

# Covenant Relationships in Scriptures

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Front cover picture is The Ark of the Covenant.

## The Purpose of Man

*Genesis 1:26 And Elohim said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”*

This is the most basic statement of our purpose and reason for being. It most simply defines the relationship Yahweh sought to have with man. After creating all living creatures “after their kind,” the Great Mighty One and Creator says, “*Let US make man after our ‘kind!’*” We know the history of the events in the garden of Eden when the Adversary, Satan, comes along to snatch away the intended relationship with The Creator, Yahweh. What form did this relationship take? Will the intended relationship ever be restored? How?

*Acts 2:38-39 Tells us how this relationship is to be restored since it was interrupted by the influence of Satan in the garden: “And Kēpha said to them, ‘Repent, and let each one of you be immersed in the Name of יהושע Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as יהוה our Elohim shall call.’”* (All Scriptures quoted from the Institute for Scripture Research version).

Notice: As many as Yahweh, Our Elohim, SHALL CALL.

Yahweh intended that everyone be included in that relationship but there is a plan by which it comes about. The Savior, Yahshua, addressed this in the gospel of Matthew:

*Matthew 22:9 ‘Therefore go into the street corners, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding feast.’ 10 “And*

*those servants went out into the street corners and gathered all whom they found, both wicked and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “And when the sovereign came in to view the guests, he saw there a man who had not put on a wedding garment, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 “Then the sovereign said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him out into the outer darkness – there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

What was wrong here? First, notice it was a wedding... invited (called) into a wedding relationship. This guy didn't understand his place in the wedding relationship. Keep this in mind.

In 1 Corinthians 1:26 Paul asks: *“Do you see your calling...”*

John says in *John 1:12* *“As many as received him, he gave power to become the sons of Yahweh.”*

And Messiah Yahshua said this in His prayer to His Father on the night He died: *John 17:1-2* *“ as many as You have given him...”*

Most believers understand this calling pretty well. And we pretty well understand our responsibility to “sow seeds.” We sow the seeds, Yahweh does the calling.

What is Yahweh calling them to? Where will He put them when He calls them? Doesn't He call them OUT!?

But notice in Matthew 7 this curious statement by Messiah Yahshua:

*21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens. 22 “Many*

*shall say to Me in that day, 'Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?' 23 "And then I shall declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness (Torahlessness)!' "*

They didn't have the "proper relationship" with Yahweh.

I believe it is vital for us to understand what our relationship is to Yahweh. Understanding what your relationship should be will increase your faith (belief) and your faithfulness. The full revelation about this relationship is found spread out between Genesis 1:26 and Acts 2:38-39. It's a revelation that probably cannot be grasped by the human mind all at once.

### **First Covenants in Scripture?**

Let's examine the relationships established by Yahweh as, at various times, He made agreements with man. Perhaps, as we do this, we can better understand how we should be relating to Our Creator, Yahweh.

The basic type of relationship we will discuss is the covenant. The word covenant appears in 27 of 39 O.T. books and 11 of 27 books in the N.T. The concept of covenants runs from Genesis 6 through Revelation 11 where "the ark of His covenant" appears in the temple of Elohim.

There is a lot to be learned from the covenants laid out in the scriptures about our relationship with Yahweh. How many covenants can you identify?

At "creation" we may find the first "covenant" in Scripture:  
*Genesis 1:26 And Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them rule*

*over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the livestock, and over all the earth and over all the creeping creatures that creep on the earth.” 27 And Elohim created the man in His image, in the image of Elohim He created him – male and female He created them. 28 And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them, “Bear fruit and increase, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over all creatures moving on the earth.” 29 And Elohim said, “See, I have given you every plant that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed, to you it is for food. 30 “And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to every creeping creature on the earth, in which there is life, every green plant is for food.” And it came to be so. 31 And Elohim saw all that He had made, and see, it was very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, the sixth day.*

This Scripture contains many of the elements of a “covenant” as we shall see in a moment. In the next chapter, we see instructions given to Adam that resemble the “stipulations” of a covenant:

*Genesis 2:7 And יהוה Elohim formed the man out of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils breath of life. And the man became a living being. 8 And יהוה Elohim planted a garden in Ĕĕden, to the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground יהוה Elohim made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, with the tree of life in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . Gen 2:15 And יהוה Elohim took the man and put him in the garden of Ĕĕden*



