

**GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERY
PART OF YOUR LIFE**

(Our God is a Covenant God)





WHAT IS A COVENANT?

WEEK 1 - Introduction



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

What is a
covenant?

*“An agreement
between two or
more persons.”*



ELEMENTS OF A COVENANT

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise or Blessing
4. Penalty or Curse



A RELATIONSHIP

- I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (Exodus 6:7)



EXAMPLE: MARRIAGE



DEFINITION OF “COVENANT”

O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Covenants*:

- *“A bond in blood sovereignly administered”*



MORE THAN A PROMISE



- So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, **he guaranteed it with an oath**, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. (**Heb. 6:17–18**)



A BOND IN BLOOD



- In the Ancient Near East, animal sacrifices were a part of covenant ceremonies.
- The Hebrew word for making a covenant means “*to cut a covenant*”



AN OATH COMMITMENT

Joshua and
Gibeonites

Joshua 9



TWO TYPES OF COVENANT

Unilateral

- One party establishes
- One party sets terms
- All Divine covenants
- *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:26)*

Bilateral

- Two parties establish
- Bargaining of terms
- Human covenants, like David and Jonathan's (1 Samuel 18)



EXAMPLE OF A UNILATERAL



AN OLD FAMILIAR TERM

“testament”

- this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins
- Matthew 26:28

“covenant”

- this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins
- Matthew 26:28



AN OLD FAMILIAR TERM

“testament”

- But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 3:14 (KJV)

“covenant”

- But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.
- 2 Corinthians 3:14 (ESV)



AN OLD FAMILIAR TERM

“testament”

- By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.
- Hebrews 7:22 (KJV)

“covenant”

- This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.
- Hebrews 7:22 (ESV)





BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF COVENANT

NOAHIC COVENANT



- But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
(Genesis 6:18)



SIGN OF THE COVENANT



- And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."
(Genesis 9:12-13)



ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



- And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. (Genesis 17:7)



MOSAIC COVENANT



- “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”
(Exodus 34:10)



MOSAIC COVENANT



- And the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” ... And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 34:27-28)



DAVIDIC COVENANT



- You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations. (Psalm 89:3-4)"



NEW COVENANT



- this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28)



"The time is coming,"
declares the Lord,
"when I will
make a new
covenant with
the house of Israel
and the house
of Judah."

~Jeremiah 31:31



NEW COVENANT PREDICTED





WHAT IS COVENANT THEOLOGY?

DEFINITION OF COVENANT THEOLOGY

“The gospel set forth in the context of God’s eternal plan of communication with His people as it unfolds in the historical outworking of the redemptive plan of God. Covenant theology is central to the message of the Scriptures, which testify to God’s redemption of His people in and through the finished work of Jesus Christ.”



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A FRAMEWORK

- For understanding:
 - The death of Christ and the atonement
 - The application of salvation
 - Assurance
 - The Church

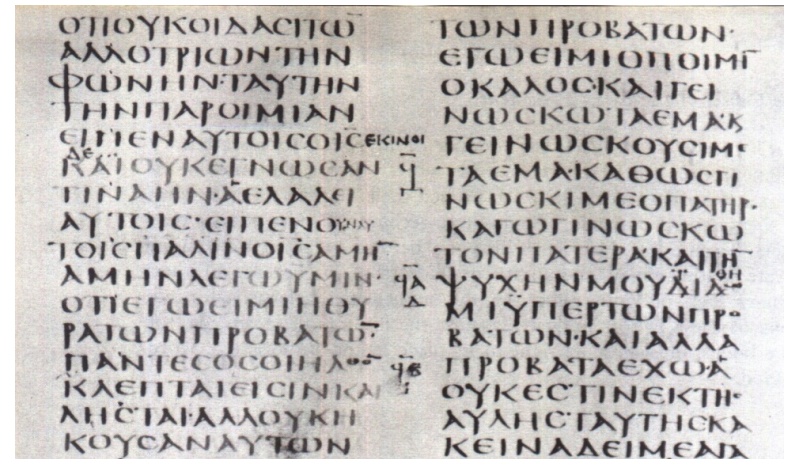


CENTRAL TO THE BIBLE STORY

Berith (בְּרִית)
300+ times



Diatheke (διαθήκη)
30+ times



DISTINCTIVES

- Unity of the Bible
- God deals with His people in essentially one way
- Continuity



DISTINCTIVES

- “Federal” theology
- The word comes from Latin for covenant – “*foedus*”
- Describes our relationships
 - Federal union/government
 - Tells us about salvation
 - Tells us about the family

