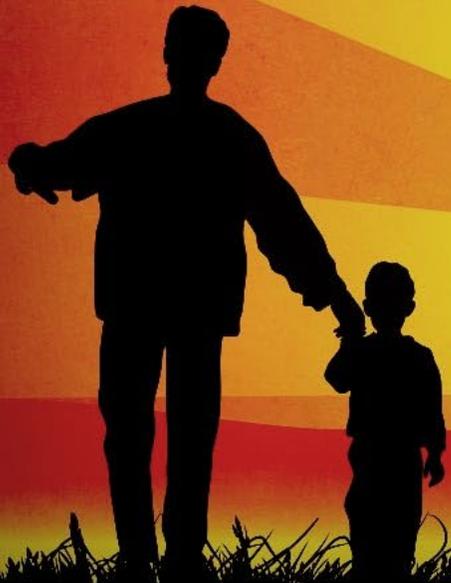


The image features a warm, sunset-like background with horizontal bands of yellow, orange, and red. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a man and a young child are shown from behind, holding hands. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right. The background is filled with numerous small butterfly silhouettes scattered across the sky and the lower part of the frame. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS...

With God, Holy Spirit and Each Other

WE ARE A COVENANT PEOPLE!



COVENANT

- **It's a unique word**
- **Several different types**
 - **Between kings and countries**
 - **Between individuals, sometimes with God involved (sacred)**
 - **Between God and his people (Biblical covenants)**
- **Biblical Covenants**
 - **More than just an agreement or contract (legal)**
 - **It's relational in nature**
 - **It's a mixture of law and love**



WHAT IS A COVENANT?

“It’s a relationship more loving and intimate than a merely legal relationship. Yet more binding and enduring and accountable than a merely personal relationship.

It’s a stunning blend of law and love. It’s stunning because it’s a personal relationship made more loving and intimate because it’s legal. Through voluntary, mutual, binding promises and vows to be loving and to be faithful, no matter what the circumstances. That’s a covenant.”

Tim Keller



GOD IN COVENANT

- He takes the same position in the New Covenant as He does in the covenant with Abraham.

**Abrahamic
Covenant**

**New
Covenant**

- **What we learn about God**
 - His heart for relationship with His people is clear.
 - He is the initiator of the covenant.
 - His character is displayed.



JEWISH WEDDINGS: THE MODEL OF THE NEW COVENANT

STEP	JEWISH WEDDING	JESUS' REFERENCE
The Betrothal – The Marriage Covenant Established	A young man presents a proposal of marriage. With her Father's blessing, the young man would pour a glass of wine for the woman. If she drank it, it would indicate her acceptance of the proposal and sealed the covenant.	Matt 26:27-28 ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Bridal Chamber Prepared	The son returns to his father's house and prepares the bridal chamber.	John 14:2-3 ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
Bride Fetched	At a time determined by the father, the groom fetches the bride to bring her to his father's house. Although the bride expects her groom to come for her, she does not know when he will come.	John 14:3 Matt 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins) ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
Wedding Ceremony	The bride and groom both drink wine from the wedding cup.	Matt 26:29 ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

WHAT CHANGES BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW?

- **God's "WHY" remains unchanged.**
 - He wants to have relationship with his people
 - Exodus 19:5-6
 - John 14:23
- **It's the "HOW" that changes.**
 - Jesus becomes the "once, for all time" sacrifice (John 1:29)
 - We all become priests (1 Peter 2:5-9)
 - Holy Spirit is given to empower us (Acts 2:1-4)



THE ROLE OF HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW COVENANT

- Holy Spirit was given to us not only so we'd know what to do, to live in covenant relationship with God, but so we'd have the power and strength to do it.
- His role can't be downplayed:
 - John 16:7-15
 - Matt 12:31-32/Mark 3:28-29/Luke 12:10
- Galatians 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

- **God is huge on covenant relationships**
 - Relationships marked by humility, sacrifice, generosity and endurance.
- **Jesus affirmed this when He chose to go to the cross**
- **We are made in God's image**
 - We have a longing inside us for covenant relationships



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

- Jesus' relationships were marked by humility, sacrifice and commitment.
- We are called to love each other (brothers and sisters) like Jesus.
 - John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- We need more covenant relationships in our life.