*to work it and to guard it. 16 And יהוה Elohim commanded the man, saying, “Eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you shall certainly die.”*

The word translated in your Scriptures as “covenant” is the Hebrew word appearing as number 1285 in Stong’s Exhaustive Concordance:

**ברית** brit a league of “friendship” ; binding agreement

Now let’s look at “covenants” in the Scriptures that pertain to the relationship between the Creator and man:

### **1. Covenant with Noah:**

*Genesis 6:8 Noah found favor* (grace) – notice that Noah did not earn this. In verses 13-18, 22, Yahweh tells Noah what is going to happen, why and what he, Noah, is instructed to do.

We can see in this relationship which Yahweh calls a “covenant” (Gen.6:18; 9:9) 1. a calling (Gen. 6:8); 2 instructions (Gen 6:14ff.); 3. a sign as given in chapter 9 verses 11-13.

So, who was the original author of “covenant relationship?”

What significant things can we note about this relationship between Noah and Yahweh?

1. Noah did nothing to deserve it... it was by “grace” or favor.

2. It involved blood... Noah offered sacrifices. Ch. 8:20

3. It involved promises... Ch. 8: 21-22

4. There was a sign... 9:11-17 (It was a recurring sign).

Before we get into the next covenant, I want to tell you a bit about covenants and the Hittites. **Kingdom of the Hittites**, pg. 51-52 tells us that the Hittites had a form of “treaty” or covenant resembling the Scriptural covenants. We can surmise that their “treaties” contained:

1. Preamble
2. Prologue
3. Stipulations and Benefits
4. Witnesses
5. Reading and deposition

Where did the Hittites come from? Genesis 10 records the generations of Noah and his sons and seed... Everyone was the seed of Noah! Notice in chapter 10 and verses 6 and 15 that one of Noah’s grandsons was Heth, from whom came the Hethites or Hittites. So where do you suppose the Hittites got the form of a “covenant?”

## **2. Covenant with Abraham:**

In **Genesis 11:11** Yahweh details the seed of Shem. Verse 15 tells us the origin of the Hebrews... Eber (Hebrews) and in verse 26 we see the appearance of Abram (from Eber, in other words, a Hebrew). Then in verse 29 Abram takes Sarai (another Hebrew) for his wife... And then:

**Genesis 12:1** And יהוה said to Abram, “Go yourself out of your land, from your relatives and from your father’s house, to a land which I show you. 2 “And I shall make you a great nation, and bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing! 3 “And I shall bless those who bless you, and curse him who curses you. And in you all the clans of the earth shall be blessed.”

Yahweh speaks out of the blue... out of His favor (grace) to Abram these GREAT PROMISES! Abram (later changed to Abraham) had Yahweh's favor, he didn't have to earn it!

Further, Yahweh expands the promises: *Genesis 13:15 'for all the land which you see I shall give to you and your seed forever.'*

Abram questions Yahweh (Abram is already 75 years old) how will he know that Yahweh will do this? Read chapter **15:1-21**. What sign will you give me? Then Yahweh instructs Abram to do some things for a sacrifice... Yahweh consumes the sacrifice and the sign is blood... "and if I fail this is what should happen to me!"

Abram believes and trusts as recorded in chapter **17:1-4, 5-14, 24-27** Yahweh tells Abram this: *Genesis 17:7 "And I shall establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be Elohim to you and your seed after you.*

In this chapter, we find that the sign of this covenant is circumcision:

*Genesis 17:10 "This is My covenant which you guard between Me and you, and your seed after you: Every male child among you is to be circumcised. 11 "And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall become a sign of the covenant between Me and you."*

(Notice that one is not required to be "circumcised" to be called into the "covenant with Abraham" or to the assembly. (Romans 4:9-11) That was the conclusion in Acts 15 as well... but ...Acts 15:19-21 tells us that once within the assembly they will hear Torah and this will involve a "new" covenant.)

A covenant distinguishes who is part and party to the promises and who is not.

The relationship is formalized at Yahweh's whim. What sign? Blood of the sacrifice and circumcision (a recurring sign) a community sign.

