

Covenant Series: Session 1

God's Covenant with Adam

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Introduction to Biblical Covenants

What are covenants in the Bible?

- Definition (Gentry/Booker)
 - In the OT, the word covenant is used to describe many different types of relationships (friends, spouses, political leaders, tribes, nations). Scriptures compare these types of relationships with God's relationship to His people. For instance, our relationship with God can be described as marriage, family, or friend.
 - Divine Covenants (our focus):
 - Enduring agreement: Relationships that last longer than just the agreement period, Good relationships last until death.
 - Binding obligations: Formalized expectations of how the parties are to behave in this relationship. All relationships have some type of expectation on behavior.
 - Oath under threat of curse: Covenant is a promise where two parties give their word they will live up to the expectations of the relationship. If expectations were not met then the party who failed called a curse upon themselves. All close relationships have at their core trust that you will not hurt the other for sake of the relationship.
 - Ratified by visual ritual: There were different types of rituals and signs used by the parties to be held accountable for their side of the covenant. All relationships have something to look back on and remember just how important it is.
 - Involves non-relatives becoming as close as family:

IOW, A blood covenant between two parties is the closest, the most enduring, the most solemn and the most sacred of all [dealings]. It absolutely cannot be broken. When you enter into blood covenant with someone, you promise to give them your life, your love, and your protection forever...till death do you part.

- Hebrew terms (*Karat/Heqem Berit*)
 - *Karat*: Cut
 - *Heqem*: Establish
 - *Berit*: Covenant

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God's Covenant with Adam

- Six Major Covenants
 - With Adam (Covenant with Creation), Noah (Covenant of Stability), Abraham (Covenant of Grace ?), Moses (Covenant of Law), David (Covenant), Jesus (New Covenant).
- Not unique to Israel
 - Common form of relationship building in all the ancient Near East (especially between nations)
 - God does not introduce a new way of relating to His people. They knew very well what a covenant was because the people around them had covenants with each other and even their own Gods. We will see that covenants originated with God/Adam making them a common form of entering into relationship.
- Not a contract
 - Contracts are thing oriented (oriented around benefits each party expects to obtain from the contract), while Covenants are people oriented (arise out of a desire to achieve some amount of intimacy with the other party).
 - Both have obligations with the difference being
 - Contract requirement = fulfillment of the terms
 - Covenant = loyalty
 - Most notable difference: relationship, hesed/emet (loyal love)
 - Hesed: Kindness, loyal love
 - emet: Faithfulness, truth
 - In covenant language they are put together and do not have a direct translation aside from: the demonstration of faithful, loyal love

Why Covenant?

One word: Relationship (this is the way God chose to be in relationship with us).

God takes covenants seriously: Gibeonite covenant (Joshua 9; 2 Samuel 21:1-14)

[Jos 9:14 NET] The men examined some of their provisions, but they failed to ask the LORD's advice.

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God's Covenant with Adam

Who are the covenants for (members)?

- Image bearers (recipients)
- King (initiator)

How do they work?

- Form the backbone of the whole biblical narrative
- Best understood through the institution of marriage (makes understanding why adultery and fornication are such terrible sins)(*)
 - Pre-covenant relationship
 - Covenant
 - Public between two unrelated parties
 - Vows (oath/promises)
 - Obligations
 - Consummation (blood)
 - Exchange of names
 - Memorial meal
 - Memorial altar
 - Post-covenant relationship
- 4 Characteristics: Most don't begin a relationship, Specific covenantal language, binding legal status to a relationship, involves commitments/oaths/promises/signs/witnesses
- Ceremonial elements (in the Bible) of a Blood Covenant: Coat or robe, Belt/weapons, Cut the covenant, Mix blood/right arm, Exchange names, Make a scar, Covenant terms, Memorial meal, Memorial altar

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God's Covenant with Adam

The Covenant with Adam

The covenant with Adam (Gen 1:26-28)

~~Disputed whether or not a true biblical covenant exists in creation (context of how God creates implies a covenant between God and Adam/creation)~~

[Gen 1:26-28 NET] Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth." God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground."

The initiation of the Covenant with Adam

- Likeness (v. 26, Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness...)

God creates something not related to Him and then covenants with His creation to call him related (likeness) example of Pharaoh and Adam/Seth: likeness = sonship to them

Made M/F in order to multiply and make more (likenesses) sons

Sonship (Gen 5:3; Luke 3:38; Exodus 4:22-23, Gal 4:7)

Galatians 4:7 (NET) So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son, then you are also an heir through God.

Likeness for us means identity: if we are searching for identity w/out God in our search we will never come to the truth

- Image (v. 27-8, in the image of God he created them...Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground.)

God as Royal Ruler creates man as vice-rulers of His creation.

