

February 13, 2021
Letter to the Messianic Jews 8.6-13
Covenantal Cohen

Van Gogh's night sky is a field of roiling energy. Below the exploding stars, the village is a place of quiet order. Connecting earth and sky is the flamelike cypress, a tree traditionally associated with graveyards and mourning.



Consider Vincent van Gogh's relatives ...

His dizzy aunt – Verti Gogh

The brother who ate prunes – Gotta Gogh

The brother who worked at a convenience store – Stop N Gogh

His magician uncle – Where-diddy Gogh

His Mexican cousin – A MeeGogh

The Mexican cousin's American half-brother – Gring Gogh

The nephew who drove a stage coach – Wells-far Gogh

[from Suzanne Alongi]



We have described Yeshua

- The cohen/priest ~ Melkisedek
- His offering / our offering: ourselves
- His Temple: The Heavenly Original
- **His covenant??** Does He need one?

[Who cares?]



[\[https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm\]](https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm)

Outline

1. What is a covenant?
2. What are the covenants in scripture?
3. What is Yeshua's covenant?
4. How does this apply to us?

Mes Jews 8.6-13 **But now the work Yeshua has been given to do is far superior to theirs, just as the covenant he mediates is better.**

Did Yeshua need a covenant to do His work?

[Consider similarly ...]

Is Trump's post-presidency impeachment trial constitutional?

[This is the question of the day. Some say no, such as Alan Dershowitz, Rick Green, 45 Senators Then 56 Senators said "Yes." So, it's proceeding.

As it is written.

When we consider doing or believing something, the key question we ask, "Is it scriptural?"

A king or a dictator rules by decree.

America was founded on ruling by law.]

In 1780 John Adams wrote "For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other." It was in the Massachusetts Constitution that he was trying to enshrine the idea that the new U.S. would be "a nation of laws not men."

Signing the Mayflower Compact, aboard ship on November 21, 1620.

[The Pilgrims determined to establish their own government, while still affirming their allegiance to the Crown of England. It was in essence a social contract in which the settlers consented to follow the community's rules and regulations for the sake of order and survival.]

"We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James ... Having undertaken for the Glory of God ...and the Honour of our King and Country ... Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience."



The Mayflower Compact was based simultaneously upon a majority rule model and the settlers' allegiance to the king.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayflower_Compact]

In 1780 John Adams wrote, "The new U.S. would be "a nation of laws not men."

[<https://shows.acast.com/deepstateradio/episodes/rip-a-nation-of-laws-not-men-1780-2019>]

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carat brit כָּרַת בְּרִית brit בְּרִית
to cut a covenant

Covenant, treaty pact, alliance, constitution, ordinance, between monarch and subjects

[Modern Hebrew usage, flows out of ancient understanding ...]

'Covenant between the Pieces' (made with Abraham; see Gen. 15)	ברית בין הבתרים
friendly (military) alliance	ברית ידידות (צבאית)
permanent alliance	ברית מלח
the Ark of the Covenant	ארון הברית
United States of America	ארצות הברית
wife	אשת ברית
ally; Jew	בן ברית

Bnei Brith (see בן)	בני ברית
ally, confederate	בעל ברית
the holy tables of the Decalogue	לוחות הברית, ספר הברית
to break an alliance	הפר ברית
to form an alliance	כרת ברית
the New Testament	ברית חדשה, נ.
circumcision	ברית מילה, בריתו של אברהם אבינו, נ.
USSR	ברית המועצות, נ.

[Reuben Alcalay Complete Hebrew English Dictionary]

MJ 8.6 But now the work Yeshua has been given to do is far superior to theirs, just as the covenant he mediates is better. For this covenant has been given as Torah on the basis of better promises.

[Does He need a covenant?]

MJ 8.7 Indeed, if the first covenant had not given ground for faultfinding, there would have been no need for a **second** one.

First and second covenants are summaries of a huge amount of scripture history.

EIGHT covenants between G-d and humanity.

First and second are really fifth and eighth!

[Eight sermons here.]

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[1. A covenant is a binding agreement / relationship.]

Name:	Edenic, before the Fall
Verses	Ber / Gen Ch 1 -3
Provisions	Garden eternally
Type	Conditional
Response	Works / obedience
Sign	Tree of Life?
Participants	all humanity potentially

Salvation by works, eternal life there in the Garden.

Promise of eternal salvation. Blood of the animals slaughtered to make the skins.

