



Covenant

Despite continuing to choose their own ways over His again and again, God pursued humanity with mercy and justice. God the Provider, the Promise-Maker, and Promise-Keeper, made generous covenants, promising to intervene and graciously bless humanity again so that humanity would be with Him and work together with Him to bless the world. He told Adam and Eve that He would defeat the evil one, sin, and death with a promised One in the human line. He would not destroy creation but would restore it and make it fruitful and multiply like He promised Noah and his family. He would bring a solution to the problem of sin and death that was infecting His good creation through blessings that would create a relationship between Him and people from all nations. After Noah died, in His grace-filled love for humanity despite them choosing to not fill the earth and instead build a tower for their own names, God chose to call and bless a family again, led by a man named Abram, telling him and his family to go, multiply, fill the land with His glory, and demonstrate and declare His goodness and grace throughout the earth. God told Abram, who He renamed Abraham, which means father of many nations, that He would make Abraham's family as numerous as the stars and make the land his family cared for flourish like a bountiful garden. In being blessed by receiving this covenant promise from God, this household was to bless and give to people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. Abraham's family became a nation of people called Israel, and God, the Redeemer and Rescuer, brought them from out of slavery in Egypt and brought them into relationship with Him, calling them to be a kingdom of priests who were to bless every nation throughout the world by taking on the responsibility of demonstrating and declaring the good ways of God in relation to Him, each other, and all of creation. He gave them His Word of life in the law and called them to follow it to show what humanity on earth was intended to be in relationship with Him and in responsibility for the world. Families were blessed, food was provided, and work was valued. He dwelt with His people in all His glory in a tabernacle, which was created by His direction, and Spirit-fueled work in chosen people. The tabernacle was modeled to resemble the Garden of Eden and the entire cosmos, showcasing His continued purpose to walk with mankind and make the earth His Kingdom's dwelling place. He taught the people how to provide pure sacrifices like a firstborn spotless lamb that would remind them that life was in the blood He gave them, that their sin caused death to creation, and that their sin needed to be covered and removed from them and the earth so that they could continue to be with Him. The high priest did this for the people before entering the Holy of Holies to show that humanity's place was with God when their sin was paid for and removed. Celebration meals involved recognizing their freedom from slavery, death passing over them when blood was marked on their doors, and the firstfruits and fulfillment of the harvest. These happened yearly, and forgiveness of debts and giving to the foreigner were also part of these great celebrations in recognition of how God forgives debts and welcomes the foreigner and the poor. But even with God and His glory and power dwelling with them on the earth, the people were stubborn and rebellious and soon rejected their relational identity to Him and the responsibility He gave them for the world even after He redeemed and rescued them. They fell back into putting themselves before anyone or anything else, including the sojourner and foreigner even though they were once the same in Egypt. And they took advantage of the poor, the weak, the orphaned, and the widowed among them, and misused creation instead of cultivating it.

They continued to selfishly do what was right in their own eyes. However, even when they didn't listen to God and rebelled, He still pursued them as a Father lovingly seeks his lost son or daughter and rescued them repeatedly from their destructive ways. He even gave them the promised land of flourishing He told Abraham about, and He gave them a good king in King David and a wise king in his son, King Solomon, to provide glimpses of what God's Kingdom and good rule could be like on earth. King Solomon built a temple even greater and more beautiful than the tabernacle where God came to dwell with them in His glory. The surroundings of His Holy of Holies in the temple were also created to look like the Garden of Eden and the cosmos in design and purpose. But future kings continually forgot God's relational promises and responsible commands and fell into repetitive destructive habits until eventually God let them turn themselves over to their desires for lesser idols and often horrific lusts involving sexual abuse, greed, violence, and even child sacrifice outside the walls of their city. They rejected God and His Kingdom reign and were enslaved by other kingdoms and gods. The temple was destroyed, and the people were taken captive in exile by other harsh and abusive nations. Throughout all this time, even in the midst of their slavery, rebellion, and exile, God continued to provide faithful men and women who called the people to repent and turn back to God's ways. These priests, judges, kings, and prophets reminded the people to remember what God had said in order that they might hope for the day when He would graciously come to dwell with them in close relationship again and free them to obey His life-giving commands. The prophets said that God would write His law on their hearts so that they could obey Him, and that God would give them His Holy Spirit so that they would walk in His steps. The prophets also spoke of a promised anointed One called the Messiah who would suffer as a servant and die for them, but also raise up and bring God's mighty Kingdom. God continued to hold to His Word that He would atone for His people and forgive them, that He would gather His people from all nations, removing the deceitful, wicked, and selfish from the land, that He would bring His Kingdom's justice to the oppressed, and that He would restore all of creation to be good and bountiful again under His loving reign. But after a period of time, only some remembered the covenant promises and the promised anointed One.

