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God, The Covenant and the Contradiction

5. The First Steps to Understanding Covenant

Kenneth Copeland opens by telling the story of meeting and marrying Gloria, and how they both received Jesus a week apart soon after. He uses marriage as a living picture of covenant, then defines covenant, explains why we need a 'covenant mindset,' and lays out the three-step process by which God brings people into binding relationship with Himself.

Key takeaways

- Covenant is a blood-backed, binding agreement. God always initiates it, sets the terms, and does it to pull us into relationship and BLESSING with Him.
- Marriage is covenant, and Copeland's own marriage and salvation are his two best decisions — both covenants.
- God's original dream was a family made in His likeness. When Adam surrendered his authority to Satan, covenant became God's way of holding onto that family.
- We often miss the Bible's meaning because we don't 'speak covenant.' The Stanley/Livingstone story shows a covenant partner gains the full backing and authority of the other party ('everything I have is yours').

- Jesus was always the plan. Every Old Testament sacrifice pointed to Him; the Old Covenant is the New concealed, the New is the Old revealed.
- The covenant process has three steps mirroring the Trinity: the Father CALLS us, we ENTER by faith in Jesus, and we KEEP it with help of the Holy Spirit (Communion and remembrance).
- Weddings hold three covenant elements: the promise ('I promise'), the cutting (two families/blood becoming one), and the seal (rings and kiss / the Holy Spirit).
- A 'covenant contradiction' is any natural obstacle that says God's promise can't happen. Abraham beat it by trusting God's word rather than reconciling the circumstances.
- The 'Go Deeper' section pictures the mass covenant-renewal ceremony at Mounts Ebal and Gerizim: God set BLESSING and curse before Israel to give them a clear choice — 'choose life.'

Passages worth keeping

“The Old Covenant is the New concealed, while the New Covenant is the Old revealed.”

Sums up the book's core claim that all the Bible's covenants are one connected whole pointing to Jesus.

“Everything the chieftain has will be yours if you need it!”

The line that captures what covenant grants — the full resources and authority of your partner.

How it connects

Copeland frames the whole Bible as one unfolding covenant story, so marriage, Communion, and Abraham's faith all become entry points for understanding our own New Covenant relationship with God through Jesus.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 3:15** -- First promise of Christ, the Seed who bruises the serpent's head
- **Matthew 5:17** -- Jesus came to fulfill the Law, not destroy it — linking Old and New Covenants
- **John 14:6** -- Jesus as the only way to enter covenant with the Father
- **Hebrews 11:8-9** -- Abraham entering covenant by faith, obeying without knowing where he was going
- **Romans 4:16-21** -- How Abraham overcame the covenant contradiction — fully persuaded God could perform His promise
- **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** -- God sets blessing and cursing before Israel and calls them to 'choose life'