

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

(Our God is a Covenant God)





COVENANT IN MARRIAGE

Week 7

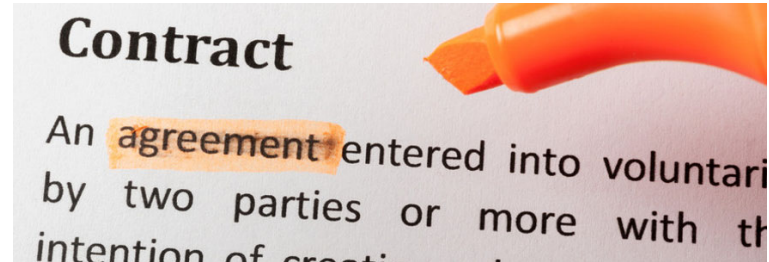
THE COVENANT AND MARRIAGE

Why should we study marriage in the context of God's covenant?

- Marriage is covenantal
- If God relates covenantally, shouldn't we strive to as well?



REVIEW:



- ***What is a covenant?***
 - An Agreement or contract
 - A Relationship
 - More than a promise
 - An Oath-Bound Promise
 - *“A bond in blood sovereignly administered”*



REVIEW: A CENTRAL THEME

**God has one
purpose in
history**



**Revealing
His glory in
His grace**



REVIEW: PROGRESSION



THE COVENANT AND MARRIAGE

What is it about the Covenant of Grace that helps us to understand marriage?

- Its characteristics appear in marriage
- Remember that we said that a covenant is more than an “agreement,” that it is also an intimate relationship between the covenanting parties?
- Does that remind you of anything?





CHARACTERISTICS



COVENANT OF GRACE: CHARACTERISTICS

One of peace and friendship

- *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)*



COVENANT OF GRACE: CHARACTERISTICS

Like a Marriage

- When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. (Ezekiel 16:8)



COVENANT OF GRACE: CHARACTERISTICS

Like a Marriage

- And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. (Hosea 2:19)



COVENANT OF GRACE: CHARACTERISTICS

Everlasting

- Isaiah 54:1-10; 55:3
- Psalm 89 (v.33-34)
- Malachi 2:1-9
- Romans 11:29



MARRIAGE IS A CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP

- that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell (Genesis 24:3)
- Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. (Genesis 28:1)



MARRIAGE IS A CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP

- You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons (Deut. 7:3)
- For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, (Joshua 23:12)



MARRIAGE IS A CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP

- Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.' (Ezra 9:12)
- And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. (Nehemiah 13:25)



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE CAREFUL?

- The bond is permanent
- The relationship affects us

**It is a
covenantal
relationship!**





A COVENANTAL BOND



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- “A covenant of companionship” (Jay Adams)
- A public and formal sworn promise by a man and a woman to each other
 - ✓ Vows
 - ✓ Promises
 - ✓ Witnesses



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- It is the covenant that makes a marriage, not the incidentals
- Even before the marriage was consummated, Jewish law made it adultery to betray one's spouse after betrothal
 - Deuteronomy 22:22-29
 - Matthew 1:18-20, 24



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- It is begun by a covenant
 - Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”
Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23–24)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- It is begun by a covenant
 - So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. (Proverbs 2:16–19)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- It is not to be taken lightly
 - For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. (Romans 7:2–3)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- There are blessings of God within the covenant
 - Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. (Malachi 2:15)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- There are blessings of God within the covenant
 - Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- Marriage is a relational covenant bond, and therefore just like the Covenants of God, the principle of friendship and unity are vital
- *A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.*
(1 Corinthians 7:39)



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

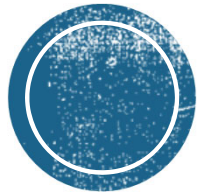
- Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
(2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - Deuteronomy 7:1-4
 - Joshua 23:12
 - Ezra 9:11-12



MARRIAGE IS COVENANTAL

- It is incorporated into God's Law
 - *You shall not commit adultery. (Ex. 20:14)*
 - *And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, (Mark 10:11)*
 - *For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Ephesians 5:5)*





A PICTURE OF RELATIONSHIP





WEDDING FEAST

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son (Matthew 22:1-2)

