

# Psalm 89:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

## Analysis

**My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.** God reinforces His commitment with a double negative emphasizing the absolute immutability of His covenant word. **My covenant will I not break** (לֹא־הָלַל בָּרִיתִי בְּרִיתֶל) uses **hillēl** (הָלַל), the same verb from verse 31 meaning to profane, violate, break. Humans may profane God's covenant (v. 31), but God will never profane His own covenant. This is emphatic contrast: they may break it, but I will not.

**Nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips** employs **ûmô-šā' sə-pā-tay** (לֹא־שָׁנַן־נֵה) (שָׁנַה). The verb **shānāh** (שָׁנַה) means to change, alter, do a second time differently. "The thing gone out of my lips" (môšā' səpātay) refers to God's spoken word, His covenant promise—once uttered, it cannot be retracted or modified. This parallels Isaiah 55:11: "My word that goes forth from My mouth...shall not return to Me void, but shall accomplish what I please."

God's covenant is immutable because it rests on His character, not human performance. While humans are fickle and unfaithful, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent" (Numbers 23:19). The Davidic covenant, grounded in divine oath (v. 35), cannot be altered by human sin or historical catastrophe. This finds ultimate expression in Jesus Christ, "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), through whom every divine promise is "Yes and Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

## Historical Context

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This verse addresses the theological crisis of the exile. When the Davidic monarchy fell and Jerusalem was destroyed, many questioned whether God had broken His covenant. The answer is emphatic: No. God disciplined His people (v. 32) but did not break His covenant. The covenant stood firm through exile, foreign domination, and centuries of apparent silence, ultimately vindicated in Jesus Christ. God's word that went out to David through Nathan (2 Samuel 7) was not altered—it was fulfilled beyond expectation in the eternal reign of David's greater Son.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's promise that He will not 'break' or 'alter' His covenant assure believers of the security of salvation in Christ?
2. What is the significance of God emphasizing 'the thing that is gone out of my lips'—how does the finality of God's spoken word differ from human promises?
3. How does the immutability of the Davidic covenant demonstrate the immutability of all God's covenant promises, including the New Covenant in Christ's blood?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא אַפְלֵל בְּרִית אֲמֹצָא כַּפְתִּי לֹא

H3808 will I not break My covenant the thing that is gone out of my lips H3808

H2490 H1285 H4161

H8193

אַשְׁפֵּה:

nor alter

H8138

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 23:19** (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

**Matthew 24:35** (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**James 1:17** (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**Romans 11:29** (Parallel theme): For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

**Malachi 3:6** (Parallel theme): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

**Jeremiah 14:21** (Covenant): Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

**Leviticus 26:44** (Covenant): And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.

**Jeremiah 33:20** (Covenant): Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