Yahweh is the King! He does the choosing! He sets the stipulation! He gives the benefits! He determines the sign! Abraham's part was to believe and trust. Yahweh promised Abraham an inheritance LIKE A FATHER PROMISES HIS SON an inheritance. The promise was land, forever!

### 3. Covenant through Moses:

The people of Israel are already under a covenant before we get to the law giving chapter 20 of Exodus.

*Exodus 19:2 For they set out from Rephidim, and had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Yisra'el camped there before the mountain. 3 And Mosheh went up to Elohim, and יהוה called to him from the mountain, saying, "This is what you are to say to the house of Ya'aqob, and declare to the children of Yisra'el: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Mitsrites, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 'And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard **My covenant**, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – 6 'and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.' Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra'el."*

These Israelites were the seed of Abraham. The covenant that Yahweh made with Abraham was passed down to them through Abraham's son, Isaac and his grandson Jacob (Israel as per Genesis 32:28).

In chapter 20 of Exodus, Yahweh builds on this covenant and notice the form of His building:

A preamble: *Exo 20:2* “I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery.”

Stipulations: *chapter 20:2 ff.*

Benefits: *Exo 23:25* “And you shall serve יהוה your Elohim, and He shall bless your bread and your water. And I shall remove sickness from your midst. **26** “None shall miscarry or be barren in your land. I shall fill the number of your days. **27** “I shall send My fear before you, and cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

Signed in blood: *Exo 24:5* And he sent young men of the children of Yisra’el, and they offered burnt offerings and slaughtered peace slaughterings of bulls to יהוה. **6** And Mosheh took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **7** And he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that יהוה has spoken we shall do, and obey.” **8** And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “See, the blood of the covenant which יהוה has made with you concerning all these Words.”

Deposition: *Exo 25:21* “And you shall put the lid of atonement on top of the ark, and put into the ark the Witness which I give you.”

A careful reading of Genesis 17 along with Exodus 12 and Leviticus 12:3 will help to serve as a “bridge” or an overlay to the “covenant” with Abraham and this “covenant” with Israel through Moses.

*Deuteronomy 7:6* “For you are a set-apart people to יהוה your Elohim. יהוה your Elohim has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a treasured possession above all the

peoples on the face of the earth. 7 “יהוה did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more numerous than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples...”

### **The book of the WORDS of Yahweh:**

Deuteronomy (Devarim in Hebrew meaning “words”) is a summary of the covenant that Yahweh made with Moses as mediator. This agreement was initiated by Yahweh. It was to the seed of Abraham because of Abraham’s favor from Yahweh. So, it was the same “favor”. It was conditional in some respects. The promises were the same and expanded (kings and priests) and it was forever. It is set up in the form of a “covenant” as discussed above:

A Preamble and Prologue : Deut. 1:2ff.

Stipulations: 5:1ff.

Consequences: (Benefits or blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience). 28:1ff.

Succession: 31:

Reading & Deposition: 31: 9

Witness: 31:26

**SIGN:** In addition to the blood sign (circumcision-Exodus 12 and sacrifices-Leviticus) Yahweh gave this sign: *Exodus 31:13 “And you, speak to the children of Yisra’el, saying, ‘My Sabbaths you are to guard, by all means, for it is a **sign**<sup>1</sup> between Me and you throughout your generations, to know that I, יהוה, am setting you apart.* (Footnote: <sup>1</sup>The only sign of יהוה setting us apart, the only sign of the everlasting covenant, is His Sabbaths, one of them being the seventh day Sabbath. This is repeated in Ezek. 20:12 & 20.) *14 ‘And you shall guard the Sabbath, for it is set-apart to you. Everyone who profanes it shall certainly be put to death, for anyone who does work on it, that being shall be cut off from among his people.*

Another sign Yahweh gave Israel was to wear the blue cord on the corner of their garments (tzitziot):

*Numbers 15:38 “Speak to the children of Yisra’el, and you shall say to them to make tzitziyot on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue cord in the tzitzit of the corners. 39 “And it shall be to you for a tzitzit, and you shall see it, and shall remember all the commands of יהוה and shall do them, and not search after your own heart and your own eyes after which you went whoring...*

Wearing the physical fringe was to help them remember this:

*Deuteronomy 4:9 “Only, guard yourself, and guard your life diligently, lest you forget the Words your eyes have seen, and lest they turn aside from your heart all the days of your life. And you shall make them known to your children and your grandchildren. ...29 “But from there you shall seek יהוה your Elohim, and shall find, when you search for Him with all your heart and with all your being.... 39 “And you shall know today, and shall recall to your heart that יהוה Himself is Elohim in the heavens above and on the earth beneath; there is none else.*

Notice the referrenes to **the heart** above and in these Scriptures:

*Deuteronomy 5:29 ‘Oh, that they had such a heart in them, to fear Me and to guard all My commands always, so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*

*Deuteronomy 6:5 “And you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. 6 “And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart,*

Deuteronomy 8:2 “And you shall remember that יהוה your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you guard His commands or not.....

Deuteronomy 8:17 you then shall say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand have made for me this wealth!’

**Deuteronomy 10:16 “And you shall circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and harden your neck no more.**

Deuteronomy 11:13 ‘And it shall be that if you diligently obey My commands which I command you today, to love יהוה your Elohim and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your being, ...16 ‘Guard yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other mighty ones and bow down to them. . .18 ‘And you shall lay up these Words of Mine in your heart and in your being, and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deuteronomy 13:3 do not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for יהוה your Elohim is trying you to know whether you love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being.

Deuteronomy 15:7 “When there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, within any of the gates in your land which יהוה your Elohim is giving you, do not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother...



We need to remember these references to **the heart** (especially Yahweh’s desire for Israel to have “**such a heart to fear Him**” even in the so called Mosaic Covenant!) when we come to the “NEW” covenant.

#### 4. Davidic Covenant

There are only a few Scriptures regarding the Davidic Covenant but they are very clear and seldom confused.

**2Samuel 7:1** *And it came to be when the sovereign was dwelling in his house, and יָיָהּ had given him rest from all his enemies all around* (preamble/prologue),  
.....13 *“He (David’s son Solomon) does build a house for My Name (stipulation), and I shall establish the throne of his reign forever (result). . . 16 “And your house and your reign are to be steadfast forever before you – your throne is established forever. (result)”*

**1Kings 9:4** *“And you, if you walk before Me as your father Dawid walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, if you guard My laws and My right-rulings, 5 then I shall establish the throne of your reign over Yisra’el forever, as I promised Dawid your father, saying, “There is not to cease a man of yours on the throne of Yisra’el.”*

The Davidic Covenant takes the usual form with Preamble/prologue... Result would be a house and a kingdom. It was for ever. The understanding of this is primary to understanding why Yahweh had the “Northern Kingdom” taken into captivity totally but NOT Judah. Yahweh preserved the identity of the Kingly line of David (Judah). So, when the Northern Kingdom went into captivity in Assyria, ALL Israel fled or went into captivity. When Babylon took Judah into captivity, a remnant was left in the land and more were allowed to return to the land

during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah so that the House of David and his line would be preserved.

**5. Now we go on to the “NEW” covenant:**

The prophet Jeremiah tells of the time to come of the **NEW COVENANT**:

**Jeremiah 31:1** “At that time,” declares יהוה, “I shall be the Elohim of all the clans of Yisra’el, and they shall be My people.”

*Jeremiah 31:6* “For there shall be a day when the watchmen cry on Mount Ephrayim, ‘Arise, and let us go up to Tsiyon, to יהוה our Elohim.’” 7 For thus said יהוה, “Sing with gladness for Ya ‘aqob, and shout among the chief of the nations. Cry out, give praise, and say, ‘O יהוה, save Your people, the remnant of Yisra’el!’ ...

31 “See, the days are coming,” declares יהוה, “when I shall make a **new covenant** with the house of Yisra’el and with the house of Yehudāh, 32 not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Mitsrayim, **My covenant** which they broke, though I was a husband to them,” declares יהוה. 33 “For this is the covenant I shall make with the house of Yisra’el after those days, declares יהוה: I shall put My Torah in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts. And I shall be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. 34 “And no longer shall they teach, each one his neighbour, and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know יהוה,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares יהוה. “For I shall forgive their crookedness, and remember their sin no more.”

