

Exchanging Belts & Weapons

General

- What do you think exchanging weapons represented?
- The significance of exchanging belts

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- Gen 2:18 (possible application), “The Lord God said, It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
 - “helper” (Heb): assistant to aid in his work, strengthen him
 - “suitable” (Heb): pertaining to whatever is in front of him; would require strength or abilities relevant to the task at hand

God's Covenant with Noah

- Gen 9:2 (God speaking to Noah & his sons), “The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands.”
 - God protected humans from animals by doing what?

God's Covenant with Abraham

- Gen 15:1, “After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.’”

God's First Covenant with Israel

- Lev 26:6-8 “I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.”
 - How does this relate to the practice of exchanging weapons?

God's Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 7:22-24, “The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you. But the Lord your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great

confusion until they are destroyed. He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them.”

- How does this relate to the practice of exchanging weapons?

David and Jonathan’s Covenant

- 1 Sam 18:3-4, “And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.”
- 1 Sam 19:1-2 (Saul became extremely jealous of David because he was so popular with the people), “Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David and warned him.”
- 1 Sam 20:1-4

Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, “What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?”

“Never!” Jonathan replied. “You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn’t do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why would he hide this from me? It’s not so!”

But David took an oath and said, “Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, ‘Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.’ Yet as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death.”

Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.”

- What did Jonathan offer to do and what was the potential cost?
 - What does this reveal about the strength of the covenant bond?
 - 1 Sam 20:30-33
- Saul’s anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!”
- “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” Jonathan asked his father. But Saul hurled his spear at

him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

God's Covenant with David

- Ps 89:21-23 (God speaking to David), “My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.”
 - How does this relate to the practice of exchanging belts and weapons?

God's New Covenant with Christians

- Exchanging belts (pledging strength, support & abilities)
 - Eph 1:19, “. . . and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength”
 - Eph 3:20, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”
 - Eph 6:10, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”
 - How do these three verses relate to the practice of exchanging belts?
 - 2 Co 12:10, “That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
 - How does this relate to the practice of exchanging belts?
- Exchanging weapons (pledging protection)
 - Rom 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - Gal 1:14, “. . . who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age”
 - What does it mean, Jesus “gave himself”?
 - What benefit do we receive from his death, according to this verse?
 - 2 Co 10:3-5, “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

- As seen in this verse, how does the world's concept of weapons differ from God's concept?
- Eph 6:17 (“armor of God” passage), “. . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
- Related point
 - Mt 5:44, “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
 - Ro 12:19-20, “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.’”
 - How do these passages relate to covenant protection (exchanging weapons)?
- Our covenant with God requires that we offer all our strength, support and abilities to serve him.

God's New Covenant with Israel

- Jer 32:37, “I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety.”

Marriage

- Eph 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
 - What is the standard for a husband loving his wife, according to this verse?
 - How did Jesus give himself up for the church?
- Eph 5:28-29, “In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church.”
 - What does it mean for a husband to love his wife as his own body?
 - How can a husband feed and care for his wife as Christ does the church?
- Ladies, a covenant is a bi-directional relationship in which you pledge to protect, strengthen and support each other.

Blessing

- May you experience the sheer joy of offering all your strength, support and abilities to God in exchange for his.