



TUCKER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Covenant Theology:

*Class 2: The Covenant of Redemption
and the Covenant of Works*



Living and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ,
through worship and prayer, in word and deed.

Agenda

- *Reminders: resources, definitions, components, importance, overview*
- *Commentary: differences of opinion!?*
- *Overview: The Covenant of Redemption*
- *The Covenant of Works*
 - *Genesis 2 - Breakout discussions*
 - *WCF Definitions*
 - *Federal heads: Adam and Christ*

Resources

- O. Palmer Robertson: The Christ of the Covenants
- ByFaith Podcast (What Christian's Believe) Covenant Theology focus
- Jonty Rhodes: Covenants Made Simple
- RTS App – Covenant Theology Class Audio (Ligon Duncan)
- Kevin DeYoung: Daily Doctrine

Reminder: What is a Covenant?

The Children's Catechism: “An agreement between two or more persons”

O. Palmer Robertson: “A bond in blood sovereignly administered”

Jonty Rhodes: “An agreement between God and human beings, where God promises blessings if the conditions are kept and threatens curses if the conditions are broken.”

Ligon Duncan: “A covenant is a binding relationship with blessing and obligations.”

Reminder: What's in a Covenant?



Parties



Stipulations
(Rules)



Benefits
(Blessings)



Sanctions
(Curses)



Reminder: Why is Covenant Theology important?

- *The unifying theme of the Bible*
- *Reveals the purpose of the atonement*
- *Helps us understand our relationship with God as his people and our responsibility to honor him*
- *Helps us understand our relationship with one another*
- *Helps us understand the church as the fulfillment of the nation of Israel (OT)*
- *Explains why we baptize our babies!*

Ps 2, Is 53, Phil. 2 (initiated before time, fulfilled in the covenants)

Gen. 2:17 (in Adam)

in Christ (Rom. 5:16,17)

Covenant of Grace (God with His people)
(Gen. 3:15)

The Atonement
(Gal. 3:15-29)

Covenant with Noah – Promise: preservation
(Gen. 8-9)

New Creation
(2 Pet. 3:10)

Covenant with Abraham - Promise: people, land, son
(Gen. 12:1-3)

Church, Heaven,
Jesus (Rom. 4)

Covenant with Moses – Promise: freedom, law
(Deut. 7:6-11; Ex 20)

Christ's Righteousness
(Rom. 8:3)

Covenant with David – Promise: king/kingdom
(2 Sam. 7:9b-16)

Christ's Eternal
Reign (Luke 1:32-33)

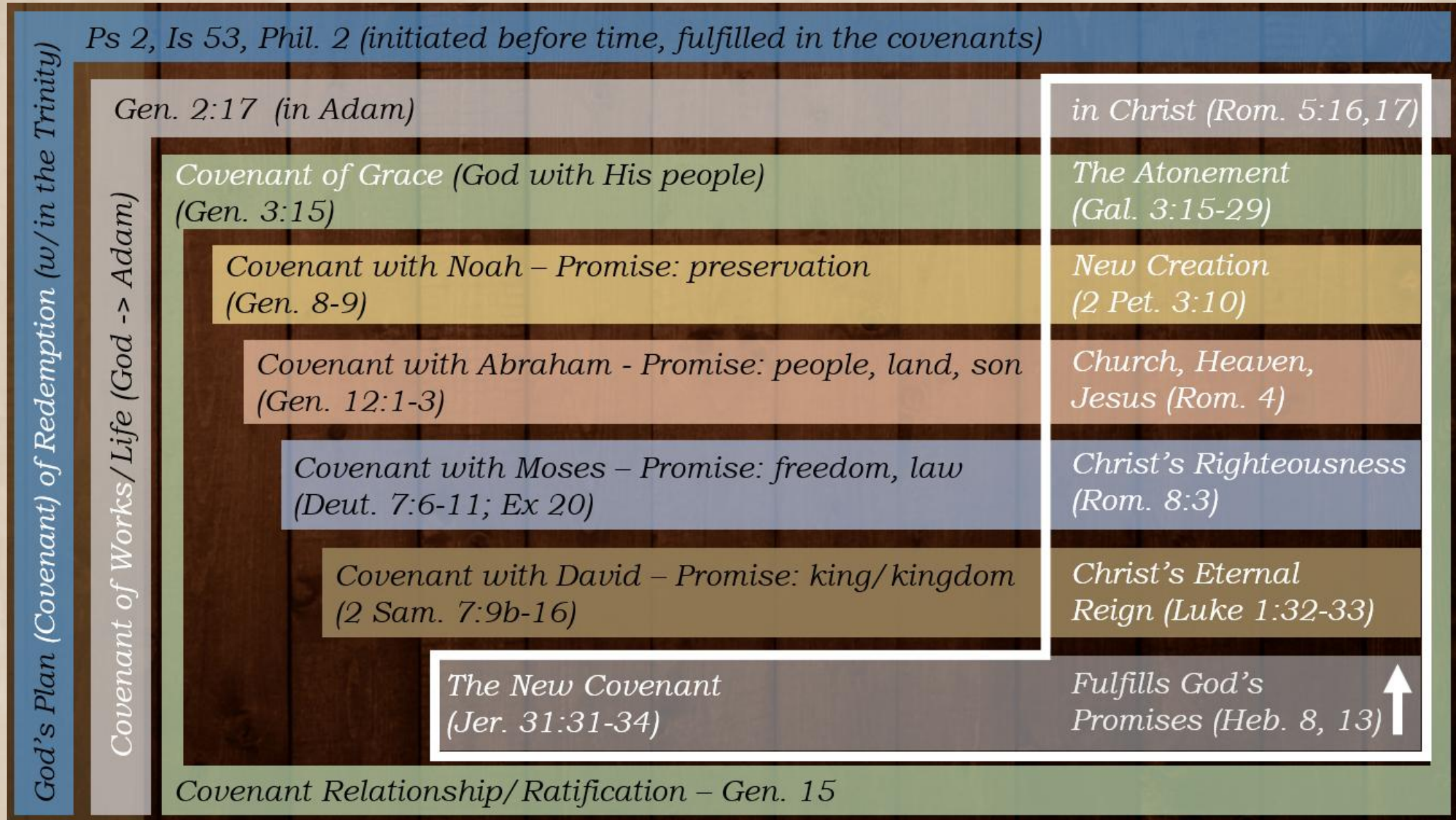
The New Covenant
(Jer. 31:31-34)