Men/Women are created to be Kings on the Earth and have authority over creation

What kind of rulers?: We were to rule as Priests of the World

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God's Covenant with Adam

Goal of the covenant: Day 7; Rest = full enjoyment (culmination = Adam/Eve, Consummation = Enjoyment)

No evening/morning marker, he blesses it Holy (as if it continues on)

In the context of Gen 2 when God begins to enjoy His creation

Gen 2 we begin to see Eden as a Sanctuary where God and man commune (talk, walk, laugh, play) and most likely a model of the Kingdom that God wants Adam/Eve to spread through out the world. (enclosed sanctuary, meet with God, eastern entrance, tree (menorah) of life at the center, responsibility given to Adam to serve/work it and to keep it (priestly duties), place of divine decrees)

In the fallen nature, the Temple becomes the image of the garden sanctuary, Eden and is the center of the purpose God gave Israel: to be priests to the nations.

Image for us is purpose

Purpose of the Covenant

Establish a Kingdom of God over the entire earth (Psalms 103:15-22)

[Psa 103:15-22 NET] A person's life is like grass. Like a flower in the field it flourishes, but when the hot wind blows by, it disappears, and one can no longer even spot the place where it once grew. But the LORD continually shows loyal love to his faithful followers, and is faithful to their descendants, to those who keep his covenant, who are careful to obey his commands. The LORD has established his throne in heaven; his kingdom extends over everything. Praise the LORD, you angels of his, you powerful warriors who carry out his decrees and obey his orders! Praise the LORD, all you warriors of his, you servants of his who carry out his desires! Praise the LORD, all that he has made, in all the regions of his kingdom! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Adam/Eve were given the mandate to Rule (worship), placed in a specific location (garden closed in by water ways), told to multiply, and also told to care for and maintain the garden.

Covenant Obligation and Consequences

The expectation of the covenant relationship was obedience, loyalty, love

Be fruitful, multiply, Fill the earth, Rule over creation, Do not eat...

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The last command specifically shows us that Adam/Eve were not to exercise rule autonomously: Gen 2:16-17

Curses/blessings for disobedience/obedience: death, blessings are implied as a result of obedience to God's test, this is most likely what the tree of life was for

We were never meant to live apart from God's sovereignty. We were created to be dependent upon Him.

Representative Covenant

Group covenants had representatives (re-present) that guaranteed that the covenant terms/promises would be kept (David/Goliath as an example of representative) (1 Corinthians 15:22).

[1Co 15:22 NET] For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Paul explains how Adam connected the "transgression" to everyone as the representative head in the initial covenant, but Jesus came along and imputed the "gracious gift" to {everyone} in the New Covenant. Romans 5:18-19

[Rom 5:18-19 NET] Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so too through the one righteous act came righteousness leading to life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be made righteous.

Breaking the covenant

All members break the covenant if broken by the representative (federal head), Romans 5:12-21 (19).

The nature of the broken Adamic Covenant: determining for oneself what is right and wrong (Romans 1:18, 22-23, 25)

[Rom 1:18, 22-23, 25 NET] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, ... Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for an image resembling mortal human beings or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. ... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

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God's Covenant with Adam

Adam and Eve cover themselves with fig leaves (their way)

God covers them His way: Physical death doesn't come on them immediately but something did die (in their place); God kills an animal to cover them with its skin; this is mercy

Consequence: Man begins to rule and multiply outside of the covenant structure initiated by God. God is replaced by man. We determine what is right/wrong, we begin to worship us, we only seek self gratification at the cost of our own lives. (Story of Cain and Abel)

We exchange the truth of God for a lie. We live life doing it our own way, determining for ourselves what is right and what is wrong.

Where is Jesus?

Where the curse was given so was the cure

Genesis 3:14-15

A seed will come from the woman and even though the serpent will bruise his heel He will crush its head

This is a promise of the New Covenant to come and the Messiah to usher it in...

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God's Covenant with Noah

The Covenant with Noah

Recap

God's covenant with Adam/Eve

Obligations: Loyal Love/**Obedience**

Terms: Likeness (Multiply)/Image (Rule); Guidance from God right/wrong

Purpose was to establish a relationship in order to spread His Kingdom

Disobedience=Broken Covenant (Consequence=Death)

Relationship was maintained/Covenant continued (God's grace and mercy)

Multiply/Rule/Guidance still in play (curse distorted these things)

right/wrong marred (disobedience)

State of the World After Sin

First recorded sin after the fall: brother murdering brother

Still direct communion with God

Offerings brought

Cain was wrong

Abel was right (Jesus)

further narrative implies it was not a surprise (Cain knew better)

Tension between God's guidance on what is right and our desire to do what we think is right (Romans 7:8)

This is the cause of our disobedience and ultimately our continued breaking of the covenant with God.

