

# 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

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**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, חֻק וּמִשְׁפָּט) 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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיֵּשֶׁם	הָהוּא	בַּיּוֹם	לָעָם	בְּרַת	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	וַיַּכֵּר
and set	H1931	that day	with the people	a covenant	So Joshua	made
H7760		H3117	H5971	H1285	H3091	H3772
בְּשֶׁחֶם:	וּמִשְׁפָּט	חֹק	לָו			
in Shechem	and an ordinance	them a statute	H0			
H7927	H4941	H2706				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

