




Covenant Conservation


Dale Cilliers

Genesis 15:5-6, 13-16, 18




⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”


⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



13 Then the Lord said to him,
“Know for certain that for four
hundred years your
descendants will be strangers in
a country not their own and
that they will be enslaved and
mistreated there. 14 But I will
punish the nation they serve as
slaves, and afterward they will
come out with great
possessions.



15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”



18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadie of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

Joshua's Hope - Joshua 1

“Be strong and courageous”

“Have faith”


8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.



Joshua 1 (cont.)

9 Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and of good courage;
do not be afraid, nor be
dismayed, for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.”





Why could Joshua believe God
and take Him on His word?

Because of the binding
“agreement” made with
Abraham which was
documented and re-told often
(did not depart from their
mouths.)

COVENANT

COVENANT

Irrevocable

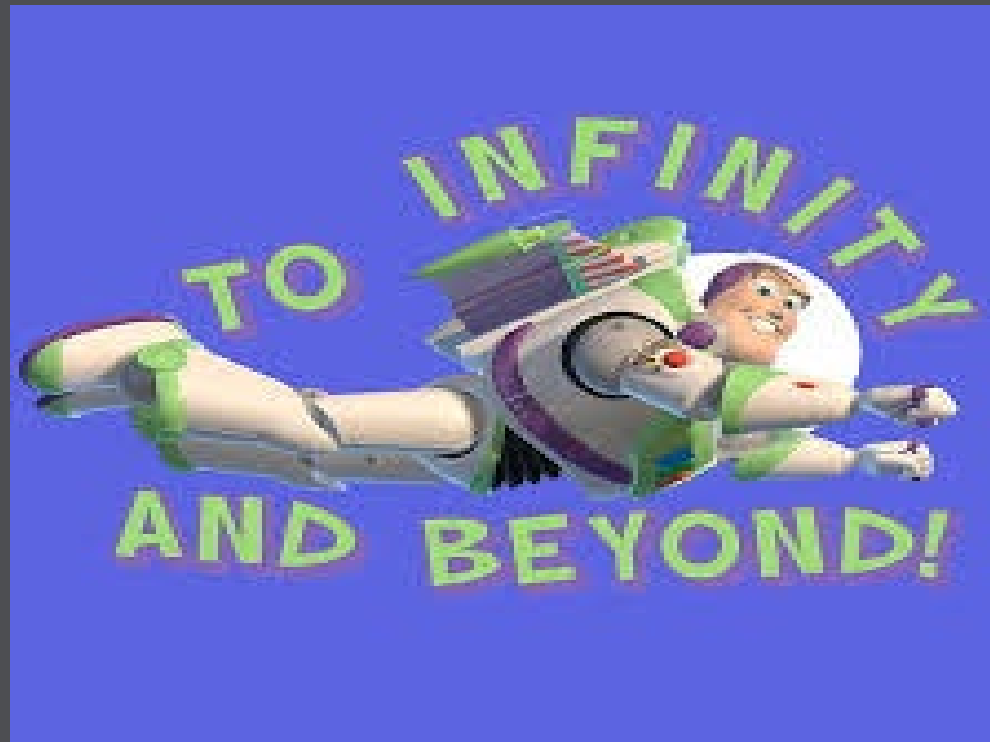
Judges 2:1

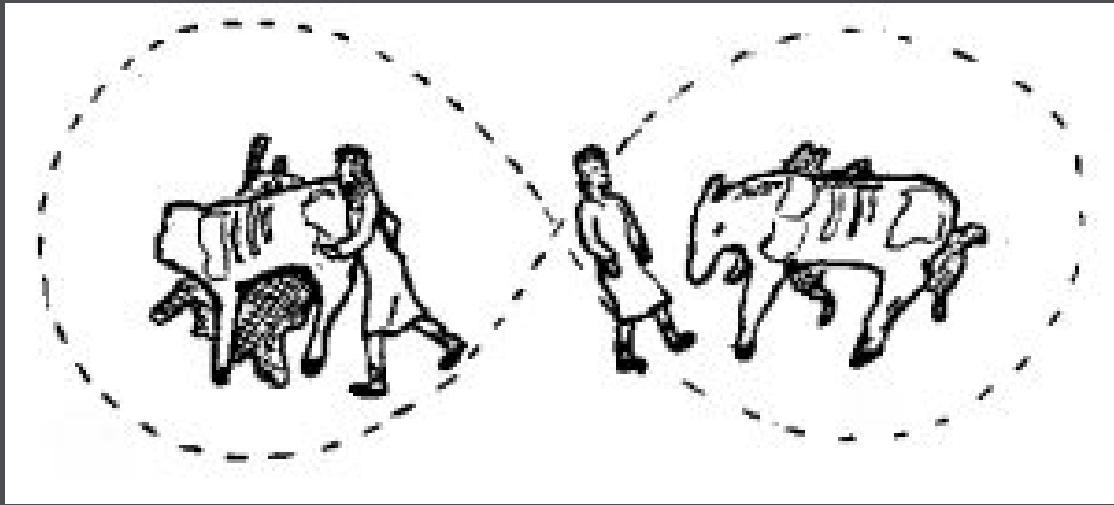
Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.’




COVENANT

Never-ending







And he said, “Lord GOD, **how shall I know** that I will inherit it?”

⁹ So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.



COVENANT

STRONGEST BOND/AGREEMENT
KNOWN

“Blood is thicker than water”



Luke 22:20

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.



Hebrews 8:6

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.





Matthew 28:20

...and lo, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age.”
Amen.

Judges 2:11-12

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.



Definition: Forsake

- To give up
- To abandon
- To renounce
- To leave





Why?

Judges 2: 8

Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.



Why?

Enticement and allure of the world

“and they did not drive out...”



Why?

Judges 2: 8-10

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.



God's Heart in all of this?

= RESTORATION and a desire to see the COVENANT promise fulfilled.


God's appointed leaders
(Joshua)

God's appointed "Judges"



Role of Biblical leadership and judges is to see the Kingdom of God established, and to guide/encourage and assist believers.


They must recognise and act (judge) when members of the household of faith are being enticed/lured and seduced by the world into compromise, sin and apostasy.



1. God's appointment is not based on worldly ability/eloquence or skill

1 Cor 2:13

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.



God's chosen are not
disqualified in terms of their
natural abilities

a. Ehud (Judges 3:12 – 30 esp
15)

b. Deborah (Judges 4:1-24 esp
9)




God's chosen are not disqualified in terms of their natural abilities

c. Gideon – Judges 6, 7
(wheat, weakest clan in Manessah, offering and sign, destroying the Baal idols, fleece, 32000 – 300 men, barley bread, pots)

2. God's appointment results in supernatural results –
a. Shamgar (Judges 3:31)






2. God's appointment results in supernatural results

b. Deborah/Barak and Sisera's 900 "Chariots of Iron"
(Judges 4:3)

c. Ehad and the defeat of 10 000 Moabites, all vigorous and strong! (Judges 3:29)



God is vigorously committed to His covenant with you.

God has placed leaders/fellow believers in your life to keep you committed to Him!

Do not shy away from “stepping up” because you feel inadequate.