



Covenant Theology: Part II

*Tracing the Covenant of Grace through the Old
Testament into the New*

The Promise of Redemption

- Read Genesis 2:16-17 & 3:17-19. When Adam broke the Covenant of Life/Works with God, mankind and all of creation fell under the curse of the covenant (death).
- But even amid the devastating judgments God issued to the covenant offenders (serpent, Eve, Adam respectively), a hint of a promise of redemption was given.
- Read Genesis 3:14-15. What do you think is implied by the statement, “...he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...” (ESV)?

The Flood and the Bow

THIS SHOWS US THAT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, GOD HAD AGREED (COVENANTED) TO DESTROY THE SERPENT (SATAN; SEE REV. 12:9).

WHEN HUMAN EVIL HAD REACHED NEW, INTOLERABLE HEIGHTS, GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT UPON THE WHOLE EARTH BY FLOODING IT.

YET GOD SAVED A REMNANT OF ALL LIVING THINGS, INCLUDING HUMANS, BY DIRECTING NOAH TO BUILD AN ARK TO HOUSE TWO OF EACH CREATURE PLUS HIS FAMILY DURING THE FORTY DAY-FORTY NIGHT RAIN (GENESIS 6-8).

WHEN THE WATERS SUBSIDED (150 DAYS LATER) AND THE ONLY SURVIVORS WERE ABLE TO LEAVE THE ARK, GOD ADDRESSES NOAH AND HIS SONS DIRECTLY.

READ GENESIS 9:8-17.
FOLLOWING OUR CIRCLE DRAWING FROM LAST WEEK, WHO IS GOD COVENANTING WITH? WHO IS THE REPRESENTATIVE?

The Flood and the Rainbow

- In a suzerain-vassal covenant, the sign of the covenant usually indicated some action that would be taken if the covenant was broken (e.g. animals split in two).
- What do you think is the significance of the “sign of the covenant” God established with Noah with the bow?



God's Covenant with Abraham:

- The Covenant of Grace that was hinted at in Genesis 3:15 and in some way demonstrated in Genesis 6-9 takes new shape when God calls a man named Abram to follow Him.
- **Read Genesis 12:1-3.** What are the promises God made to Abram here? What is required of Abram?

God's Covenant with Abraham

- **Read Genesis 15:7-11 and 17-21.** What are the promises God made to Abraham here?
- The animals being cut in two and set on each side was a regular practice for kings when they covenanted together. They would pass between the animals together and declare something like, “May this happen to me if I break this covenant”, or “May this happen to you if you break this covenant.”
- What do you think is the significance of the fact that only God passes between the pieces?

God's Covenant with Abraham:

- **Read Genesis 17:1-8.** What is Abram commanded to do at first (Hint: look at verse 2)? How does Abram respond to this command (Hint: look at verse 3)?
- After seeing Abram's response, does God decide not to make His covenant with Abram? Who does God promise to raise up from Abram's offspring?



God's Covenant with Israel

- God renewed His promises to Abraham with Abraham's son Isaac (Genesis 26), and again Isaac's son, Jacob (Genesis 35), whom God renamed Israel.
- Israel's sons and two grandsons became the 12 heads of the tribes of the nation Israel (see Genesis 49). But towards the end of Jacob's life, he and his sons had to flee to Egypt because of a serious famine.
- Jacob's son Joseph had become second in command to Pharaoh, so the whole family was able to settle in Egypt with a significant level of ease and respect from their Egyptian neighbors.
- **Read Exodus 1:6-10.** This was the start of Israel's slavery in Egypt. Which of God's promises to Abraham was most threatened by this situation?



God's Covenant with Israel

- It was then that God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the promised land. After humbling Egypt through a series of plagues and destroying Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea, Moses and Israel were free from their oppressors.
- God led them to a mountain called Sinai, where He spoke with Moses, the leader God appointed to be the representative of the people.
- **Read Exodus 19:4-6.** What promises does God make to the nation of Israel?
- Do these promises echo any promises God made to Abraham?
- What is required of Israel?
- What do you think is the significance of the phrase "...you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation..."?
- Who "loses" when Israel does not fulfill the role God intended for this nation?

God's Covenant with David

- As their author, redeemer, and provider, God alone was the rightful King over the people of Israel. Yet, the people desired a human king. The folly of their desire was clearly demonstrated through the appointment of Saul.
- But God raised up a “man after his own heart” to be king over Israel, David. God established a covenant with David, the leader and representative of Israel.
- **Read 2 Samuel 7:12-17.** What does God promise to David (and Israel) here? In what ways were these promises fulfilled in David's son Solomon? In what ways did Solomon's failures as a king threaten the fulfillment of these promises?



The New Covenant Promised

- When Israel continued to rebel against God by abandoning the covenant, God sent many warnings promising to humble the nation by causing them to be taken from the Promised Land and placed in exile under foreign oppression.
- In two major phases, this indeed took place, threatening the fulfillment of the promises of the covenant of grace. But God never left His people, or mankind without hope.
- **Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.** In what ways is the new covenant different from the old? In what ways is it a continuation/development of the old? Is it a different covenant in essence?



The New Covenant Fulfilled

- **Read Luke 22:15-20 and Hebrews 9:19-28.** What connection does Jesus (and the author of Hebrews) make between himself and the Old Testament sacrificial system?
- Discuss how the development of the covenant of grace in the Old Testament becomes fulfilled in Christ.