Fulfills God's
Promises (Heb. 8, 13) ↑

Covenant Relationship/Ratification – Gen. 15

Covenant of Works/Life (God -> Adam)

How are the Covenants unified? How are they different/distinct?



Differences of opinion in the R&P world!

- Is the Covenant of Redemption a Covenant?
- Should the Covenant of Works use the word “works?”
Is it even a Covenant?
- Should the Covenant of Grace be called that?

Robertson:

- Covenant of Works = Covenant of Creation
- Covenant of Grace = Covenant of Redemption

Our class: Westminster Confession Terminology

Covenant of Redemption

Question: When did God plan out salvation?

Ephesians 1:4 “...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world“

John 17:4-5 “I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

Isaiah 53:10ff “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief...”

Psalms 2:7-8 "I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.'”

Psalms 110; Philippians 2;

Covenant of Redemption

Louis Berkhof: “the agreement between the Father, giving the Son as Head and Redeemer of the elect, and the Son, voluntarily taking the place of those whom the Father had given him.”

J. V. Fesko: “At its most fundamental level, the covenant of redemption is the pre-temporal, intra-Trinitarian agreement among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to plan and execute the redemption of the elect.”

Kevin DeYoung – Daily Doctrine p. 139

...there is good evidence in Scripture for a salvation pact between the Father and the Son. We know that the elect were chosen, not out of thin air, but *in Christ* before the foundations of the world. We know that promises were made to Christ that he would be given a people by the Father (John 6:38-40; cf. 5:30, 43; 17:4-12). We know that Christ, as the second Adam, is the covenant head of his people (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22). And we know from a text like Psalms 2 that there was a decree whereby the eternally begotten Son was given the nations as his heritage and the ends of the earth as his possession (v. 7; cf. Psalms 110). In other words, the Son was granted, by an eternal arrangement, a people to save and to redeem. This is why Zechariah 6:13 speaks of a covenant of peace between YHWH and the Branch, and why Jesus in Luke 22:29 speaks of the kingdom the Father *has* assigned to him. The covenant of grace in time is made possible by the covenant of redemption from all eternity.

Covenant of Works

- *God's Covenant with Adam (and by implication, all mankind)*
- *Primary text: Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-17*
- ***Why is it called a covenant?***
- *Hosea 6:7 “But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.”*
- *Rom. 5:12–14. “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.”*

Covenant of Works

For Discussion: Read Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-17

Discuss the different components of a covenant found in these verses:

- Parties — Who is in the covenant?
- Stipulations/Conditions/Commands — What is required of the participants?
- Blessings/Benefits — What is promised or given?
- Curses/Sanctions — What are the consequences?
- Sign — Is there a covenant sign?
- Role of Works/Grace — What role do human works and God's grace play in the covenant?