Name:	Adamic, after the Fall
Verses	Ber / Gen 3.1-9
Provisions	Salvation
Type	Conditional
Response	Faith in future Descendent
Sign	Skins, childbirth issues
Participants	all humanity potentially

Name:	Noahic [Noah]
Verses	Ber / Gen 8.20-9.13
Provisions	Seasons, no flood
Type	Unconditional
Response	Capital punishment
Sign	rainbow
Participants	all humanity

Physical salvation

Ber/Gen 8.20-21 Noach built an altar ... sacrifice.

Noach built an altar to Adoni. Then he took from every clean animal and every clean bird, and he offered burnt offerings on the altar.

This gave Israel title to the land.

Avrahamic covenant is NOT salvation.

It's blessings and the LAND.

Avraham saved by faith in Genesis 15

Avrahamic covenant in Genesis 12

Ber/Gen 15.9-10 Adoni God ... answered him, "Bring

me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old

female goat, a three-year-old ram, a dove and a

young pigeon." He brought him all these, cut the animals in two and placed the pieces opposite

each other; but he didn't cut the birds in half.

Name:	Avrahamic
Verses	Ber / Gen 12, 15, 17
Provisions	Blessings and curses, Land
Type	Unconditional
Response	Avraham's obedience
Sign	Circumcision
Participants	Avraham's descendants

Name:	Mosaic
Verses	Shmot/Ex 19-Dvarim/Dt
Provisions	Blessings, head of nations
Type	Conditional
Response	obedience
Sign	Shabbat Shmot/Ex 31.13
Participants	People of Israel

This gave Israel possession of the land.

This has a means of salvation, but we Jews

failed it. Actually, two means of salvation:

faith Dt. 30.11 quoted by Paul

Works in Lev 18.5 quoted by Paul.

This one often gets overlooked.

Marilyn Griffin's insight. Deut. 28.69-29.1

These are the words of the covenant which

ADONAI ordered Moshe to make with the

people of Isra'el in the land of Mo'av, in

addition to the covenant which he made with

them in Horev.

Deut. 30.3 [after exile] At that point, ADONAI your God will reverse your exile and show you mercy; he will return and gather you from all the peoples to which ADONAI your God scattered you.]

Name:	Moavi / Moabite
Verses	Dvarim/Dt 29 -30
Provisions	Regathering to Land
Type	conditional
Response	repentance
Sign	May 14, 1948 Hatikvah
Participants	People of Israel

Name:	Davidic
Verses	2 Shmuel 7.8 -17
Provisions	Everlasting Kingdom
Type	Conditional
Response	Kings keep Torah
Sign	Two comings of Messiah
Participants	Israel, and all nations

The covenant G-d made with David was for an everlasting dynasty. But David got saved by faith in G-d's redemption, as described at length in Romans 4.6-8 quoting Ps 32. The kingly covenant did not save David eternally.

Name:	Renewed
Verses	Yermiyahu/Jer 31.31 -34
Provisions	Torah in our hearts
Type	Conditional
Response	Faith
Sign	Seder of Messiah
Participants	Israel & Judah, grafted

God made two UNCONDITIONAL choices: salvation information through Jews, salvation fact through Yeshua.

1. Five of eight: Abrahamic, Mosaic, Moabite, Davidic, Renewed covenants were made with Israel, the Jewish people.
2. Seven of eight are still in force!
3. Seven of eight are enacted with sacrifice.

[Eden is gone. No sacrifice in Gan Eden. No death.]

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Mes Jews 8.6-13 “‘For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Isra’el after those days,’ says Adoni: ‘I will put my Torah in their minds and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people. “None of them will teach his fellow-citizen or his brother, saying, “Know Adoni!” For all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest, because I will be merciful toward their wickednesses and remember their sins no more.’”

Yeshua gave Israel the New Covenant, and invites the Nations to be grafted in!

1. Does not abrogate other covenants with Israel.
2. Covenants are enacted with sacrifice.

It is a covenant of power!

- Inward Ruakh /Spirit guidance, empowerment to obey holiness.
- Experience of G-d and Messiah!
- Experiential forgiveness: received and given.

[Do you know G-d's forgiveness → joy? Do you know G-d's power to change? Filling with the Spirit? There is much to say on G-d's power!]

But today, I feel like we should consider the issue of COVENANTS we make.]

Covenant power of words.

Yeshayahu/Is 40.8 **But the word of our God stands forever.**

וְדָבַר-אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם.

D'var Elohim yakum l'olam

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[Do we make covenants?]

