



Introduction

- In Genesis 3:15 God makes a promise.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15 ESV)
- This verse contains what is called the *protoevangelium*, the “proto” or “first” evangel (gospel).
- The Covenant of Grace is about the redemption of man, thus, it is the realization in history of the Covenant of Redemption. This is the ultimate foundation of the Covenant of Grace.

Works and Grace

- Before the fall man was in relation to God through the Covenant of Works, and after the fall man is still in relation to God through the Covenant of Works, but after the fall God promised the Covenant of Grace to rescue those under the Covenant of Works.
- Works play a vital role in the Covenant of Grace. What makes the Covenant of Grace so significant is someone else now accomplishes on our behalf the works that are required for salvation.

Covenant of Grace Defined

The Promises and Partakers

Two promises in Genesis 3:15

- God pledges to put enmity between the Satan and Eve and between the offspring (or seed) of Satan and the offspring (or seed) of Eve. Matthew 13:38
- Eve will have a descendant that will destroy Satan.

Unconditional and Immutable

- There are no conditions for Adam or Eve to meet for God’s promises to be fulfilled.
- Because the covenant is unconditional, it is also immutable.
- Hebrews 11:4, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 1:16-17

Definition

The covenant of grace is God’s solemn pledge to accomplish redemption by Jesus Christ and to apply redemption to all his elect in Christ.¹

Essential Features	The Redeemed	The Redeemer
Partakers named	All God’s elect	Jesus Christ

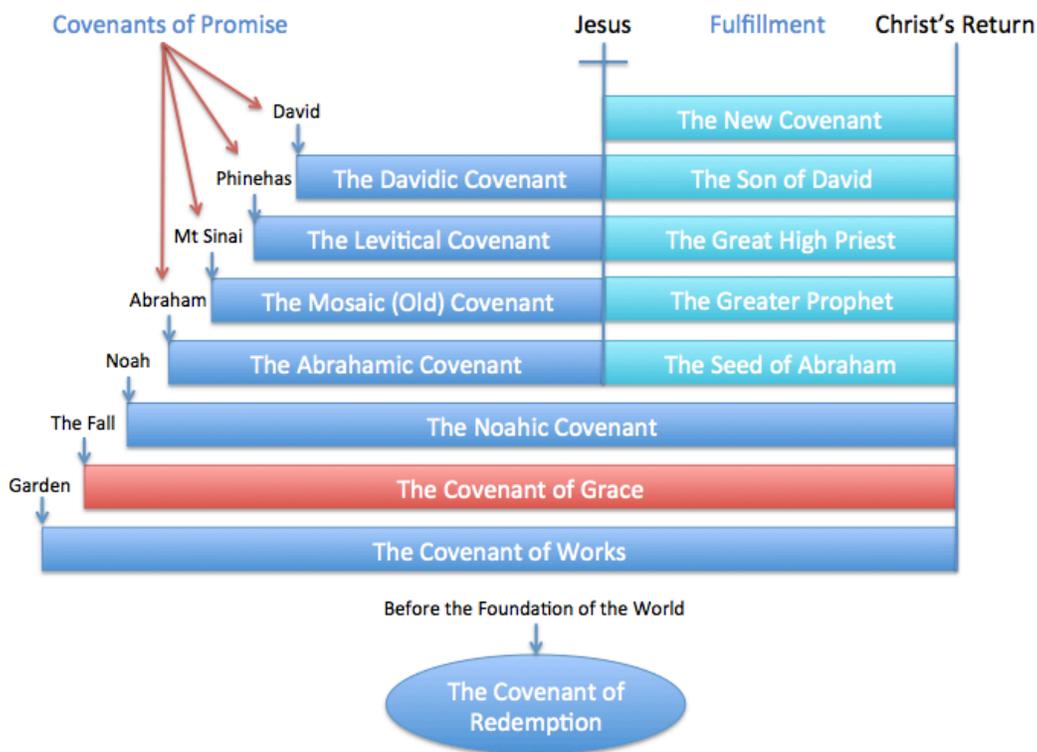
¹ Greg Nichols, *Covenant Theology* (Vestavia Hill, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011), 128.



	Eve and her spiritual children	Eve's victorious son
Promises made	Apply Redemption Create enmity with the devil and his spiritual children, the wicked	Accomplish redemption Crush the devil's head

Fulfillment

Colossians 1:13-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, Galatians 3:8-9, Ephesians 2:11-12



The covenants between Genesis 3:15 and the return of Christ are not administrations of the Covenant of Grace but the outworking of the Covenant of Grace.

