

We All Need Hese

“...the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy (hese) with those that love him...”

Deuteronomy 7:9

Almost all of us have been in or are in covenants of various kinds. There is the marriage covenant, the mortgage covenant, various kinds of lease and lending covenants, and so on. Most people's lives are touched somehow by covenants.

In its simplest terms, a covenant is an agreement between two or more people. Each side promises certain things to the other side, and each side is promised certain things from the other side. Some covenants are for a long term like a mortgage, some for a short term such as a lease on a car, perhaps 4-5 years. Then, some covenants such as the marriage covenant are for life. The line, “till death do us part...” is a familiar word on people's lips.

I well recall in a class at university how the professor talked about covenants and about “hese”. He had a wonderful education with two earned doctorates. I respected his scholarship. He told us in class that possibly the best English translation of the Hebrew Bible's term

hese, was “covenant loyalty”.

God is always loyal to His people, the people who have an agreement, or covenant, with Him. God never forsakes His covenant or breaks the covenant He has made with His children. Such a thought becomes especially meaningful to us in times of sorrow.

A very beautiful expression in our English Bibles is the phrase about God “remembering” His covenant. In Exodus 6:5 we hear of God observing the groaning of His people in Egyptian bondage. At that time of observation God is said to “remember” His covenant.

This does not mean God called to mind the terms of His covenant, rather it means God made the covenant a going concern. God did the things that He had committed Himself to in that covenant.

Now, as we think of the earthly covenants we have made some have been fulfilled and for some of my readers certain covenants

were broken. For example when a marriage dissolves the covenant is broken. The promise “till death do us part” is not fulfilled. What happened was the covenant was fulfilled until someone else came along and caused the breakup of the marriage.

If you have believed that you are in covenant with God, if you love God, you may be assured that He will never desert you for another. Regardless of how you may have failed Him, He will remain faithful to you. He will perform hese. This is what we all need to keep us stable in the rocky times of life.

Whatever is troubling you today, find comfort in this truth. Your God will never leave you nor forsake you. You are His forever if you love Him.

My name from the palms of His hands eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains, in marks of indelible grace.

-Augustus Toplady

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