

Psalm 89:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,

Analysis

I have made a covenant with my chosen (כִּי־כָרַת בְּרִית לְבָחִיר) — The verb karat (to cut) recalls the ancient covenant ceremony where animals were cut and parties passed between the pieces (Genesis 15:17-18). God initiated this unilateral covenant with David, His bachir (chosen one). **I have sworn unto David my servant** (נִשְׁבַּעֲתִי לְדִוִּיד עַתְּדִי) — The divine oath (shaba) adds solemn gravity; God stakes His own name and character on this promise.

This covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16) promised David an eternal dynasty, fulfilled ultimately in Christ, the Son of David (Matthew 1:1). The term 'my servant' (avdi) connects to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, linking David's line to the Messiah who would serve through sacrifice. Hebrews 6:13-18 affirms that God's oath makes His promise 'unchangeable.'

Historical Context

The Davidic covenant was established around 1000 BC after David brought the ark to Jerusalem. Unlike conditional covenants (Mosaic law), this was an unconditional royal grant — God's promise to maintain David's line regardless of individual failures, pointing forward to the eternal reign of Christ.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does God's initiative in 'cutting' covenant with David teach about grace versus human effort in salvation?
2. How does the dual imagery of David as both 'chosen' and 'servant' shape your understanding of Christian calling?
3. In what ways does Jesus fulfill both the servant and kingship aspects of this covenant?

Interlinear Text

עָבָדִים	לְדִין	נִשְׁבַּע עֲתִיד	בְּרִית	לְבָחִיר	כְּבָתִים
I have made	a covenant	with my chosen	I have sworn	unto David	my servant
H3772	H1285	H972	H7650	H1732	H5650

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 132:11 (References David): The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

Jeremiah 30:9 (References David): But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Matthew 3:17 (Parallel theme): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

1 Kings 8:16 (References David): Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

2 Samuel 23:5 (Covenant): Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.

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