Covenant of Works

- Genesis 1:28-30
- 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Covenant of Works

- Genesis 2:15-17
- 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Covenant of Works

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7

7.2 The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works,[b] wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity,[c] upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.[d]

b. Gen. 2:16–17; Hos. 6:7; Gal. 3:12

c. Gen. 3:22; Rom. 10:5; Rom. 5:12–14; see Rom. 5:15–20

d. Gen. 2:17; Gal. 3:10

Covenant of Works

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 19

19.1. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.[a]

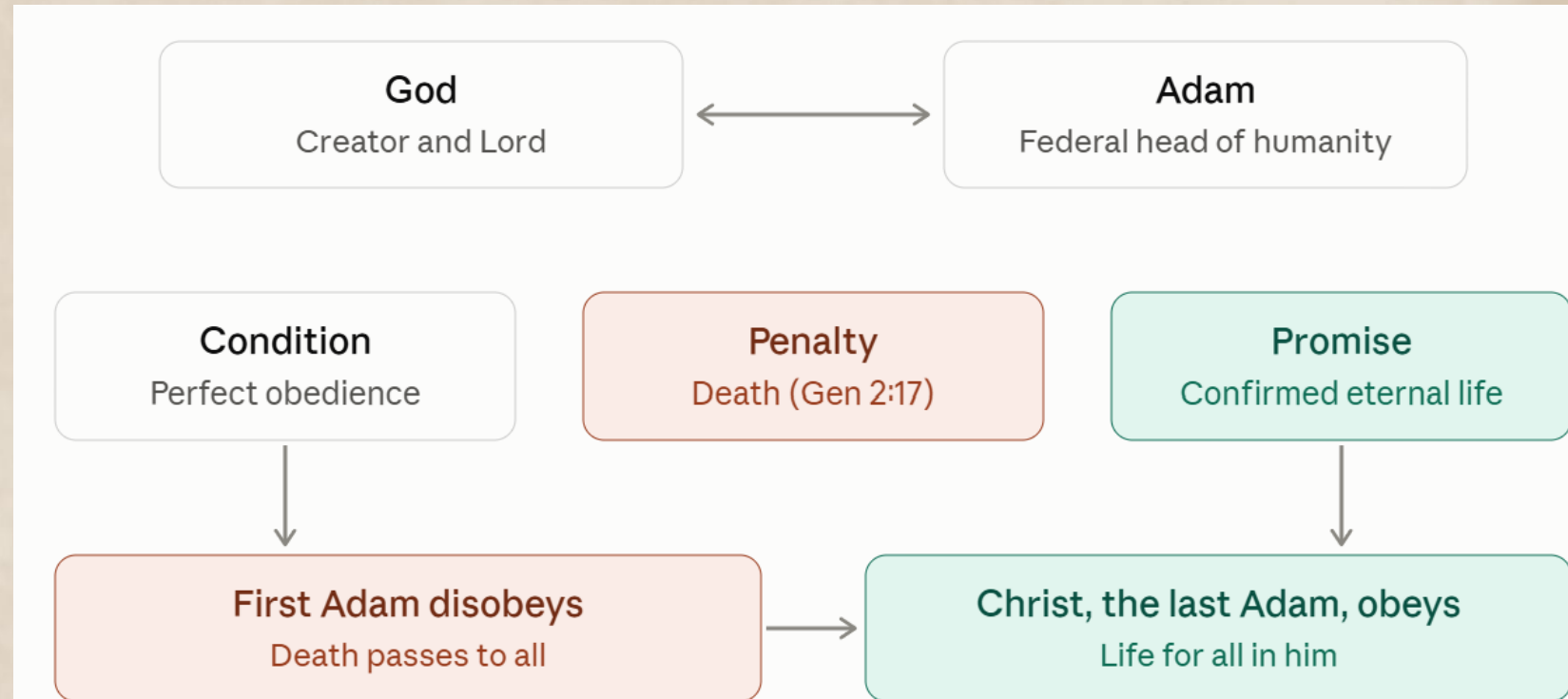
a. Gen. 1:26–27; Gen. 2:17; Eph. 4:24; Rom. 2:14–15; Rom. 10:5; Rom. 5:12, 19; Gal. 3:10, 12; Eccl. 7:29

Two Federal Heads: Adam and Christ

Romans 5:18-19 "Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

1 Corinthians 5:22

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."



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Covenant Relationship/Ratification – Gen. 15

Covenant of Works/Life (God -> Adam)

Covenant Theology: God's Unfolding Plan of Redemption

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| <i>1. What Is Covenant Theology?</i> | <i>Sept. 13</i> |
| <i>2. The Foundational Covenants: Redemption and Works</i> | <i>Sept. 20</i> |
| <i>3. The Fall and the Covenant of Grace: First Promise</i> | <i>Sept. 27</i> |
| <i>4. The Noahic Covenant</i> | <i>Oct. 4</i> |
| <i>5. The Abrahamic Covenant</i> | <i>Oct. 11</i> |
| <i>6. The Mosaic Covenant</i> | <i>Oct. 18</i> |
| <i>7. The Davidic Covenant</i> | <i>Oct. 25</i> |
| <i>8. The New Covenant</i> | <i>Nov. 1</i> |
| <i>9. The Unity and Diversity of the Covenant of Grace</i> | <i>Nov. 8</i> |
| <i>10. Covenant Theology and the Christian Life</i> | <i>Nov. 15</i> |
| <i>11. Covenant Theology, Dispensationalism,
and New Covenant Theology</i> | <i>Nov. 22</i> |