



Introduction

- We make agreements and promises because we are made in the image of God and God is a God of promise.
- God does more than just make promises. God establishes covenants.

Why Covenant Theology?

- Covenant theology gives us the proper way to view our relationship with God.
- Covenant theology keeps a proper view of the individual and the community.
- Covenant theology keeps the proper relationship between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world.
- Covenant theology correctly marries doctrine and practice without emphasizing one over the other.
- Covenant theology gives the proper relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility.
- Covenant theology helps us to properly relate the Old Testament to the New Testament.
- Covenant theology keeps the proper relationship between Word and sacrament.

What Is a Covenant?

- A covenant is a bond-in-blood sovereignly administered.¹ (O. Palmer Robertson)
- A covenant is a “sovereign administration of the kingdom of God.”² (Meredith Kline)
- A covenant is a relationship between persons, begun by the sovereign determination of the greater party, in which the greater commits himself to the lesser in the context of mutual loyalty, and in which mutual obligations serve as illustrations of that loyalty.³
- A covenant is a relationship of “oaths and Bonds” and involves mutual, though not necessarily equal, commitments.⁴ (Michael Horton)
- A covenant is a solemn agreement with oaths and/or promises, which imply certain sanctions or legality.⁵ (Michael Brown and Zach Keele)
- A covenant is an oath-bound promise, a solemn pledge.⁶ (Greg Nichols)

¹ O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1980), 15.

² Meredith Kline, *By Oath Consigned: A Reinterpretation of the Covenant Signs of Circumcision and Baptism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975), 15-16.

³ Michael D. Williams, *Far As The Curse Is Found* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2005), 45-46.

⁴ Michael Horton, *God of Promise* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006), 10.

⁵ Michael G. Brown and Zach Keele, *Sacred Bond* (Grandville, MI: Reformed Fellowship, Inc., 2012), 17.

⁶ Greg Nichols, *Covenant Theology* (Vestavia Hill, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011), 100.



Biblical Covenants⁷

1. The Covenant of Redemption – this is the covenant made between the members of the Trinity to accomplish redemption.
2. The Covenant of Works – this is the covenant made with Adam in the Garden of Eden.
3. The Covenant of Grace – this is the covenant made with Adam after the fall to provide redemption to fallen humanity. This covenant undergirds all the remaining covenants.
4. The Covenant with Noah – this is the covenant made with Noah before he entered the ark and with all who exited the ark after the flood.
5. The Abrahamic Covenant – this is the covenant with made with Abraham.
6. The Mosaic (or Old) Covenant – this is the covenant made with Israel after leaving Egypt.
7. The Levitical Covenant – this is the covenant of priesthood made with Phinehas and his descendants.
8. The Davidic Covenant – this is the covenant made with David.
9. The New Covenant – this covenant is made with Jesus and those who belong to him.

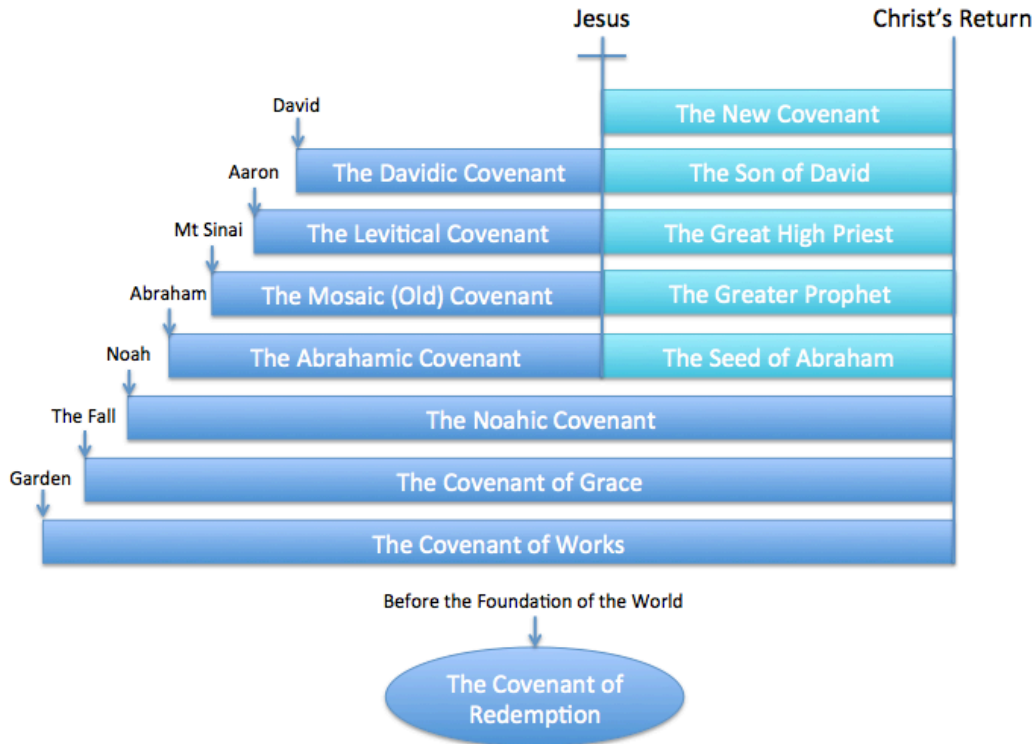
We want to consider the following things as we study the covenants.

- Who are the parties of the covenant?
- What is promised in the covenant?
- What is the sign or token of the covenant?
- What are the stipulations of the covenant?
- What is the reward or punishment of the covenant?
- Is the covenant conditional or unconditional?

⁷ The covenants, with the exception of the Levitical Covenant are taken from Greg Nichols' book, *Covenant Theology*.



Covenant Structure



1. The Covenant of Redemption is covenant that was instituted before time began and all of the other covenants flow from this covenant.
2. The remaining covenants were instituted at a particular point in human history.
3. Jesus's death on the cross and his resurrection change how we view some of the covenants.
4. All covenant promises are realized in their fullest when Jesus comes again.

Types of Covenants

- Conditional
- Unconditional

Blood Covenants

- Karat berit – cut a covenant
- Covenants deal with sin

Course Bibliography

- Bingham, D. Jeffrey and Kreider, Glenn R. *Dispensationalism and the History of Redemption*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015.
- Brown, Michael G. and Keele, Zach. *Sacred Bond*. Grandville, MI: Reformed Fellowship, Inc., 2012.



-
- Denault, Pascal. *The Distinctiveness of Baptist Covenant Theology*. Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2013.
- Gentry, Peter J. and Wellum, Stephen J. *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
- "God Assumes the Covenant Curse," *Tabletalk*, June 2016.
- Horton, Michael. *God of Promise*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.
- "Infant Baptism." *The Reformation Study Bible*, Ed. R. C. Sproul. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2015.
- Kline, Meredith. *By Oath Consigned: A Reinterpretation of the Covenant Signs of Circumcision and Baptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975.
- Nichols, Greg. *Covenant Theology*. Vestavia Hill, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1980.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Dispensationalism Today*. Chicago, IL: The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1965.
- "The Threefold Use of The Law." *The Reformation Study Bible*, Ed. R. C. Sproul. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2015.
- Van Dorn, Douglas. *Covenant Theology: A Reformed Baptist Primer*. Erie, CO: Waters of Creation Publishing, 2014.
- Wenham, Gordon J. "Numbers" in the *ESV Study Bible*. eds. Lane T. Dennis et al.; Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.
- Williams, Michael D. *Far As the Curse Is Found*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing Co., 2005.