Disloyalty/Disobedience multiplies (Sin)

CH 4 outlines how sin changes us into disobedient covenant breakers (compounding) we read about more murder and polygamy (Gen 4:23-24); Glimmer of hope is restored in the replacement for the faithful Abel, Seth was born and at that time some began to worship the Lord (Gen 4:25-26)

CH 5 Role call of death

1656 years pass as the world plunges into darkness (1656 years ago was 364 AD)

READ Genesis 6:5-22

Genesis 6:5, 11-13

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God's Covenant with Noah

Key word: Corrupt (ruined) and violence

Sin multiplies until only one small avenue is left for the promise in CH 3; In the context of all that has gone wrong is God acting in mercy with a promise to destroy the destroyer

Sin has a corrupting, corrosive effect. It's like a cancer or a mold. Once it starts there is no reversing it. You may be able to manage it or maybe even master it (like God told Cain) but it will ultimately have its way, death.

God's Response

God is grieved

Noah stands out as a man who had a relationship with God and was seen as righteous

Gen 6:9, 22 - Blameless among contemporaries, walked with God, obeyed all that God told him to do

Heb 11:7 - Noah obeyed God and received righteousness by faith

God re-establishes a Covenant with Noah (with the Adamic Covenant in view)

God Judges the evil in the world

God is looking for people who will be obedient. Obedience comes through the framework of faithfulness. (1 Samuel 15:22, Romans 5:19)

The New Creation/New Adam

➤ Phase 1: pre-creation.

Just as God's Spirit hovered over the abyss (1:2), God sends a wind over the engulfing waters to renew the earth:

1:2: "earth," "deep," "Spirit" (rûah), "waters"

8:1b-2: "wind" (rûah), "earth," "waters," "deep"

➤ Phase 2: second day.

Just as God initially divided the waters (1:6-7), God regathers the waters, reestablishing the boundaries between sky and earth:

1:6-8: "waters," "sky"

8:2b: "sky"

➤ Phase 3: third day.

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God's Covenant with Noah

Just as God separated the dry, arable ground from the water to sustain vegetation, so again, the dry ground emerges in successive stages:

1:9: "water," "dry ground," "appear"

8:3–5: "water," "tops of the mountains," "appear"

➤ Phase 4: fifth day.

The sky once again houses the winged creatures, as God first proclaimed it so to be:

1:20–23: "birds," "above [‘al] the ground [NIV, "earth"]"

8:6–12: "raven," "dove," "from [mē‘al] . . . the ground"

➤ Phase 5: sixth day.

The living creatures of sky and land are called out from the ark, as in their first creative calling from the voice of God:

1:24–25: "creatures," "livestock," "creatures that move along the ground," "wild animals"

8:17–19: "creature," birds," "animals," "creatures that move along the ground"

➤ Phase 6.

The reappearance of the nuclear family, all of whom bear God's image, as the heads and sole representatives of the human race functions as a reprise of the creation of 'ādām, male and female in God's image:

1:26–28: "man," "image of God," "male and female"

8:16, 18: Noah and his wife 9:6: "man," "image of God"

➤ Phase 7.

The heavenly King graciously grants his blessing on humanity, feeds them with the fruit of the restored earth, and, renewing the cultural mandate, restores them as lords over the creation:

1:28: "blessed," "be fruitful," "increase in number," "fill the earth," "rule . . . every living creature"

9:1–2: "blessed," "be fruitful," "increase in number," "fill the earth," "fear of you . . . upon every creature"

Noah is portrayed as a new Adam in the midst of this new creation

The Covenant

➤ The Terms and obligations

Be fruitful and multiply the likeness of God (v. 1)

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God's Covenant with Noah

Animals can now be eaten but humans are set apart as special and priceless, homicide is condemned because humans bear the image of God and homicide is antithetical to the command of God to be fruitful and multiply (v. 3-6)

Rule (v. 2)

Brothers Keepers/Humanity is a family (Loyal love)

➤ The Parties (v. 8-11)

The King (initiator)

The Image Bearers and all creation (the recipients)

➤ The Promise (v. 8:21, 9:11, 15)

God obligates himself to preserve life on earth from the destruction of a flood, even though the judgement is justified.

Before the covenant is ratified, God smells an offering that Noah enacted as a sign of worship and speaks the promise of mercy and grace over the world.

Mercy because he doesn't destroy the world.

Grace because He remembers how it will be redeemed.

➤ The Sign

There is no Hebrew word for "rainbow" so the word refers to an archer's bow

Refers to an instrument of warfare, an emblem of wrath which God has laid down as a sign of His promise to always remain true to this covenant

The Purpose of the Covenant

God Has the right and is justified in proclaiming a judgement against sin and enforcing the punishment for the covenant failure on the part of the lessor party.

To re-establish the covenant between God and Adam/creation and set the stage for God to begin his plan of rescuing the fallen world.

The restart shows us that starting over is not an option, (8:21) ...even though the inclination of their minds is evil from childhood on. (post flood) After the covenant is re-established Noah

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God's Covenant with Noah

and one of his sons fails as the covenant partner again which is a road that leads straight to a place called Babel where a tower is being constructed to defy God.