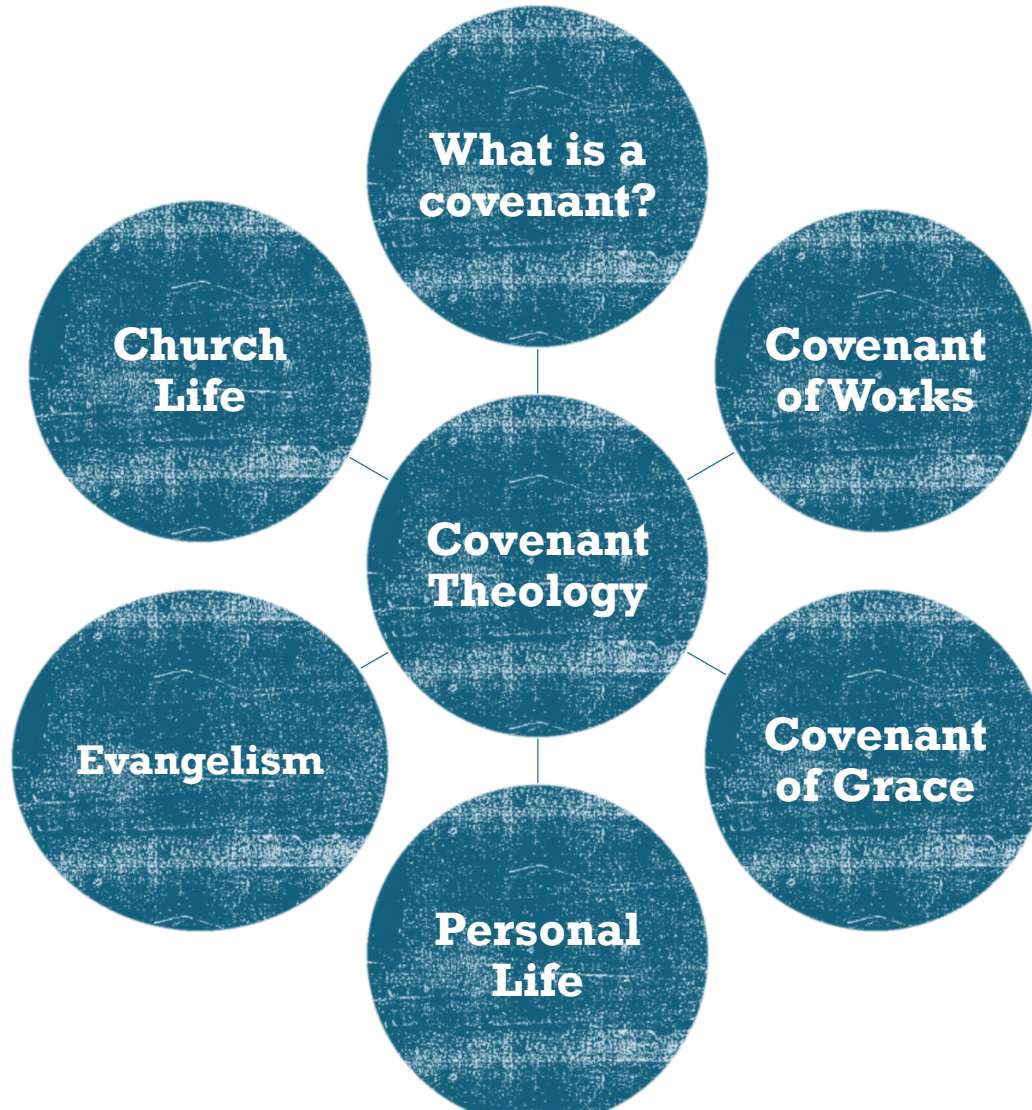




**WHERE ARE WE GOING
WITH THIS?**



COVENANT THEOLOGY



OUR PATH

Biblical Foundation

- What does the Bible say?
- Overarching structure
- Historical examples

Application

- Covenantal Thinking in Family
- Covenantal Thinking in Church



OUR PATH - FOUNDATION

- Introduction: What is a Covenant? (12/2)
- The Covenant of Works (12/9)
- The Covenant of Grace and the Covenant of Redemption (12/16)



OUR PATH - FOUNDATION

- The Covenant and the Bible: the Old Testament (12/23)
- The Covenant and the Bible: the New Testament (12/30)
- The Bridge: Old Testament Prophecies of the New Covenant (1/6)



OUR PATH - APPLICATION

- **Covenant and Marriage (1/13)**
- **Covenant and the Family (1/20)**
- **The Covenant and Work (1/27)**



OUR PATH - APPLICATION

- Covenant and Evangelism/Salvation (2/3)
- Covenant and the Church (2/10)
- Covenant and the Means of Grace (2/17)