Another prophet speaks of the same time:

*Ezekiel 36:25 “And I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean – from all your filthiness and from all your idols I cleanse you. 26 “And I shall **give you a new heart** and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I shall give you a heart of flesh, 27 and **put My Spirit within you**†. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them.*

## **HOW will Yahweh give a “new” heart?**

*Luke 22:20 Likewise the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the renewed covenant in My blood which is shed for you. (**kainos** not **neo**)!*

**Neo** is the Greek word for something brand new. **Kainos** is the Greek word for making something fresh or to “freshen up” or polish what already exists. In Hebrew we see this “new” covenant in Jeremiah as a **chodesh** or “renewed” covenant. It is the Hebrew used to talk about the “new” moon. Each month (moon) starts with a **chodesh**...same moon but one that is renewing its cycle. So here, we have the same covenant, but we are refreshing, or renewing its “stipulations, benefits and the end results.”

*Exodus 6:6 “Say, therefore, to the children of Yisra’el, ‘I am יהוה, and I shall bring you out from under the burdens of the Mitsrites, and shall deliver you from their enslaving, and shall redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments, 7 and shall **take you as My people**, and I shall be your Elohim. And you shall know that I am יהוה your Elohim who is bringing you out from under the burdens of the Mitsrites.*

*Exodus 34:6 And יהוה passed before him and proclaimed, “יהוה, יהוה, an Ĕl compassionate and showing favour, patient, and great in kindness and truth, 7 watching over kindness for thousands, forgiving crookedness and transgression and sin, but by no means leaving unpunished, visiting the crookedness of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”*

The writer to the Hebrews in the “New” Testament addresses the freshening up of the covenant when he writes:

*Hebrews 7:5 And truly, those who are of the sons of Lěwi, who receive the priesthood, have a command to receive tithes from the people according to the Torah, that is, from their brothers, though they have come from the loins of Abraham, (Priestly covenant).*

(Remember, Yahweh spoke of a “priestly covenant in Exodus 19:6 (*Exo 19:5 ‘And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – 6 ‘and you **shall be to Me a reign of priests** and a set-apart nation.’ Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra’el.*)

This was before He “cut” the covenant with Israel through Moses. In Jer 31:32 Yahweh speaks about the “new” covenant needing some “freshening up” because they needed a difference: “not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Mitsrayim, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them,” declares יהוה.” They broke the “priestly” part of the

covenant when they repeatedly did NOT “diligently obey!” Yahweh gave them a “priesthood” of Levites (Exodus 32:26-29) “temporarily” to bring to light the “hardness of their hearts.” He will again restore that physical priesthood in the millennium to address or prevent “hardness of heart. )

The writer to the Hebrews goes on:

*Hebrews 7:11 Truly, then, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood – for under it the people were given the Torah – why was there still need for another priest to arise according to the order of Malkitseq, and not be called according to the order of Aharon? ...12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law<sup>1</sup> also. 13 For He of whom this is said belongs to another tribe, from which no one had attended at the altar. 14 For it is perfectly clear that our Master arose from Yehudah, a tribe about which Mosheh never spoke of concerning priesthood,... (That is, he did not speak of it after Israel rejected the priestly promise of Exodus 19:6 through disobedience).*

*Hebrews 7:18 For there is indeed a setting aside of the former command (a **specific law that a priest had to come from the tribe of Levi**) because of its weakness and unprofitableness, 19 for the Torah (**that specific law**) perfected naught, but the bringing in of a better expectation, through which we draw near to Elohim. 20 And it was not without an oath! ...22 By as much as this יְהוֹשֻׁעַ has become a guarantor of a better covenant.*

**Hebrews 8:1** Now the summary of what we are saying is: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Greatness in the heavens...

No switching away from Israel as the “chosen people... Paul still speaks of being grafted in if you are not a born Hebrew.

*Jeremiah 31:35 Thus said יהוה, who gives the sun for a light by day, and the laws of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who stirs up the sea, and its waves roar – יהוה of hosts is His Name: 36 “If these laws vanish from before Me,” declares יהוה, “then the seed of Yisra’el shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” 37 Thus said יהוה, “If the heavens above could be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I would also cast off all the seed of Yisra’el for all that they have done,” declares יהוה.*

There was a necessity to “renew” the covenant after Yahshua’s death... the death of one of the parties. The prophets clearly tell how Yahweh put Israel away like a “whoring” wife.

