

**Introduction:**

What is a covenant? A covenant is an agreement parties enter by doing things specifically designed to emphasize the importance of the agreement and to assure that its terms are fully understood and accepted.

While the exact number and the way of counting them may vary, there are usually around eight components of a Biblical covenant. I'll illustrate them with four Biblical covenants and then make six important applications.

**The Mizpah covenant:**

1. The parties. Laban and Jacob. Ge 31:43A, 44A.
2. The duties. Ge 31:50A, 52B
3. The penalties for violation. Ge 31:53A
4. The witnesses. Ge 31:50B.
5. The signs of remembrance. Genesis 31:45, 51-52.
6. The oaths. Genesis 31:53B.
7. The sacrifice. Genesis 31:54A.
8. The meal. Genesis 31:54B.

**The old covenant:**

1. The parties. De 29:10-12.
2. The duties. De 30:16.
3. The penalties for violation. De 30:17-18.
4. The witnesses. De 30:19; Jos 24:21-22.
5. The signs of remembrance. De 31:19, 21, 26.
6. The oaths. Ex 24:7.
7. The sacrifice. Ex 24:4B-5, 8.
8. The meal. Exodus 24:9-11.

**The new covenant:** Je 31:31-32; He 8:6-8, 13.

1. The parties. Ro 10:11-13.
2. The duties. Ez 37:24-27.
3. The penalties for violation. He 10:26-31.
4. The witnesses. Ro 10:9-10; 1 Ti 6:12.
5. The signs of remembrance. 1 Co 11:23-25.
6. The oaths. 2 Ch 34:31; Acts 26:18-21.
7. The sacrifice. Mt 26:28.
8. The meal. Perpetual. John 6:52B-56.

**The marriage covenant.** Mal 2:14.

1. The parties. Mal 2:13.
2. The duties. Ep 5:22-33; etc.
3. The penalties for violation. Mt 19:9; Mal 2:13-16.
4. The witnesses. Mal 2:14.
5. The signs of remembrance.
6. The oaths.
7. The sacrifice. Ep 5:22-33; 1 Co 7:33-34.
8. The meal.

**Applications:**

1. Do we appreciate that getting saved and married requires making and keeping solemn promises?
2. Did we really mean & are we truly keeping the solemn promises we made? Ho 10:4; Ps 15:1-2, 4.
3. We cannot disavow or change the conditions of our solemn promises. Ga 3:15.
4. We must mean everything as if making a solemn promise. Mt 5:33-37.
5. God means the solemn promises He made to us. De 4:23-24, 26; Je 11:6-8.
6. We must hold each other accountable for the keeping the solemn promises we have made. He 12:24-31.