

Dive! FBCD Women's Ministry

*From Garden to Glory* by Courtney Doctor - Chapter 4 (The Heart of Our King)

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**Once upon a time...**

*Characters:*

- God is the Source of everything, the sovereign King, and a good and loving Father.
- Human beings are the crown of God's creation made in the image of God to be his representatives in the world.

*Setting:*

- The garden is full of God's glory, and everything is very good.
- The pattern of the kingdom is established. The kingdom of God exists perfectly as God's people in God's place under God's rule.

**But then an evil serpent...**

*The Fall:*

- The crafty serpent introduces doubt concerning who God is.
- Adam and Eve sin through their disobedience, and the sovereign King rightfully issues a curse that affects humanity's relationship with God, man, and the earth.
- Adam stands as our representative, which means we are born as sinners and bear the consequences of the curse.

*The Promise:*

- The sovereign King acts in sovereign grace by promising to send a Savior who will crush the serpent's head.

**The heart of our King...**

## THE HEART OF THE KING–LOVE

**Question:** “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us” (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*). How would you describe the King?

**Question:** “I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important” (C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*). How do you think the King would describe you?

### 1. We Have a Problem, and God Does Too!

- a. Because of our sin, we are guilty before God.
- b. Because of who God is, he “cannot overlook our sin without denying himself and his fundamental justice and goodness” (Hunter and Wellum, *Christ from Beginning to End*).

### 2. God’s Love Compelled Him to Fix Both Problems

- a. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
- b. “You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you...” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8a).
- c. “God, compelled by his great love for us, did everything necessary to make us his own” (93).
- d. “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5).

## THE WAY OF THE KING–COVENANT

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

**Question:** What is a covenant?

### 1. The Noahic Covenant

- a. **Only Evil All the Time:** “The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time” (Genesis 6:5).
- b. **Judgment:** “I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 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 6:17-18).
- c. **Covenant and Sign:** God promises “never again [to] curse the ground because of man” (8:21), he restates the creation mandate to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (9:1), and he gives a sign for the covenant that he makes “with every living creature of all flesh” (9:15).
- d. **Foretaste of Coming Judgment:** “For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man....Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” (Matthew 24:37-39, 42).
- e. **Foretaste of Coming Salvation:** “‘This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. 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 54:9-10).

## 2. The Abrahamic Covenant

- a. **Land, Descendants, and Blessing:** "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3).
- b. **Covenant Ceremony, New Name, and New Sign:** God alone passes through the animal pieces. God's promise rests on his faithfulness, not Abraham's (or our) obedience. However, God expects Abraham to obey his covenant commands (Genesis 17:1-14). He tells him to be blameless, he gives him a new name, and he gives him the sign of circumcision.
- c. **Foretaste of the Gospel**
  - 1) **Righteousness through Faith:** "He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was 'counted to him as righteousness.' But the words 'it was counted to him' were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:19-24).
  - 2) **Salvation through Substitution:** "Abraham said, 'God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son'" (Genesis 22:8).
  - 3) **Circumcision of the Heart:** "For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter" (Romans 2:28-29).
  - 4) **The Heavenly City:** "By faith he [Abraham] went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:9-10).