Mtt. 12.36-37 **Moreover, I tell you this: on the Day of Judgment people will have to give account for every careless word they have spoken; for by your own words you will be acquitted, and by your own words you will be condemned."**

Asher Intrater: *Covenant Relationships* "Every spoken word [is] backed by a man's integrity [and] is a step of covenant."

Some covenants we are in.

Hebrew for United States:

Artsot HaBrit ארצות הברית

Lands of the Covenant

We are a covenantal nation. Power of words, not whim.

In 1780 John Adams wrote, "The new U.S. would be 'a nation of laws not men.'"

[<https://shows.acast.com/deepstateradio/episodes/rip-a-nation-of-laws-not-men-1780-2019>]

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

[<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>]

How has our covenantal identity played out?]

The 1619 Project, named for the date of the first arrival of Africans on American soil, sought to place "the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative."

Was America founded as a slavocracy, and are current racial inequities the natural outgrowth of that? Or was America conceived in liberty, a nation haltingly redeeming itself through its founding principles?

[<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/12/historians-clash-1619-project/604093/>]

Which reflects our covenantal identity?]

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States. It is celebrated in February, remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month
 #United_States:_Black_History_Month_(1970)]
 visited the White House as part of Black History Month. When asked by the president why she was there, McLaurin said, "A Black president. A Black wife. And I'm here to celebrate Black history. That's what I'm here for."]

[On February 21, 2016, 106-year Washington D.C. resident and school volunteer Virginia McLaurin

I almost chose the illustration:

Dionne Warwick sings "What The World Needs Now Is Love"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfHAs9cdTqg>

The song was originally offered to **Dionne Warwick**, who turned it down at the time, saying she felt it was "too country" for her tastes and "too preachy" though she later recorded it for her album *Here Where There Is Love*.



Instead, I'm sharing this brief video *What I Can Teach You About Racism*

Renowned political science professor Carol Swain started out life with every possible disadvantage. She ended up teaching at two of the most prestigious universities in the country. How did she do it? She shares her story and her wisdom in this inspiring video.

[https://www.prageru.com/video/what-i-can-teach-you-about-racism/?utm_source=Main+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=b4ec684d11-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_09_06_29_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f90832343d-b4ec684d11-164356353]

As a covenant nation and people
 Application:
 Examine our hearts and attitudes

1. Superiority
2. Resentment

This is a land of covenant, of words and laws and principles.
Are we a people of our words? Of principle?

You may be aware that New Yorkers love ethnic issues. I love Thai food, Mexican, Indian, Chinese, Japanese. So, here's a story.

**Nimrata Nikki (née
Randhawa) Haley;
born 1972**

•Gov S. Carolina
•UN Ambassador



Her father, Ajit Singh Randhawa, and her mother, Raj Kaur Randhawa, immigrated to the United States from Amritsar District, Punjab, India. Her father was formerly a professor at Punjab Agricultural University, and her mother received her law degree from the University of Delhi.

At 5-years-old, she and her older sister were entered into a pageant in which they historically crowned one white winner and one black winner. Right after I got through singing “This Land Is

Your Land,” the judges called my parents to the back and said, “If we put them in one category, then one group will be mad, and if we put them in the other category, the other group will be mad.” They basically disqualified me and gave me a beach ball and sent me on my way.

I know that to people outside the state, it sounds like something that's really terrible. But what I want people to understand is that Bamberg, SC, is the same small town that stopped segregating the princesses after that, that took black girls and white girls in the Girl Scouts and that allowed me on the tennis team. I wanted the takeaway not to be that I was disqualified from the pageant but what the town did after the pageant. [<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/06/magazine/06talk-t.html>]



Nikki explains her views in this video,
Capitalism Wins

More and more, it seems people find it difficult to defend capitalism—even those who benefit from it most. But former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley takes a refreshingly different view: she thinks we should double down on it. Here's why.

