

## Video 2 - God's Covenants With Us

It is because God loves us that He made contracts (or covenants) with us. There are two types of covenants: bilateral and unilateral. They tell us how responsibilities are distributed between God and us.

Well, the unilateral covenant is a rare type of covenant in which God say, "I will do this whether you do anything or not." One of His unilateral covenants is the cycle of seasons: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22, NKJV).

And what about bilateral covenants? They mean that both parties have a part to perform. In this deal, we trust that God is fulfilling His part, but we know that it entirely depends on us to "uphold our end of the bargain." An example of a bilateral covenant is... "salvation." Salvation is offered for all. It is an unmerited gift, but it will benefit only those who receive it, accept it, and respond to it (1 John 5:13; Matt. 10:22).

Interestingly, in Proverbs 3:9-10 Solomon applies the principle of a bilateral contract to offerings. He says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." What about giving it a try every time you are blessed with crops, or an income? Will not God fulfill His end of the covenant?

Did you know that we unleash God's blessings by keeping bilateral covenants? In Malachi 3:10, for example, God says: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. [And] Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty.

Obviously, to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse is our part. But what is God's part? He clearly says what He will do: "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Do you believe it? Are you ready to test Him? Is your God strong enough so that He can fulfill His part of the covenant?

As we pray for additional faith and trust, let us Study the Bible daily and learn more about God's covenants with us!