

## **Sermon Guide: Covenant | Mike Woods | Oct 15, 2023**

In Mike Woods' sermon, the central theme is the biblical idea of "Covenant." The sermon explores the meaning of the term covenant and the various covenants that God makes with his people in the Old Testament: Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic. Each covenant is characterized by distinct signs and obligations, playing a significant role in God's relationship with humanity.

Mike especially highlights the Abrahamic covenant where the normal pattern of mutual obligation between both parties in the covenant is broken and God alone binds himself legally to the promise. Abraham's part was simply to believe and trust in God. The physical sign of this covenant, circumcision, an act to be undertaken by all males among God's people, is meant to be a ubiquitous reminder of God's covenant with his people.

Mike also discusses the concept of a "New Covenant," prophesied by biblical prophets such as Jeremiah and Isaiah. This new covenant entails God writing His law on people's hearts, emphasizing inner transformation. Jesus, in the New Testament, is portrayed as the fulfillment of all of these covenants, aligning with David's lineage, serving as the perfect priest, and offering salvation through His blood. It is a covenant of grace, emphasizing salvation through faith in Christ's sacrifice, independent of human works.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the significance of the origin of the word covenant as coming from the word "to cut"?
2. In the case of the covenant with Abraham, what was significant about God alone passing between the divided animals instead of Abraham? What did this action symbolize?
3. The New Covenant, which the speaker highlighted, is seen as a Covenant of Grace. How does this differ from the previous covenants, and how is it fulfilled in Jesus?

### **Going Deeper:**

1. In what ways can you apply the concept of covenant in your daily life, particularly in how you relate to God and others?
2. How does the idea of being part of a covenant community impact the way you view your local church or faith community? How can you contribute to the sense of community within your congregation?
3. Discuss ways to encourage others in your faith community to understand and appreciate the significance of God's covenant with his people.