– Mike Sullivan

Scriptures

[Genesis 3:14-15; 9:1-3, 8-17; 12:1-7, 15, 17:1-9, 22:17,18; Exodus 4:22-23, 12:1-28, 19:5-6, 22:21-22, 23:6-12, 31:1-11, 35:30-35; Leviticus 26:9; Deuteronomy 11:8-28, 15:1-11; 28; 30; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; 2 Chronicles 7; Isaiah 42:1-7, 10-12; 52-53; 55:3-6; 62:2-4, 10-12; Jeremiah 23:3, 31:31-34, 32:37-41; Ezekiel 36:23-38, 37:24-28; Zechariah 8:1-8, 20-23; Isaiah 66:1-2, 22-23; Psalm 67, 96; Hebrew 8:6-13, 9:11-28](#)

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: The Grand Story

Message: Scene III - Covenant

Speaker: Dan Mack

Date: October 15, 2023



Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. Three Things You Didn't Know About Me

- Partner up and (briefly) share three things about yourself with them (facts they don't know about you yet).
- Match up with another pair and introduce your partner by sharing the three things you learned about them.

2. Bless God

- 📖 Have a couple people share the reading of [Psalm 103](#).
- Take 2min (timed) and *Bless God* with short prayers of thanksgiving and praise. "*Bless the Lord...*"

Message Discussion (45min)

1. What Is A Covenant?

- If you had a minute to give a brief answer to the question "*what is a covenant?*" -- how would you respond?

A covenant is a relationship between two partners who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. They're often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies. Covenants define obligations and commitments, but they are different from a contract because they are relational and personal.

- Whitney Woollard

- What does the word "Covenant" mean: i. in our culture ii. in the Bible iii. to you?

We don't talk a lot about covenants today, but we should. Covenants are one of the most important themes in the Bible—they are the key to God's redemptive plan to restore humanity to its divine calling.

Starting in Genesis, God enters into one formal partnership (i.e., covenant) after another with various humans in order to rescue his world. These divine-human partnerships drive the narrative forward until it reaches its climax in Jesus. To tell the story of God redeeming humanity through Jesus is to tell the whole story of God's covenantal relationship with humans. - Whitney Woollard

2. The Grand Story - COVENANT

- Briefly share your initial feedback on *Sunday's Message*.

What connected with you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you? What did you learn?

- Can you think of a time when you didn't know much about the Bible? 📖 Read [1 Corinthians 2:13-16](#).

What factors, spiritual or otherwise, have helped you understand it better?

- What are the Five Covenants that were covered on Sunday, and some key points about each one?

I *The Edenic Covenant*

II *The Abrahamic Covenant*

III *The Mosaic Covenant*

IV *The Davidic Covenant*

V *The New Covenant*

3. Considering The Covenants

- Read [Gen. 3:14-15, 12:2-7, 22:17,18; Exod. 19:5-6, 2 Sam. 7:11-16; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:24-28](#)
- How do the covenants point to a solution to the problems created by sin?
- What do we learn about God's plan for humanity through the covenants?
- Why is it important that God initiated the solution?
- Why are the covenants primarily dependent on Him and not people, and why is this a good thing?

4. The New Covenant

- Read [Hebrew 8:6-13](#) and [9:11-28](#)
- How is *The New Covenant* different from the previous four covenants?
- From your perspective, what is the most exciting promise in the covenants, and why?

5. This Week

- Watch & Read** this resource on *Covenants* from *The Bible Project*.
*[The Five Key Covenants God Makes with Humans In The Bible](#)
www.bibleproject.com/articles/covenants-the-backbone-bible
- Dig Into** these verses on the theme of *Covenant* in your personal time with God this week:
[Genesis 3:14-15; 9:1-3, 8-17; 12:1-7, 15, 17:1-9, 22:17,18; Exodus 4:22-23, 12:1-28, 19:5-6, 22:21-22, 23:6-12, 31:1-11, 35:30-35; Leviticus 26:9; Deuteronomy 11:8-28, 15:1-11; 28; 30; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; 2 Chronicles 7; Isaiah 42:1-7, 10-12; 52-53; 55:3-6; 62:2-4, 10-12; Jeremiah 23:3, 31:31-34, 32:37-41; Ezekiel 36:23-38, 37:24-28; Zechariah 8:1-8, 20-23; Isaiah 66:1-2, 22-23; Psalm 67, 96; Hebrew 8:6-13, 9:11-28](#)
- Sign up** for our upcoming **Set Free Retreat**. November 3-4 at MSC. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

Prayer (15min)

*Share and pray in smaller groups (Men/Women or groups of 3-4).

P.R.A.Y.

>> In response to the discussion and scripture – how can we pray for you (personally)?

God's Power – Provision – Protection – Presence – Peace

>> Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Time & transition to each component.

- Pause (be still & listen. 2min) -- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min)
- Ask (pray for one another. 4min) -- Yes (surrender & trust. 2min)