Reformed Theology and the Covenant of Grace

- Westminster Confession of Faith 7.2
- 1689 London Baptist Confession 7.3



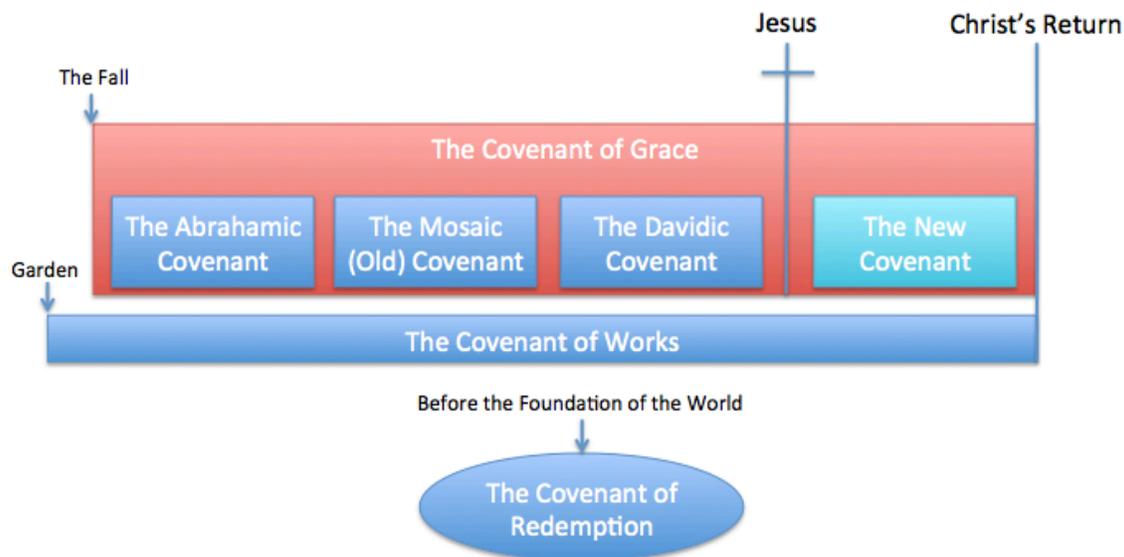
Covenant Administered, Revealed, or Implemented?

Same Substance – Different Administration

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. (WCF 7.5)

- Administered differently during different epochs of redemptive history, but its *substance remains the same* in all periods.² The Abrahamic Covenant is the establishment of the Covenant of Grace.
- The Abrahamic covenant is the particular and historical establishment of the one underlying covenant of grace, for it is out of this covenant that the old and new covenants come.³
- The Covenant of Grace “is made between God and human partners – in this case, fallen Adam, Seth, Abraham, and David.”⁴

Same Substance – Different Administrations



² Michael G. Brown and Zach Keele, *Sacred Bond* (Grandville, MI: Reformed Fellowship, Inc., 2012), 58 (emphasis added).

³ *Ibid.*, 86.

⁴ Michael Horton, *God of Promise* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006), 105.

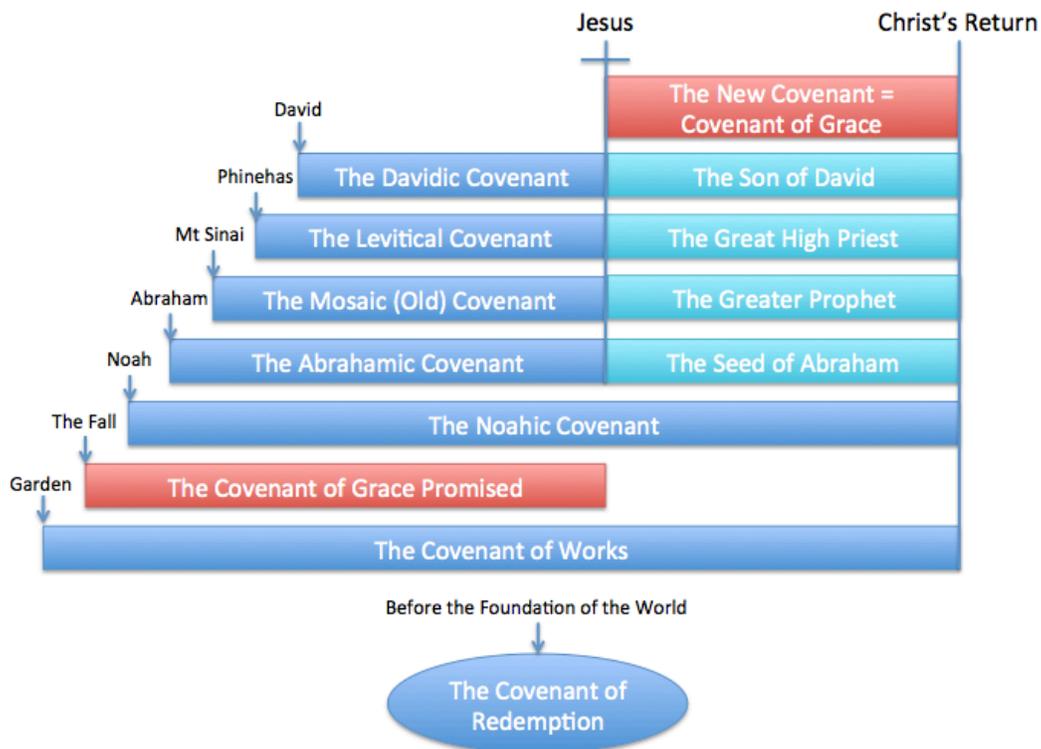


Covenant of Grace = New Covenant

The key difference between “Same Substance – Different Administrations” and “Covenant of Grace = New Covenant” is the Covenant of Grace is not administered in the Old Testament, but simply revealed in the Old Testament.

This covenant is revealed in the gospel; and was first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament. (LBC 7.3)

Hebrews 6:13-18, Colossians 2:16-17



If the Westminster federalism can be summarized in “one covenant under two administrations,” that of the 1689 would be “one covenant revealed progressively and concluded formally under the New Covenant.”⁵

Romans 3:21-26

The Covenant of Grace Implemented

- God, according to his eternal plan or covenant, graciously determines to provide salvation to his elect through his Son, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Pascal Denault, *The Distinctiveness of Baptist Covenant Theology* (Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2013), 63.



- God implements various covenants (which Ephesians 2:12 calls covenants of promise) that define the one that will crush the head of Satan.
- God implements a final covenant with the one that is the fulfillment of all the previous covenants, the one who actually crushes the head of Satan.