Where is Jesus?

The ark

The sacrifice

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God's Covenant with Abraham

The Covenant with Abraham

The covenant with Abraham takes place in the context of the story of the tower of Babel.

- Through 1 language
- Conspire to create a city and tower to "the heavens"
- to make a "name" for themselves (a great name)
- God disperses them and confuses them to slow down the destruction of sin

As life carried on after the tower we are introduced to a man name Terah who had 3 sons, one being Abram (Abraham). They worshiped other gods, and for reasons unknown he traveled from Ur to Canaan. He made it to Harán where he settled and died.

At this point God reestablishes in Abraham what he started with Adam. God's purpose through the covenant was to establish his kingdom through king/priests who were in his likeness and bearing his image. Abraham becomes a new Adam with a twist:

- God chooses an idolater (Joshua 24:2-3, Nehemiah 9:7)
- he recites the covenants or terms/obligations over Abraham
- Adam/Noah Be... (Genesis 1– 2, 6, 9)
 - To Adam (Gen 1:28) Be fruitful/multiply, Rule over creation, (2:17) receive instruction of what is right from the King (obedience) - Led to the flood
 - To Noah (9:1, 7) Be fruitful/multiply, (9:2) Rule over creation, (6:22) received and did what is right from the King (obedience) - Led to Babel
- Abraham I will...

*[Gen 22:16-18 NET] and said, "'I solemnly swear by my own name,' decrees the LORD, 'that **because you have done this** and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed **bless you**, and I will **greatly multiply** your descendants so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants **will take possession** of the strongholds of their enemies. **Because you have obeyed me**, all the nations of the earth will pronounce blessings on one another using the name of your descendants.'"*

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God's Covenant with Abraham

God begins to reverse the curse that began in Adam through his blessing of Abraham. This is a transition point at which God begins to reverse the effect of sin which brought the curse (curse was mentioned 5 times in Gen 1-11, Adam X2, Cain, Noah's name, Canaan)

*[Gen 12:1-4 NET] Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go out from your country, your relatives, and your father's household to the land that I will show you. Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will **ble**ss you, and I will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine **ble**ssing. I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you, but the one who treats you lightly I must curse, and all the families of the earth will **ble**ss one another by your name." So Abram left, just as the LORD had told him to do, and Lot went with him. (Now Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.)*

From the outset we first see that this is the Gospel preached to Abraham before hand:

[Gal 3:6-9 NET] Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, so then, understand that those who believe are the sons of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, proclaimed the gospel to Abraham ahead of time, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." So then those who believe are blessed along with Abraham the believer.

Here we see 2 expectations with 3 promises each

- Go to a land: make a kingdom out of you
- Be a blessing: all the nations of the earth blessed

Why is God continuing His covenant with Abraham?

- To reestablish His Kingdom
- To reconnect with the lost

✳ Pause in the story to describe blood covenant:

- Remember covenants are the closest, the most enduring, the most solemn and the most sacred of all [dealings]. [They] absolutely cannot be broken. When you enter into blood covenant with someone, you promise to give them your life, your love, and your protection forever...till death do you part. And God takes them super serious. (Malachi 2:14, Proverbs 2:17)
- They are best understood as a marriage

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God's Covenant with Abraham

- The Hebrew blood covenant in the Bible:
 - Exchange of coat/belt (authority/protection)
 - Cut the covenant
 - Raise right arm/mixed blood/making a scar
 - Exchanging of names
 - Terms/obligations
 - Memorial meal
 - Altar of remembrance

- Back to the story

We next see Abraham in Canaan (as instructed) and God reconfirming his promises. There, Abraham builds an altar and begins to worship (like a priest?)

CHAPTER 13 a famine in Canaan forces Abraham and his family to move to Egypt: where Abraham lies about his wife and God shows up to protect his covenant partner.

CHAPTER 14 4 kings defeat 5 local kings but they take Lot away as a POW

- Abraham takes 318 men and defeats the four Kings and retrieves all the possessions that were taken
- He meets a mysterious man called Melchizedek (king of righteousness)

[Gen 14:17-20 NET] After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh (known as the King's Valley). Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (Now he was the priest of the Most High God.) He blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth. Worthy of praise is the Most High God, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

- There he blesses him
- He arrives with the covenant meal of bread and wine
- He reminds Abraham of covenantal aid how God delivered his enemies to him

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God's Covenant with Abraham

- Abraham gives him 1/10 of all he owns
- The king of Sodom tells Abraham to take the possessions

[Gen 14:22-23 NET] But Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I raise my hand to the LORD, the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth, and vow that I will take nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal. That way you can never say, 'It is I who made Abram rich.'

