

## ***Covenant Theology I: Introduction***

### **1. How does God relate to lowly/sinful mankind?**

- a) Psalm 8:3-4  
3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
4 what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?  
(cf. Is 6:1-4, 57:15; 1 Tim 6:16; 1 Kings 8:12; 2 Chron 6:1)
- b) WCF 7.1  
“The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as the Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God’s part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.”  
(cf. Ps 113:1-6)
- c) “A bond in blood sovereignly administered” O. Palmer Robertson

### **2. How does God’s revelation of salvation progress over time?**

- a) *The Sum of All Saving Knowledge* (David Dickson and James Durham, 1650)  
II.I “God, for the glory of his rich grace, hath revealed in his word a way to save sinners; viz., by faith in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God; by virtue of, and according to the tenor of the Covenant of Redemption, made and agreed upon between God the Father and God the Son, in the council of the Trinity, before the world began.”
- b) WCF 7  
2. This first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.  
3. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.
- c) Covenant of grace: Edenic, Gen 3:15; Noahic, Gen 9; Abrahamic Gen 12, 15, 17; Mosaic, Ex 20-24; Davidic, 2 Sam 7, 1 Chr 17; New prophesied, Jer 31; New inaugurated, Mt 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, Heb 8.

### 3. How do the Old and New Testament relate to one another?

a) WCF 7.5

“This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law and in the time of the gospel: under the law it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all fore-signifying Christ to come, which were for that time sufficient and efficacious, through the operation of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they had full remission of sins and eternal salvation; and is called the Old Testament.”

b) WCF 7.6

“Under the gospel, when Christ the substance was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity and less outward glory, yet in them it is held forth in more fulness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the New Testament. There are not, therefore, two covenants of grace differing in substance, but one and the same under various dispensations.”

c) Unity, essential and substantial similarity, administrative difference, fullness.