



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Christian Doctrine, Part 6: God Commits: The Doctrine of Covenant
Various Scriptures - September 20, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - marriage as a covenant, a picture of God's covenant in our lives and in the scriptures.
"A covenant is a divinely initiated, binding, living relationship with blessings & obligations."

A. The Covenant Through Noah

Chaos to Overcome: "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (Gen. 6:5)

God's Mediator: Noah, who "found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen. 6:8)

Promise/Blessing: "I will never again curse the ground because of man... neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done." (Gen. 8:21)

Sign: The Rainbow in the clouds (Gen. 9:12-17)

In this initial covenant, we see a pattern laid out. God calls someone to represent those whom he intends to bless through no merit of their own. He makes promises, keeps those promises, and provides a sign for his people to remember what he's done.

B. The Covenant Through Abraham

Chaos to Overcome: The Tower of Babel and the scattering of peoples (Gen. 11:1-9)

God's Mediator: Abraham, called out of the Chaldeans which is ~babylon/babel (Gen. 11:31)

Promise/Blessing: A promised land, a great nation, a great name (Gen. 12:1-3)

Sign: Circumcision as a marker of distinction of Abraham's family from all others (Gen. 17:9-14)

Key Moments in Abraham's covenant - a one-sided commitment in the covenant ceremony (Gen. 15:6-19), and God's provision of a ram when Abraham displayed faith (Gen. 22)

C. The Covenant Through Moses

Chaos to Overcome: Slavery in Egypt, killing of baby boys (Exodus 1)

God's Mediator: Moses, who killed a man in Egypt and is on the run in Midian (Ex. 2:11-22)

Promise/Blessing: Deliverance from captivity, the giving of the Law (most of Exodus!)

Sign: The Passover, an annual ceremonial meal remembering God's salvation (Ex. 12:21-27)

Now the covenant has a human aspect. God's people are to keep covenant by keeping the Torah. They immediately fail in this and Moses pleads that God would remember his previous covenant promises (Ex. 32)

D. The Covenant Through David

Chaos to Overcome: A failure of leadership in Israel, and the downward spiral of Judges.

God's Mediator: David, selected as the youngest brother of a shepherding family. (1 Sam. 16)

Promise/Blessing: A Son of David as the King in a never-ending Kingdom (2 Sam. 7)

Sign: The Throne established

All these mediators failed in their own right. And all these covenants were only shadows.
Jeremiah 31 foretells a new covenant including the forgiveness of sins.

E. The Covenant Through Jesus

Chaos to Overcome: The sin of the world, the failure of mankind to keep covenant with God.

God's Mediator: Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of God, the Messiah/Christ (Heb. 9:15)

Promise/Blessing: Forgiveness, Presence, Eternal Life

Sign: Baptism, The Supper, The Cross

Benefits: (1) your Bible will be "put together", it's one story of God's Redemptive Drama, and
(2) you can be confident of God's commitment and love for you since he keeps covenant!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is a covenant? How is it different from a contract?
2. What do the mediators of the Old Testament covenants have in common?
3. Why does God provide a "sign" of the covenant that he has made with his people?
4. Which of these covenants are you most familiar with?
5. How do the Old Testament covenants foreshadow and prepare us for the new covenant (gospel of Jesus Christ)?
6. How does this particular doctrine help us have confidence in our salvation?
7. How does this particular doctrine help us read our Bibles and understand them?