- Here we see Abraham confirm his covenant with God and not the kingdom of Sodom

Almost as if we see God so pleased with Abraham's choice the next thing in the Scripture is God ratifying his covenant for covenant promise to show Abraham how his kingdom will come:

[Gen 15:1 NET] After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance."

Here God is initiating a covenant with Abraham even though he does not have a physical robe or belt he gives himself to Abraham. The reward he speaks of also stands in contrast to the king of Sodom which is a reconfirmation of his initial promise of a great blessing to Abraham. Abraham asked him how it could be so if he doesn't have a son but God re-confirms his promise by asking him to count the stars. God then reminds Abraham I chose him and how he promised him the land. Abraham would then ask how he would know of this promise. This was God's reply...

[Gen 15:9-18 NET] The LORD said to him, "Take for me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." So Abram took all these for him and then cut them in two and placed each half opposite the other, but he did not cut the birds in half. When birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. When the sun went down, Abram fell sound asleep, and great terror overwhelmed him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign country. They will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will execute judgment on the nation that they will serve. Afterward they will come out with many possessions. But as for you, you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its limit." When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking firepot with a flaming torch passed between the animal parts. That day the LORD made a covenant with Abram: "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River -

- here a pillar of smoke and a pillar of fire pass through the pieces in place of Abraham **explain**

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God's Covenant with Abraham

- God is saying if I break the covenant I will end up like the pieces and if you Abraham break the covenant I will end up like a dead animal

CH 16 Sarah and Abraham conspired to help guide by having a son and God comes to the rescue again

CH 17 God reestablishes his covenant with Abraham changes their names and institutes the sign of circumcision.

- Walk before me and be blameless (be my agent/representative and remain loyal/obedient to our pact)
- Changes their names and ups his promises to include multiple nations and kings coming from them
- The sign of circumcision is given that in order to be in the covenant the male must be circumcised (sign of priest from Egyptian culture, but also a renewed heart in the new covenant)

CH 18-21 intercession for Sodom, lie about his wife (again), covenant with Philistine King, birth of Issac and banishment of Ishmael,

Explain the ultimate obedience of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son.

- Test: Take your only son Isaac offer him as a burnt offering
- 3 day journey to a mountain in Moriah with wood, fire, and knife but no lamb
- left servants, placed wood on son's back, headed up mountain
- Son asked about sacrifice, God will provide the lamb
- Abraham built the altar, tied up Isaac, placed him on the altar, and prepared to slaughter him
- Stopped by angel of the Lord and shown a Ram in the bush, offered that instead

[Gen 22:15-19 NET] The LORD's angel called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "'I solemnly swear by my own name,' decrees the LORD, 'that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the strongholds of their enemies. Because you have obeyed me, all the nations of the earth will pronounce blessings on one another using the name of your

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God's Covenant with Abraham

descendants.'" Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set out together for Beer Sheba where Abraham stayed.

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God's Covenant with Abraham

Where is Jesus?

Melchizedek:

[Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-19 NET]“Now this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him. To him also Abraham apportioned a tithe of everything. His name first means king of righteousness, then king of Salem, that is, king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, he has neither beginning of days nor end of life but is like the son of God, and he remains a priest for all time....And this is even clearer if another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest not by a legal regulation about physical descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For here is the testimony about him: “ You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” On the one hand a former command is set aside because it is weak and useless, for the law made nothing perfect. On the other hand a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.”

Cut Covenant:

[Hebrews 10:3-10 NET]“But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. For the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. So when he came into the world, he said, “ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me. “ Whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings you took no delight in. “ Then I said, ‘ Here I am: I have come – it is written of me in the scroll of the book – to do your will, O God. ’” When he says above, “ Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin-offerings you did not desire nor did you take delight in them” (which are offered according to the law), then he says, “ Here I am: I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first to establish the second. By his will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Sacrifice of the Son:

[1 John 4:9-10 NET]“By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Covenant Series: Session 4

God's Covenant with Moses

The Covenant with Moses

Recap

God initiates creation through a covenant in order to establish his Kingdom on earth. Man is disloyal, but saved from the immediate consequences by God's grace. The characteristic of man's sin was to decide for himself between right and wrong and the consequences led to man being evil at his core which resulted in the flood and the covenant with Noah. Noah was not the promised seed to destroy the enemy, and, in fact, his failures eventually led to the Tower of Babel. Following this, God chose Abraham to re-initiate the role of Adam and resolve the problem of sin...

God's promises through the covenant He made with Abraham.

- Land/Nation/Blessing
- Prophecy about Israel in slavery and delivered (Gen 15:12-16)

"When the sun went down, Abram fell sound asleep, and great terror overwhelmed him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign country. They will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will execute judgment on the nation that they will serve. Afterward they will come out with many possessions. But as for you, you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its limit.""

