

# Covenant Texts

## NCNC Annual Meeting 2005 Focus Texts:

**Ephesians 4:15-16** - But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**Genesis 9** – Noah & Ark & Rainbow Covenant story, esp. “I will REMEMBER my covenant that is BETWEEN me and you and EVERY living creature.”

## **\*\*\*\*\* Jeremiah 31:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> "The time is coming," declares the LORD,  
"when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to <sup>[d]</sup> them, <sup>[e]</sup> "  
declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time," declares the LORD.  
"I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people. (NIV)

## Other Covenants to Focus On:

**Salem Covenant:** We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all God's ways.

## **NCNC Covenant**

**UCC Statement of Faith:** binding together in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races

## Other Covenant Texts:

Genesis 17 – God covenants with Abraham – circumcision as sign of the covenant

Deuteronomy – Covenant at Horeb, the Ten Commandments

1 Samuel 18 – David and Jonathan covenant b/c they love each other

2 Chronicles 23 – the people covenant with the king

Isaiah 42 – *Am Israel* as God's Covenant with humanity, light to the Gentiles

Hosea 2 – *Am Israel* restored and in covenant with creatures of creation

Matthew 26:28 – blood of the covenant

Acts 3:25 – Heirs of God's covenant with Abraham

Hebrews 8 – New covenant with Israel & Judah, law in hearts and minds

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you

forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good."

And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!"

Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."

He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey."

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

(lectionary text for 11/6/05, Year a, Proper 27, 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)(emphasis added)

COM-D Field Guide to Covenant has:

NCNC covenant

Salem covenant – walk together in all God's ways

Noah & all creation

Abraham Sarah

10 commandments

new covenant

last supper

Corinthians & Galatians – Paul - former & new covenants

Hebrews 9