



COVENANTAL SPHERES OF AUTHORITY

Scott Goodwill




The term **federal** comes from the latin *foedus*, which means "covenant."




OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR A MORAL
AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. IT IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE TO
THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OTHER.

John Adams



Covenant is a legal bond of life and death, often called a bond in blood because life is in the blood. It is mentioned in Scripture directly through the words berith, chesed and syntheke as well as indirectly as the covenant treaty is the form that Scripture takes.



The original meaning of the Hebrew *berith* is not "agreement or settlement between two parties" as is commonly argued. *Berith* implies first and foremost the notion of "imposition," "liability," or "obligation," as might be learned from the "bond" etymology.

THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



THE WORD BERITH MAY DENOTE A MUTUAL VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT (DIPLEURIC) BUT ALSO A DISPOSITION OR ARRANGEMENT IMPOSED BY ONE PARTY ON ANOTHER (MONOPLEURIC)...NATURALLY, WHEN GOD ESTABLISHES A COVENANT WITH MAN, THIS MONOPLEURIC CHARACTER IS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE, FOR GOD AND MAN ARE NOT EQUAL PARTIES. GOD IS THE SOVEREIGN WHO IMPOSES HIS ORDINANCE UPON HIS CREATURES.”

Louis Berkhof



IN A SPECIAL SENSE THEN THE PARTICULAR DIVINE FIAT
TO CREATE MAN AS ONE INVESTED WITH THE GLORY-
IMAGE OF GOD WAS A COVENANTAL FIAT. RIGHT HERE
IT IS, OF COURSE, PATENT THAT THE COVENANTAL
RELATIONSHIP OF GOD AND MAN HAD ITS ORIGIN IN THE
VERY ACT OF CREATING MAN.

Meredith Kline



“IF MEN OF WEALTH CONTROL THE STATE, THE LAW BECOMES THEIR TOOL TO SUBJUGATE THE POOR AND MAKE THEM POORER. IF POOR MEN CONTROL THE STATE, THE LAW THEN IS USED TO ROB THE RICH AND ALL HARD WORKING MEN TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE ON THE PROCEEDS OF ROBBERY.”

R.J. Rushdoony




"IN THE ONE CASE IT IS CALLED THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL ORDER, AND IN THE OTHER IT IS CALLED SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL WELFARE, BUT IN BOTH CASES IT IS ROBBERY. AND TODAY, BECAUSE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS DESPISED, THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE BECOMING ROBBER STATES AND LANDS WITHOUT JUSTICE."

R.J. Rushdoony


But like Adam they transgressed
the covenant; there they dealt
faithlessly with me.

HOSEA 6:7





The question is not whether humanity is in a covenant relationship to God. It is "What is the nature of that covenantal relationship? Are they in Christ and therefore in the blessing of the covenant (life) or in Adam and therefore under the curse (death)?" **Either way, they remain bound in covenantal obligation to God.**



Knowing that is where history is headed, God brings hope by renewing the covenant in successive covenants. They are not a series of different covenants but one progressive revelation of what the eternal covenant in Christ entails.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

GENESIS 12:1-3



For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

EXODUS 9:14-16



See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

DEUTERONOMY 4:5-8



For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

DEUTERONOMY 4:5-8



Listen to me, distant nations, you people who live far away! Before I was born, the Lord chose me and appointed me to be his servant. He made my words as sharp as a sword. With his own hand he protected me. He made me like an arrow, sharp and ready for use. He said to me, "Israel, you are my servant; because of you, people will praise me." I said, "I have worked, but how hopeless it is!

ISAIAH 49:1-6



I have used up my strength, but have accomplished nothing.” Yet I can trust the Lord to defend my cause; he will reward me for what I do Before I was born, the Lord appointed me; he made me his servant to bring back his people, to bring back the scattered people of Israel. The Lord gives me honor; he is the source of my strength.

ISAIAH 49:1-6



The Lord said to me, “I have a greater task for you, my servant. Not only will you restore to greatness the people of Israel who have survived, but I will also make you a light to the nations—so that all the world may be saved.”

ISAIAH 49:1-6



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

ISAIAH 60:1-3



“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,”

ISAIAH 42:6



5 ASPECTS OF SUZERAIN COVENANTS:

- **Preamble: Transcendence** - The Preamble declaring who the king is as well as his power
- **Historical Prologue: Hierarchy** - A rehearsing of the Kings actions and how the king's rule is worked out in representatives
- **Ethics** - Establishment of law stipulations to be observed
- **Sanctions** - Imposition of an oath which involving blessing or cursing
- **Continuity** - Successional and depository arrangements. Calling of witnesses. Specifying the continuation of the covenant, successors and where the covenant would be stored.

ASPECTS OF HIS COVENANTAL RULE:

- **Transcendence** - Sovereignty
- **Hierarchy** - Immanence by His Spirit in anointing rulers
- **Ethics** - Word
- **Sanctions** - Judgment
- **Continuity** - Providence

HIERARCHY: ESTABLISHMENT OF 4 SPHERES

1. **Individual** - Image of God, Cultivating the earth (Vocation)
2. **Family** - Marriage and Filling the earth (Raising of Children)
3. **Rule and Subdue** - Enforcement of justice (State)
4. **Temple** - Prophet/Priest (idol) establishing the shalom or sabbath rest of God (Church)

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

REVELATION 1:5



He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY 6:15B-16



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ISAIAH 9:6-7



May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

PSALM 72:8-11



For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer...For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

ROMANS 13:4, 6



Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1 PETER 2:13-14



Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

PSALM 72:1-2



Behold, a king will reign in
righteousness, and princes will rule
in justice.

ISAIAH 32:1



By justice a king builds up the land,
but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

PROVERBS 29:4

