steroids!
- Marriage is not the easiest thing, it's the hardest thing, but it's the greatest thing.
- As they leave they do the walk of death together.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 (NIV) <sup>4</sup>When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. <sup>5</sup>It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. <sup>6</sup>Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?

- Maybe the video we shown is you?
- It doesn't matter how high the weeds are!

**Jesus shed his blood to have a covenant with you! Mark 14:24**  
(NIV) <sup>24</sup> “This is my blood of the<sup>[a]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

- You can have a covenant with Jesus: ask forgiveness and say I DO to Jesus!
- He will give you a new name: my name is Nathan Oakes but really it's Nathan Oakes Christian!
- If you have said: I DO to Jesus, the same is true in your life.

**ALTAR CALL:**

- 80% of marriages will deal with adultery! You don't have too!
- Turn it around: start by making it right with God!
- Say I DO to God this morning!