**Jeremiah 3:1** *Elohim said, “If a man puts away his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man’s, does he return to her again? Would not that land be made greatly unclean? But you have committed whoring with many lovers. And would you return to Me?” declares יהוה.*

When Israel went to idolatry and worshipped the mighty ones of the land, they were to Yahweh like an unfaithful wife. And Yahweh put her away; kicked the unfaithful wife out of the house; always pleading with her to return!

*Jeremiah 3:8 “And I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Yisra’el had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Yehudāh did not fear, but went and committed whoring too.*

In order to restore Israel to the covenant relationship with Yahweh, one of the parties had to die. Yahshua, the husband in the analogy, dies to give Israel the opportunity to return to a “covenant relationship” with Yahweh. Thus, Peter’s statement in *Act 2:38*, “*And Kēpha said to them, ‘Repent, and let each one of you be immersed in the Name of יהושע Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit.’*”

**There is still a sacrifice...Yahshua’s shed blood sacrifice and the sacrifice of Israel:**

**Romans 12:1** *I call upon you, therefore, brothers, through the compassion of Elohim, to present your bodies a living offering – set-apart, well-pleasing to Elohim – your reasonable worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim.*

*Philippians 2:5* *For, let this mind be in you which was also in Messiah יהושע, 6 who, being in the form of Elohim, did not regard equality with Elohim a matter to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and came to be in the likeness of men. 8 And having been found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, death even of a stake.*

*1Corinthians 2:9* *But as it has been written, “Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor have entered into the heart of man what Elohim has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But Elohim has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all matters, even the depths of Elohim. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the*

*man that is in him? So also, the thoughts of Elohim no one has known, except the Spirit of Elohim. 12 And we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from Elohim, in order to know what Elohim has favourably given us...*

*2Corinthians 3:12 Having then such expectation, we use much boldness of speech, 13 and not like Mosheh, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Yisra'el should not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.*

*14 But their minds were hardened, for to this day, when the old covenant is being read, that same veil remains, not lifted, because in Messiah it is taken away. 15 But to this day, when Mosheh is being read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 And when one turns to the Master, the veil is taken away. 17 Now יהוה is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of יהוה is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, as with unveiled face we see as in a mirror the esteem of יהוה, are being transformed into the same likeness from esteem to esteem, as from יהוה, the Spirit.*

This is how the “new” covenant is “new” or different! Thus, the change of heart comes about by the bestowing of the very ru’ach or spirit of Yahweh. It takes away the veil of blindness and gives us a heart of obedience to Yahweh. It is “the helper” that Yahshua promised to send to His disciples and future followers:

John 16:7 “But I say the truth to you. It is better for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you at all, but if I go, I shall send Him to you.”

Put your relationship in the perspective of a covenant... a very special covenant.

A Father has (in most cases unspoken) a covenant with his son. The Father (from Yahweh’s perspective) has expectations of a son... his own seed...the continuation of



his line of seed, if you will. His legacy. So, he has expectations. He loves his son and wants to nurture and protect him as he is growing. Wants him to do what? Uphold the family reputation. Not bring shame or discredit on the family line. The Father sired the son out of love and favor... the son did not deserve to be brought into the world. Do you begin to see the parallels? A good son signs on to please his father. If he strays and brings shame, he repents and the father forgives and reinstates him... over and over if that's what it takes. What really pleases the Father is if the son turns out to be just like him in character and principle. The father has shared HIS BLOOD with the son to make him a son.

Now try to get the covenant with Yahweh on this level to realize what your relationship is with Yahweh.

And there is not just a set of rules to follow.... There is a description of the expectations (stipulations) that the Father has provided us with. When we love Him so much that we want to please Him... that we want to be just like our older Brother who has shown us how to please the Father... then you begin to grasp what your relationship to Yahweh is.

*Act 3:19 "Repent therefore and turn back, for the blotting out of your sins, in order that times of refreshing might come from the presence of the Master, 20 and that He sends יהושע Messiah, pre-appointed for you, 21 whom heaven needs to receive until the times of restoration of all matters, of which Elohim spoke through the mouth of all His set-apart prophets since of old.*