

## └ Introduction

### └ A covenant is a contract

A covenant is a contract



- Covenants can have...
  - requirements
  - collateral
  - signatures
  - payments
  - dates of effect
  - etc.

09:30

1. Today, we're talking about how the Israelites rejected God's covenant
2. Someone brought up a few weeks ago that a covenant is much more serious than a contract, and that's certainly true when it comes to covenants dealing with our eternal soul.
3. However, Christians of the denominational world also make a big (false) distinction between covenants and contracts
4. The difference, they say, is that in a covenant, one part is guaranteeing to hold up their end of the covenant even if the other party doesn't.
5. They use this to say that even if Israel was unfaithful, God is still going to restore them physically in the millennial kingdom.
6. They'd also note that since God has made a New Covenant, He will save the chosen regardless of how they behave
7. We're going to study today that that's clearly not the case.

## └ Introduction

### └ God wants a relationship with people

God wants a relationship with people  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day I took them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 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 they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

09:34

1. In the last lesson, we talked about the love that God showed to the children of Israel, and to us, like the love a husband has for His wife.
2. Unfortunately, Israel, in general, rejected God's love
3. Serving God, as we have discussed, is always voluntary.
4. But, there will be consequences for unfaithfulness.

## └ Introduction

### └ Goals

#### Goals

- Summarize how Israel rejected God's love under the Old Covenant.
- Examine the consequences of rejecting God's love for Israel and for us.
- Develop a plan to prevent falling away from God.

09:35

1. We'll be considering 3 different passages today
2. Lev. 26, one of many passages in the Old Law that lists the blessings for following God and the consequences for disobedience
3. Heb. 3, where the writer warns Christians against following the rebellious example of the Israelites.
4. Rom. 9:30-33, in which Paul says that Israel did not achieve righteousness from the Law because they lacked faith.
5. For each passage we'll consider, in what ways Israel rejected God and the consequences they suffered because of that rejection.
6. Finally, we'll try to learn from their bad example and think about how to prevent rejecting God's love.

- └ Israel rejected God

- └ Israel hardened their hearts

Israel hardened their hearts  
Heb. 3:1-19

- ▶ Israel rebelled against God in the wilderness (7:9,16-20)
- ▶ They worshiped idols
- ▶ They complained
- ▶ They did not trust God to take care of them

09:37

1. The writer of Hebrews has been discussing how Christ is superior to the Moses.
2. And, he's warning Christians not to reject Jesus like the children of Israel rejected God in the wilderness.
3. Read 7-9, 16-20
4. It's instructive to think about, what the Israelites did to reject God in the wilderness
5. We immediately think about the golden calf, and their complaining every time they had to struggle a bit
6. But, the incident that's specifically referred to in Hebrews is their lack of faith at the spies report when they were about to enter the land of Canaan.

└ Israel rejected God

  └ Faithfulness according to God

Faithfulness according to God  
Lev. 26:1-45

- ▶ No idols
- ▶ Keep the Sabbath
- ▶ Reverence sanctuary

09:37

1. They seemed to get the last two, but the first one, not so much.

└ Israel rejected God

  └ Israel didn't have faith

Israel didn't have faith

Rom. 9:30-33

- ▶ Tried to obey the Law, but without faith
- ▶ Instead, tried to rely only on works
- ▶ Stumbled over Jesus.
- ▶ Describes well the Pharisees of Jesus' day

09:40

└ Israel suffered consequences

  └ They shall not enter my rest

They shall not enter my rest  
Heb 3:1-19

- ▶ The wilderness was a test, which they failed
- ▶ So, that generation couldn't enter the promised land
- ▶ Their bodies fell in the wilderness

09:45

## └ Israel suffered consequences

### └ Suffering in the promised land

Suffering in the promised land  
Lev. 26:1-45

- ▶ Physical diseases (16)
- ▶ Lose to enemies(17)
- ▶ Poor yields (20)
- ▶ Kill you children and livestock (22)
- ▶ Starving (26,29)
- ▶ Lose the land (32-39)
- ▶ But God will bring them back (45)

09:50

└ Israel suffered consequences

  └ Eternally Lost

Eternally Lost  
Rom. 9:30-33

- ▶ The Israelites, in general, didn't accept Jesus
- ▶ He was their only hope for salvation

09:55

└ Avoid rejecting God

  └ Do what's right

Do what's right  
Lev. 26:1-45

- ▶ Follow God's Law
- ▶ Minimize your consequences
- ▶ Be sensitive to change when you do have consequences.

10:00

└ Avoid rejecting God

└ Pursue righteousness with Faith

Pursue righteousness with Faith

Rom. 9:30-33

- ▶ Don't rely on your own righteousness
- ▶ Think about meeting the Lord

10:05

└ Avoid rejecting God

  └ Don't be deceived by sin

Don't be deceived by sin

Heb. 3:1-19

- ▶ Hold fast to your confidence
- ▶ Exhort one another
- ▶ Don't be hardened
- ▶ Trust that God will take care of you

10:10

## └ Review

### └ My covenant they broke

#### My covenant they broke

- ▶ Israel rejected God's love under the Old Covenant by ...
  - not trusting God to take care of them to the promised land
  - Worshiping idols while in the promised land
  - They lost their hope for salvation
- ▶ So they suffered the consequences ...
  - The Exodus generation died in the wilderness
  - Their descendants lost the promised land
  - He was their only hope for salvation
- ▶ Don't fall into their example ...
  - Change when you face consequences.
  - Pursue righteousness with faith.
  - Trust that God will take care of you.

10:12