

Diatheke: Covenant

Covenant:

A binding agreement

COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE

1. Covenant with Adam
2. Covenant with Noah
3. Covenant with Abraham
4. Covenant with Moses
5. Covenant with David
6. Covenant with the nation of Israel (New Covenant)

The Adamic Covenant ([Genesis 1:26-30; 2:16-17](#)). This Covenant outlined God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Adamic Covenant included the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God's provision for that sin — [Genesis 3:15](#) "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."

The Noahic Covenant was an unconditional covenant between God and Noah (specifically) and humanity (generally). After the Flood, God promised humanity that He would never again destroy all life on earth with a Flood ([Genesis 9](#)). God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant, a promise that the entire earth would never again flood and a reminder that God can and will judge sin ([2 Peter 2:5](#)).

The Abrahamic Covenant ([Genesis 12](#)). In this covenant, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great and that Abraham would have numerous physical descendants. That he would be the father of a multitude of nations ([Genesis 17:4-5](#)). God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. In fact, the geographical boundaries of the Abrahamic Covenant are laid out on more than one occasion in the book of [Genesis \(12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21\)](#). Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the world will be blessed through the physical line of Abraham ([Genesis 12:3; 22:18](#)). This is a reference to the Messiah, who would come from the line of Abraham.



Genesis 22:18 “And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

The Mosaic Covenant (**Deuteronomy 11**). The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God’s direct blessing for obedience or God’s direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel. Part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20**) and the rest of the Law, which contained over 600 commands.

The Davidic Covenant (**2 Samuel 7:8-16**). The Davidic Covenant amplifies the “seed” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises to David in this passage are significant. God promised that David’s lineage would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away permanently (**2 Samuel 7:16**). There will be a time, when someone from the line of David will again sit on the throne and rule as king. This future king is Jesus (**Luke 1:32-33**).

Luke 1:32-33 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

The New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**). The New Covenant is a covenant made with the nation of Israel and, with all mankind. In the New Covenant, God promises to provide a permanent atonement for sin, and eventually there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (**Matthew 5:17**) and initiate a new covenant created by God, between Him and His people.

2 Corinthians 3:1-6 “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be **Ministers of a New Covenant**, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

► (In this case He is our sufficiency to minister a New Covenant.)



THE LETTER KILLS BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

Galatians 5:1-3 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.”

Diakonos: minister, servant

A NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31:31-33 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Why a New Covenant? The Old Covenant was a picture pointing to the new. **Hebrews 9:22**

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEART

Ezekiel 36:26-27 “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

2 Corinthians 3:7-11 “Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.”



The foreshadow came with glory; the temporal came with glory but the permanent, the New Covenant, comes with an everlasting glory.

THAT WHICH IS BEING BROUGHT TO AN END GIVES WAY TO A SUPERIOR COVENANT.

Hebrews 8:13 “In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 “Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Moses had to use a veil to cover his face to buffer Israel from God’s glory. The veil can only be lifted through Jesus.

Hebrews 6:19-20 “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

NOW WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS THERE IS FREEDOM.

We’ve been freed from the power of the evil one (**James 4:7**).

We have now been freed from the penalty of sin (**Romans 6:23**).

We’ve been freed from the captivity of sin.

We with unveiled face can come boldly before the Lord and receive transformation.

It’s a process. From glory to glory.

We are ministers of a New Covenant.

The veil covered the glory.

We are being transformed.

