

Scripture Focus:

“For the LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.”
— *Deuteronomy 5:2 (ESV)*

1. The Meaning of the Covenant

Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ forever. Every new day that God allows His sun to rise is another invitation to meditate on His living Word. Today’s reflection asks us a serious and personal question: Who is carrying your covenant?

In Scripture, a *covenant* (Hebrew: *berith*) is a sacred agreement between God and His people. It is not a casual promise but a binding, divine relationship sealed by blood. In the Old Testament, the covenant between God and Israel was mediated through Moses and symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant—a visible sign of God’s presence among His people.

“There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat... I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.”
— *Exodus 25:22 (ESV)*

The Ark was not a mere religious object; it represented God’s throne on earth—the meeting place between heaven and humanity. Inside it were the tablets of the Law, Aaron’s rod that budded, and a pot of manna (Hebrews 9:4)—symbols of God’s covenant faithfulness and provision.

2. God’s Order and His Chosen Carriers

When God instructed Israel about the Ark, He made His commands unmistakably clear. Only one tribe—the Levites—was chosen to bear the Ark. And within that tribe, only the priests, the sons of Aaron, could handle it directly.

“At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister, and to pronounce blessings in His name.”

— *Deuteronomy 10:8 (NIV)*

No one else was permitted to touch or even look inside the Ark, lest they die (Numbers 4:15, 20). This was not harshness but holiness. God was teaching Israel that His presence cannot be handled carelessly; it must be approached in reverence, obedience, and divine order.

3. David's Error: Good Intentions, Wrong Method

Centuries later, King David desired to bring the Ark to Jerusalem—a noble and godly desire. He loved the Lord deeply, and his motives were pure. But in his zeal, he neglected the prescribed method of carrying the Ark.

“And they carried the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab.”

— *2 Samuel 6:3 (ESV)*

David used a *new cart* pulled by oxen—perhaps thinking that

modernizing the method would honor God more. It seemed efficient and respectable, yet it directly contradicted God's clear command.

Sometimes our good intentions become dangerous when we override divine instruction. Worship without obedience is not acceptable worship.

As the oxen stumbled, Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark—and immediately, he was struck dead.

“Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the Ark of God.”

— *2 Samuel 6:7 (ESV)*

David was devastated and afraid. The celebration ceased. He left the Ark in the house of Obed-Edom, where it remained for three months. During that time, God blessed Obed-Edom's household abundantly (2 Samuel 6:11).

David finally realized that the problem was not with the Ark, nor with God—it was with his disobedience.

4. Returning to God's Order

After searching the Scriptures, David discovered the truth:

“Because you did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek Him according to the rule.”

— *1 Chronicles 15:13 (ESV)*

He repented, gathered the Levites, consecrated them, and instructed them to carry the Ark on their shoulders with poles, as *Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD* (1 Chronicles 15:15).

Only then did the Ark safely reach Jerusalem, accompanied by worship, sacrifice, and joy.

True revival always follows a return to divine order.

5. Uzziah's Pride: When Zeal Becomes Rebellion

Another king, Uzziah, also illustrates this lesson. God blessed him with success and power because he “sought God during the days of Zechariah” (2 Chronicles 26:5). But when he became strong, pride filled his heart. He entered the temple to burn incense—a duty reserved only for priests.

Even when eighty courageous priests warned him, he refused to listen. Instantly, God struck him with leprosy, and he remained isolated until his death (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).

Uzziah's downfall reminds us that sincerity cannot replace obedience. God's work must be done God's way, or it ceases to be His work.

6. The New Covenant and Our High Priest

Now, under the New Covenant, we no longer carry the Ark of wood and gold. The covenant is now written on our hearts through the Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33).

Yet the same principle remains: only the one chosen by God can

carry the covenant before His presence.

That One is Jesus Christ, our eternal High Priest.

“Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.”

— *Hebrews 4:14 (NIV)*

“He is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.”

— *Hebrews 8:6 (ESV)*

In the Old Covenant, the Levites carried the Ark before the people. In the New Covenant, Christ carries us before the Father. He goes before us in intercession (Romans 8:34), and His blood speaks better things than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24).

He alone is the way into God’s presence (John 14:6).

When Christ leads, the covenant remains secure; when we replace Him with human institutions, systems, or denominations, we risk the same fate as David's cart.

7. When Religion Replaces Relationship

Today, many believers unknowingly repeat David's early mistake. They put their denominations, traditions, or leaders in front of Christ—trusting organizational strength instead of divine truth.

We say we love Jesus, but often, our loyalty lies with our church systems rather than His Word.

“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

— *Matthew 15:8-9 (NIV)*

When we choose to follow what our denomination teaches instead of what Scripture says—about sin, repentance, holiness, or baptism—we are letting the “oxen” pull the covenant. It may look

stable for a while, but eventually, the oxen will stumble.

Religion without Christ will fail. Church membership without new birth will perish. Sacraments without the Spirit are empty rituals.

8. The Call to True Obedience

Dear believer, God is not impressed by our outward activity, titles, or religious energy. What He seeks is simple obedience and heartfelt faith.

“To obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.”

— *1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)*

Repent today.

Let Jesus Christ go before you as your High Priest.

Let the Word of God (the Bible), not your denomination or tradition, be your guide.

Follow the Word. Live the Word. Love the Word.

There lies the only safe path—for God always moves according to His Word, not human opinion.

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”

— *Psalm 119:89 (ESV)*

Let every man’s word be false, but God’s Word be true (Romans 3:4).

Conclusion

Who is carrying your covenant today?

Is it your church, your traditions, your leaders—or is it Christ alone?

When the Lord looks upon you, may He see Jesus Christ going before you—carrying your covenant with His own blood, interceding for you before the Father.

Only then can you walk securely in grace, in order, and in divine

favor.

Be greatly blessed.

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