The Covenant

The covenant passes along through Abraham to Isaac to Jacob and to his 12 sons. These 12 sons become 12 tribes which are collectively called the nation of Israel (the name God called Jacob). The nation at this time is big but small, big family but small nation. They lived in the land of Canaan but had not possessed it in its entirety. What happens when a smaller culture/tribe grows within a bigger culture or society? Typically, assimilation. But God does not want His chosen people to assimilate with the surrounding nations.

God brings Israel to Egypt (a separatist, racist culture) where they are segregated and multiply without being able to assimilate. Slavery was/is a terrible thing but God used that time in their history to fulfill his covenant vow to Abraham and birth a nation called Israel when they were ready.

Covenant Series: Session 4

God's Covenant with Moses

Moses leads the Israelites through the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai where they would camp with God for a year (Ex 19 - Num 10) before he intended to take them to conquer the promised land. Mt. Sinai is where God cuts a covenant with Israel.

Purpose

Establish Israel as a Kingdom (Ex. 19:1-6)

- Here they take on the role of Adam
 - Remember the original purpose/covenant God had for Adam was Likeness and Image
 - Likeness had to do with sonship between God and man, his relationship with God in how he worshiped him and spent time with him.
 - Image had to do with royal rulership over creation, co-ruling with God, authority over creation as priests to the world.

Promise

Treasured Possession: If you will obey...This phrase is conditional and shows Israel what is in store for when they are loyal to this relationship. (different than the covenant with Abraham) A king's treasured possession is the best treasure he has of all his treasure, his personal stash (crown jewels). Out of all the nations they will represent God to the rest. They will show everyone else what it means when you have a right relationship with the one true God. What will that consist of?

- Kingdom of Priests: They will be to the rest of the world like the tribe of Levi is to them, the one who goes to God on their behalf.
- Holy Nation: Consecrated for use by God. Ready to be used as God's instrument to the nations.

Plan

Means: Through this covenant ceremony, God will give Israel the stipulations (or terms) of their relationship with him. Why...to set Israel apart from the nations surrounding them.

- Identifies the original relationship expectations between God/man and man/man. This is not a checklist of things you must do to be right before God (that is a contract not a covenant, this is relationship oriented) ex. is a code of conduct at work.

Covenant Series: Session 4

God's Covenant with Moses

- He does this through the 10 commandments (10 words, Ch 20) and the Judgments (Chs 21-23); these 2 together form the book of the covenant as expressed in Ch 24.
- Some of the things we have to be told: Lv 19:4 blind and deaf, Ex 23:19 boiling goat in mother's milk: pagan fertility ritual.
- God then provides instructions on how He is to be worshiped (Chs 25-40): Sanctuary, Ark, items in the tabernacle, the altar, the courtyard, the laver, priest's clothing, Ehpod...etc.
 - While we cannot go over it today, you can know that the entire system and regulation for worship all points to Jesus: the Tabernacle, the Gate, the Altar, the Laver, the Holy Place, the Lamp stand, the Altar of incense, the Table of Shewbread, The Holy of Holies, and the Ark of the Covenant...
- He then provides a means for reconciliation through sacrifice when the covenant vassal fails (Leviticus)
 - Relationship with God was always meant to be through faith. The Law and Judgements were put in place to display what right looked like in the relationship where the sacrificial system was put in place to make you right with God because you couldn't live up to the law.

Why does God give the law? This question can be a sermon of its own but we read in Gal 3:19 the was given to reveal sin for what it is. Example of son who does bad and won't stop so parent lays down the law to show the son what he is doing is wrong. This was only temporary until the promised seed would come and crush the serpents head.

Picture

God, in essence, marries Israel in the desert at Mt. Sinai based on trust and grace (Ex 19.)

✳ Ex. 19:4

✳ "Remember what I did to those guys..." Trust

✳ "I lifted you on eagles' wings..." Grace

✳ "I brought you to Me..." Love

✳ Ex 24:3-8, 9-11

Covenant Series: Session 4

God's Covenant with Moses

* Shed blood (Vow)

* Covenant meal (Peace)

God promised to extremely bless the people when they were loyal, but he promised to extremely curse them when they were not.

This is what it looks like when the people of God were loyal: reign of King Solomon 1 Ks 10:1-10 (Dt 28:1-10)

What it looks like when the people of God were not loyal: Fall of Israel the Assyrians laid siege to the city and it got so bad the Israelites resorted to cannibalism. Lv 26:27-29

Hosea 11:8-11 God has always wanted to save us from our sin, it has been at the core of His heart forever. It is who He is.

This covenant reveals to us our nature. The law reveals to us the sin that is so entrenched in our hearts. If you take the law and compare it to your life right now (and are honest) what do you see? Are you right before God, walking blamelessly, or do you need the provided sacrifice that always was the means to our right standing before God?

