



## Introduction

- We make agreements and promises because we are made in the image of God and God is a God of promise.
- God does more than just make promises. God establishes covenants.

## Why Covenant Theology?

- Covenant theology gives us the proper way to view our relationship with God.
- Covenant theology keeps a proper view of the individual and the community.
- Covenant theology keeps the proper relationship between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world.
- Covenant theology correctly marries doctrine and practice without emphasizing one over the other.
- Covenant theology gives the proper relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility.
- Covenant theology helps us to properly relate the Old Testament to the New Testament.

## What Is a Covenant?

- A covenant is a bond-in-blood sovereignly administered. (O. Palmer Robertson)
- A covenant is a “sovereign administration of the kingdom of God.” (Meredith Kline)
- A covenant is a relationship between persons, begun by the sovereign determination of the greater party, in which the greater commits himself to the lesser in the context of mutual loyalty, and in which mutual obligations serve as illustrations of that loyalty.
- A covenant is a relationship of “oaths and Bonds” and involves mutual, though not necessarily equal, commitments. (Michael Horton)
- A covenant is a solemn agreement with oaths and/or promises, which imply certain sanctions or legality. (Michael Brown and Zach Keele)
- A covenant is a legal agreement between two parties that is ratified by certain rituals that emphasize the binding nature of the agreement. (Richard Belcher)
- A covenant is an oath-bound promise, a solemn pledge. (Greg Nichols)

## Biblical Covenants

1. The Covenant of Redemption – made between the members of the Trinity to accomplish redemption.
2. The Covenant of Works – made with Adam in the Garden of Eden.
3. The Covenant of Grace – made with Adam after the fall to provide redemption to fallen humanity. This covenant undergirds all the remaining covenants.
4. The Covenant with Noah – made with Noah before he entered the ark and with all who exited the ark after the flood.

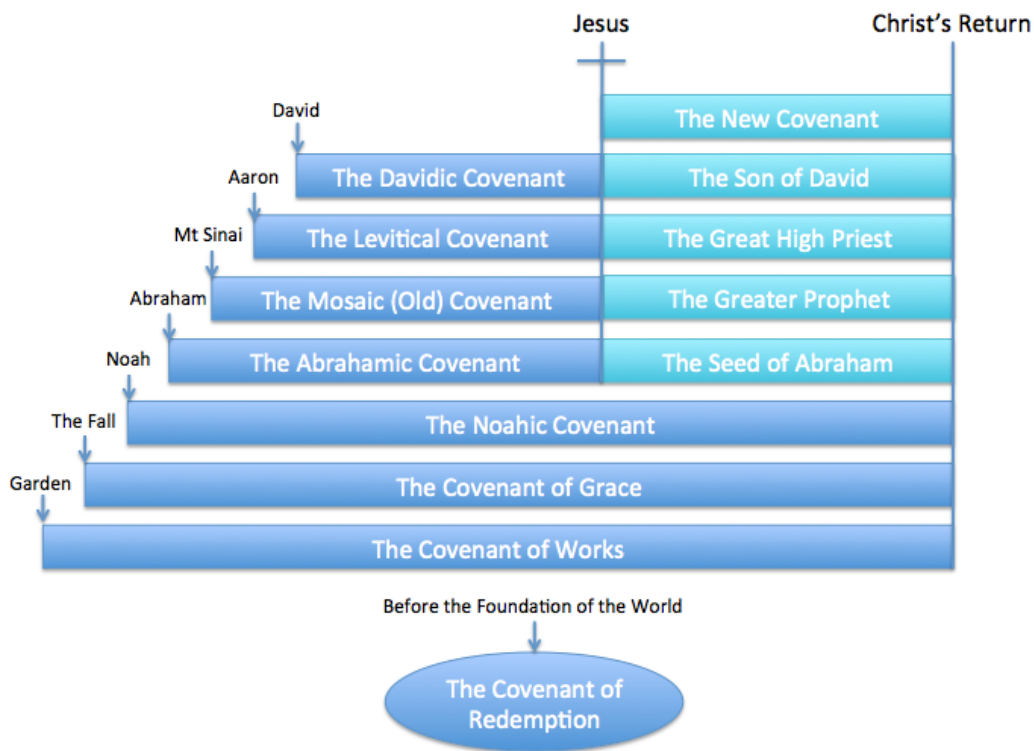


5. The Abrahamic Covenant – made with Abraham.
6. The Mosaic (or Old) Covenant – made with Israel after leaving Egypt.
7. The Levitical Covenant – made with Phinehas and his descendants.
8. The Davidic Covenant – made with David.
9. The New Covenant – made with Jesus and those who belong to him.

We want to consider the following things as we study the covenants.

- Who are the parties of the covenant?
- What is promised in the covenant?
- What is the sign or token of the covenant?
- What are the stipulations of the covenant?
- What is the reward or punishment of the covenant?
- Is the covenant conditional or unconditional?

## Covenant Structure



1. The Covenant of Redemption is the covenant that was instituted before time began and all of the other covenants flow from this covenant.
2. The remaining covenants were instituted at a particular point in human history.
3. Jesus's death on the cross and his resurrection change how we view some of the covenants.
4. All covenant promises are realized to their fullest when Jesus comes again.



## Types of Covenants

- Conditional
- Unconditional

## Blood Covenants

- Karat berit – cut a covenant
- Covenants deal with sin

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