

Joshua 24:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

Analysis

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem—Joshua formalizes Israel's covenant renewal. **Made a covenant** (karat berit, כָּרַת בְּרִית, 'cut a covenant') uses the technical term for solemn treaty-making. **Set them a statute and an ordinance** (choq u-mishpat, תְּמִשְׁפָּט וְחֶקֶת) provides legal structure—binding law, not mere suggestion.

Covenant requires both declaration and documentation. Feelings fade; written commitments endure. This models biblical faith: covenants are legally binding, not emotionally negotiable. The New Covenant likewise combines promise (God's faithfulness) with expectation (our obedience through grace).

Historical Context

Shechem, between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, was Israel's first covenant-renewal site after entering Canaan (Joshua 8:30-35). Its selection honored Abraham's first altar there (Genesis 12:6-7) and Jacob's return (Genesis 33:18-20). This marked Joshua's final official act as Israel's leader.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do formal commitments strengthen your spiritual life beyond emotional experiences?
2. What 'statutes and ordinances' help structure your covenant relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| וְיִשְׁמַעַת | בְּהַזְּמָן | בְּיָמָיו | לְעַת | בְּרִית | יְהוָשָׁעַ | וְיִכְרֶת | תְּמִימָה |
| made | So Joshua | a covenant | with the people | that day | | | and set |
| H3772 | H3091 | H1285 | H5971 | H3117 | | | H7760 |
| וְיִשְׁמַעַת | בְּשְׁכָם: | וְמִשְׁפָּט | תְּמִימָה | בְּרִית | יְהוָשָׁעַ | וְיִכְרֶת | תְּמִימָה |
| them a statute | in Shechem | and an ordinance | | | | | |
| H2706 | H7927 | H4941 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:25 (Creation): And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

Nehemiah 9:38 (Covenant): And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

2 Kings 11:17 (Covenant): And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people; between the king also and the people.

2 Chronicles 23:16 (Covenant): And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