Jesus

The Sacrifice

Covenant Series: Session 5

God's Covenant with David

The Covenant with David

Recap

Adam: Purpose to establish a relationship in order to spread His Kingdom. Expectation: Loyal Love/Obedience; Terms: Likeness (Multiply)/Image (Rule); Guidance from God right/wrong; Adam broke the covenant through disobedience; relationship was maintained through God's grace but sin causes our disobedience (we don't want to listen to what God says is right/wrong)

Noah: Sin led creation to be utterly corrupt, ruined, and violent; Noah only avenue left for restoration; God eradicates all the corruption and violence that sin caused and committed to a re-creation; He did not eradicate sin

Abraham: In Abraham, God works to reestablish his kingdom by promising Abraham a nation will come from him and that nation will bless the other nations to begin to reverse the destruction of sin; God is pleased with Abraham's faith and trust in Him

Moses (Israel): God comes into relationship with Israel at Mt. Sinai; He takes a giant step in reversing sin through giving the law which is his declaration of what is right (righteousness); This Torah becomes the terms of the covenant with a sacrificial system put in place for when the covenant partners fail on their part

Promises: each covenant comes with a promise (or promises) that God (who is absolutely faithful) will complete; Adam: the seed to destroy the serpent, Noah: never destroying the earth, Abraham: a Kingdom for Israel who will be a blessing to all nations, and Moses: Israel will be a treasured possession id'ed as king/priests who are holy.

Monarchy in Israel

Period of conquest followed by a period of Judges

People require a king and demand one after their heart: Saul (1 Sam 8:4-5 = initial request, God tells him to do it with a warning, 1 Sam 8:19-20)

God desires a king after his heart: David (1 Sam 16:6-7)

Read Dt 17:14-15

The Covenant

CH 7 context: David settles into palace, shocked that he is living "better" than God (the ark in the tent), Nathan instructs David to build a temple but God reverses that decision implying He

Covenant Series: Session 5

God's Covenant with David

doesn't want that from David, play on words God tells David He will build a house for him instead. Read 2 Sam 7:8-17

Purpose

Establish David as the priestly king leader (Ps 110:4) to the nation of Israel and the representative of God's Kingdom to the nations.

Takes on the role of Adam: Image and Likeness (2 Sam 7:14 Father/Son relationship)

Fulfill the promises of the Abrahamic covenant: Land/Peace and Blessing

Fulfill the promises of the Israelite covenant: Administrator of the Torah, leading the people of Israel and the nations as an example of righteousness, and Inviting the nations to come under the rule of God (Dt 17:16-20)

Promise

Divided into two (during his lifetime and after his death)

2 Sam 7:8-11a (fulfilled during David's lifetime):

Great name: fulfills the promise to Abraham (Gen 12:2) which contrasted with the people of the tower of Babel who worked together to build a tower to the heavens to make their name great (11:4).

Land to settle for Israel, and Peace from their enemies: another fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, necessary for the establishment of a kingdom.

2 Sam 7:11b-16 (fulfilled after his death): An eternal/permanent house, kingdom, and throne

- Eternal dynasty: 2 ways to make this happen - male kings who have sons into eternity or the birth an eternal one
- Eternal Kingdom: on earth, Jerusalem
- Eternal Throne: on earth, Jerusalem (Rev 11:15)

Plan

Ps 72:1-20 (When the king rules according to God's instruction the nations are blessed)

Covenant Series: Session 5

God's Covenant with David

- The King, in his righteousness, will serve the people, the weak and oppressed, while the foreign people, nations and even his enemies bow before him and serve him

Is 55: (Usher in a New Covenant under Jesus the better David)

The Picture

1 Chr 17:11-14 (Picture of Jesus)

- Descendant raised up (seed)
- Kingdom established forever
 - “For thus an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you.”
 - 2 Peter 1:11 NET
- He will call God his Father and God will call him his son
 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Gal 4:6
- Sin will be resolved in him through correction
 - “But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - 1 John 1:7 NET
- The covenant will be upheld through through his grace

David's response to this act of kindness and grace was worship

Covenant Series: Session 6

God's Covenant with Jesus

God's Covenant with Jesus

Recap

We have talked about the covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David up to this point, 5 covenants that have their root in Adam. I have attached my notes to the website if you would like a more detailed recap of what we talked about. Each one, while made with specific people at specific times, have a commonality or progression from the first covenant made with Adam. They are an unfolding plan we have the privilege of looking back on and seeing from a very unique point in human history. And they lead up to something new.