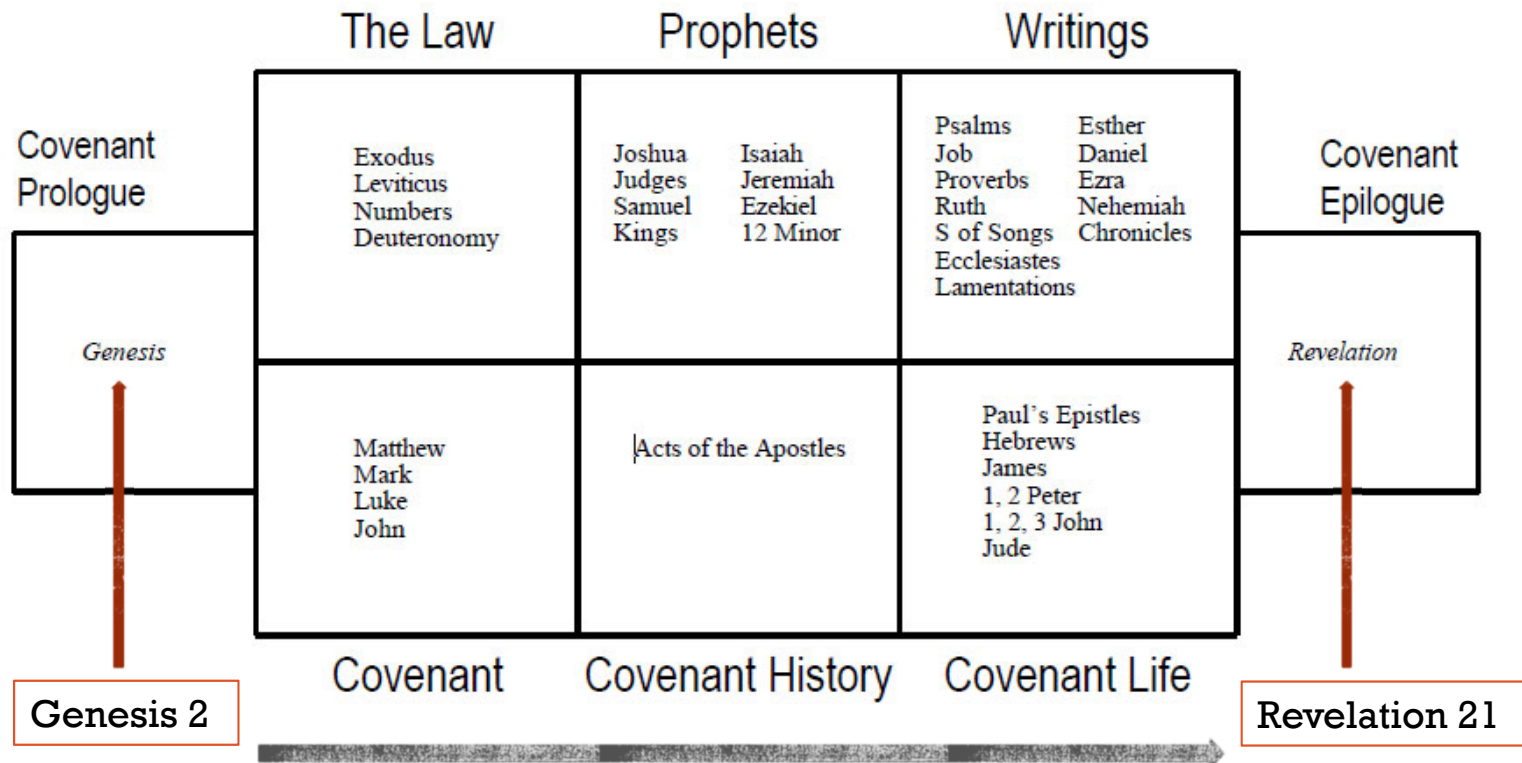


MARRIAGE IS AN ILLUSTRATION

- Of God's covenant with His People
- Of Christ's covenant with His Church
 - Isaiah 54:5
 - Jeremiah 3:14
 - Hosea 2:19-20
 - Ephesians 5:23-32
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1-4



The Covenantal Arrangement of the Christian Bible



Luke 24:44

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you:
Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the
Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."



NEXT WEEK:

- We begin to apply a covenantal way of thinking to the **family**
- Homework:
 - Deuteronomy 6
 - Ephesians 6

