

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: KEY TERMS OF SCRIPTURE

COVENANT

Definition of "Covenant"?

The First Covenant/Promise in Scripture

Genesis 3:15 *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

1.) Who is speaking and being spoken to? What is being promised?

The Gospel Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 *The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

2.) Discuss the different parts of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12. The LORD saves the best 'til last. What was God promising Abraham in the seventh and last part: "and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"?

3.) In what way was this promise "ironic"? What does this show that God's covenants begin with on our part?

Genesis 15:18 *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates."*

4.) What additional detail and reassurance did this covenant provide?

The Law Covenant with Israel

Exodus 19:5 *"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."*

5.) What is the context of this covenant?

6.) How did the covenant that God made with the Israelites through Moses differ with the one given to Abraham?

Galatians 3:16-18 *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.*

7.) Which covenant came first, the law covenant made with the Israelites at Mt. Sinai or the covenant made with Abraham? Why is this so significant? What did God always want Israel to remember and rely on?

Exodus 12:12 *“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood [of the lamb] will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”*

John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

Colossians 2:17 *These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

8.) How did the old covenant sacrifices and laws serve the covenant of the promised Savior?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant. ...This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ...For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*

9.) God promised a “new covenant” was coming. Describe its “conditions”? What would it be the fulfillment of?

The New Covenant with All People

Hebrews 9:15 *Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

10.) What is the new covenant/testament?

Colossians 2:13b-4 *He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.*

11.) What then has become of the laws and requirements of the old (Sinaitic) covenant made with Israel?

Matthew 26:26-28 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*

12.) How does the Lord's Supper enable us to share in the new covenant?

Closing Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for obligating yourself to forgive us by the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Now that you have set us free from sin, lead us to feel indebted forever to love you and to love one another. Amen.*