The Covenant

The story of Mephibosheth

- Saul anointed king and begins to hate David so much he wants to kill him
- Johnathan (different from his father) and David make a covenant with each other (1 Sa 18:3-4; 20) which applies to future generations (children's children etc.)
- Johnathan (Saul's son, heir to the throne) gives up his right and pledges his allegiance to God's choice as do his family members in and through him
- Saul and Johnathan die in a battle with the Philistines
- The house of Saul flees Johnathan's servant grabs his son Mephibosheth and as she is leaving she drops him and he ends up crippled and never walks again, He is taken to a small desert town called Lo-Debar
- After David defeats his enemies and ascends to the throne, he asks is there anyone left from the house Saul, who he can show kindness to? The servants are weary of telling him where they are due to the possibility he was just looking for them to get rid of competitors.
- David in 2 Sa 9:7 treats Mephibosheth on the basis of his covenant not on his merits
- Mephibosheth now has a decision to make and decides to cut his ties with his old life and live with the king

Plan

From the moment Adam broke the covenant with God, we needed a covenant keeper. A representative to completely live up to the standards of loyalty and obedience in order to make things right with God once again (Ro 5:18, 1 Co 15:22). It is believed that

Covenant Series: Session 6

God's Covenant with Jesus

eternal life was to be the gift for Adam and his children if he had obeyed (Ro 5:18, 21). Because he didn't, it was stripped away from all of us, and instead we got eternal separation (Ro 5:12, 17). If there could be a representative amongst us that could live according to the way God expected from the beginning, that person would not be deserving of death (Ga 3:10-12, 2 Co 5:21, Dt 27:26, Lv 18:5). If that person died, his death could take the place of all those he represented who had transgressed the covenant obligations (1 Pt 3:18, Is 53:11, Ro 8:3, Ga 3:13). Once freed from the old, the King would make a new covenant with this representative and all whom he represented (He 8:6, 1 Co 11:25). [The Sinai Covenant was the model for how the original covenant should have been. The Noahic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant were simply the groundwork leading up to the Sinai Covenant. The Davidic Covenant was an extension to the Sinai Covenant completing the picture.]

There was only one way a person like this could represent humanity in this old covenant. He had to be born a human but not have the sin nature of one (Col 2:9). He also needed to be born an heir to the throne of David. Jesus was born to Mary and the HS and adopted by Joseph. Mary was the legal line to King David through Nathan. Joseph was the bloodline to King David through Solomon, and the HS was the spirit line to his heavenly father. In this way Jesus, who was God, was born a man, heir to the throne, and free from the stain of sin.

As a representative, Jesus lived according to the covenant in perfect obedience and loyalty. Once he died, he completely fulfilled the terms of the covenant freeing us from its consequences. Once freed, the old covenant no longer in effect, God offered a new covenant to Jesus which was actually based on the old one, but different. Those represented could take the offer and enter into a new relationship with God or leave it and stay where they are separated.

Come to defeat Sin: Pilot episode (testify to the truth), Mark 8:31-38 Jesus begins to speak openly about his death and resurrection but Peter reprimands him, Jesus reverse reprimands Peter and teaches what the purpose of his coming and death was about.

Return to be Enthroned: He 9:27-28, Mt 24:29-31; 25:31-33

Purpose

Reconcile with creation and establish His kingdom on the earth (Col 1:11-14, 19-20)

God enables us (transfer of children to Son's Kingdom) through a rescue operation and transfers us through purchase (of his blood)

Promise

Covenant Series: Session 6

God's Covenant with Jesus

Read Heb 8

Will be different: Not the same, better promises

Heart Renewal: Desire from within to keep God's commands, renewed by God's spirit residing within; his law (instruction for living) will be put on our minds and written on our hearts; The OC did not have this power, it simply showed you you were wrong and directed you to a sacrifice. Ro 12:2

Regeneration: Knowing God will come naturally, no one will have to instruct a relationship in the NC; In the OC this was not true, you could be born an Israelite, circumcised and even attend the Holy days and still never know God; now He is close and intimate and you know him when you enter the faith. He 10:19-22

Complete Forgiveness of Sin: The NC ushers in a new way God deals with sin, Jesus as the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek offered his blood in the Temple in heaven before God as He sat on the throne for us, this offering was and is complete; The OC only could offer temporary forgiveness that had to be renewed annually, all the time, it was only ever meant to be temporary until the better promise came. He 9:13-15

The Picture

Fulfillment of the previous covenants

Adam: Fulfills God's initial intent to multiply his likeness and image as his kingdom throughout the world

Noah: Same as the covenant with Adam

Abraham: The promise of offspring and blessing is fulfilled in Jesus

Moses: The transfer of God's instruction to the heart and the complete forgiveness of sins for the believer through the work of the given Holy Spirit

David: Jesus is the true eternal king on the eternal throne ruling over His eternal kingdom

Conclusion

- We, born of the family of Adam, bear the traits of the family of Saul, we walk in disobedience to God and live under the kingdom of darkness

Covenant Series: Session 6

God's Covenant with Jesus

- One came from the house of Saul who was not like him who was bonded in love to the one hated by the Saul, Jesus, like Jonathan, send us up in himself, He became like us and for us and entered into a covenant with the father on our behalf.
- You and I were born later and lived in darkness in our desert hideouts at lo-Debar.
- But He searched us out and found us and brought us to his palace and treated us not based upon our merit but the covenant with his son.