[https://www.prageru.com/video/capitalism-wins/?utm_source=Main+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=e987838263-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_09_06_29_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f90832343d-e987838263-164356353]

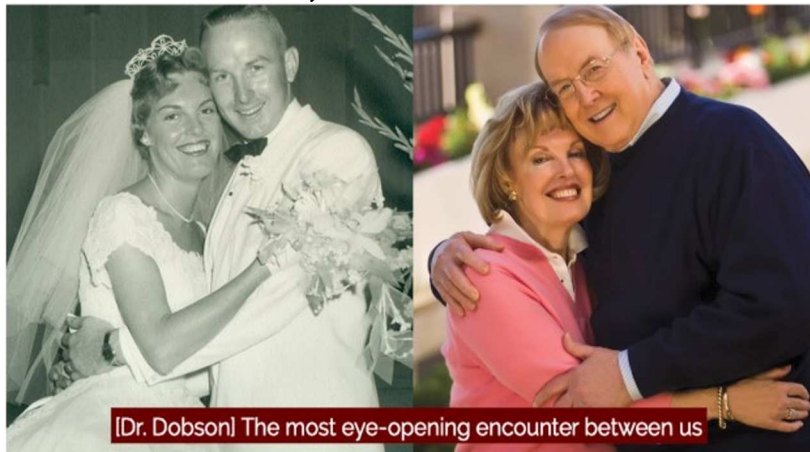
- This is not a land of ethnic rulership, nor dictatorship, but a land of covenant.
- My father saved up \$600 after serving in Saipan in WW II, an started the jewelry making tool business that I refer to at times.

Another major covenantal commitment that we make ...



[<https://metrovoicenews.com/organization-shares-tips-for-celebrating-national-marriage-week/>
We DON'T practice Valentine's Day. But we do affirm covenantal marriage!!]

- **Affirm the covenant:** Meaningful, appropriate touch. Spoken words of affirmation. Words that attach high value to her. Picturing for her a special future in Messiah, and for the two of you as a couple.
- **Blessing your wife involves an attitude** that says, "You are incredibly valuable to me." The very word, "Bless" in Hebrew means, "to bow the knee."



Dr. Dobson's first Valentine's Day with Shirley, a 3-minute video
 [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHFBObndC-I>]

You don't have to be married to honor covenantal marriage.

- Live in sexual purity
- Honor the concept of marriage.
- Honor gender identity.
- Marriage: fight for it, may have to face world, flesh, devil

The fastest female sprinter in the world, American runner Allyson Felix, has more Olympic gold medals than Usain Bolt. "Her lifetime best for the 400-meter run is 49.26 seconds. Based on 2018 data, nearly 300 high school boys in the U.S. alone could beat it."



[<https://qz.com/work/1679505/allyson-felix-an-olympic-medalist-who-split-with-nike-over-maternity-rights-signs-with-athleta/>]

Usain St Leo Bolt, born 1986) is a Jamaican former sprinter, widely considered to be the greatest sprinter of all time. He is a world record holder in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4 × 100 metres relay. An eight-time Olympic gold medallist, Bolt is the only sprinter to win Olympic 100 m and 200 m titles at three consecutive Olympics (2008, 2012 and 2016).]

Another application:

Covenant love in community.

John 13:34 **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

John 15:12 **This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

John 15:17 **These things I command you, that you love one another.**

I John 3:11 **This is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.**

I John 3:23 **Believe on the name of His Son Messiah Yeshua and love one another, as He gave us commandment.**

I John 4:7 **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

I John 4:11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

II John 5 **Not as though I wrote you a new commandment, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.**

Congregational covenant and discipleship.

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But when I am tempted to despair, I recall the comforting words of the Prophet Habakkuk in Ancient Israel. He wrote, "Lord, I have heard of your fame. I stand in awe of your deeds. Lord, repeat them in our day. In our time, make them known. In wrath, remember mercy." (Habakkuk 3:2)

Jonathan Cahn as quoted by James Dobson: "232 years ago, in the first ever presidential inauguration, the nation's first president addressed a jubilant multitude, and a nation that was united in shared values and a common hope in America's future.

"In that first ever presidential address, George Washington gave the newborn nation a prophetic warning. He said this: 'The propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right that heaven itself has ordained.'

"In other words, if America followed the ways of God, His eternal rules of order and right, the blessings of God would remain upon it, but if America should ever depart from the ways of God, that His blessings would be removed from the land."

[https://www.drjamesdobson.org/newsletters/february-newsletter-2021-0?utm_campaign=2021%20February%20NL&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--304MuHgYwUvxJjqvUU7H5S5DRTUROJ128s0mT-HKeE2BSA0nl_lzR9GwpWt7Gi9vZW2suQDXtJUgiQRd4bsElzBv97Q&_hsmi=110349453&utm_content=110349453&utm_source=hs_email&hsCtaTracking=fc50e458-601a-4329-ba48-833cc28e340f%7C2fc0c051-1aa7-4cf8-b2f5-de4b6f422449]

Conclusion

1. Are we walking in Yeshua's covenant of forgiveness and change?
2. Are we keeping the covenants we are in?