

The Proper understanding of Covenants

- *Do we even use the word Covenant any more?*
 - It has become a Church word.
 - We don't have many parallels in our culture.
- *How does the Bible define a Covenant*
 - Covenant was a common concept and word used in Ancient times.
 - Parts of a Covenant
 - Difference between a contract and a Covenant:

Category	Contract	Covenant
Occasion	Expected benefit	Desire for relationship
Initiative	Mutual agreement	Stronger party
Orientation	Negotiation Thing-oriented	Gift Person-oriented
Obligation	Performance	Loyalty
Termination	Specified	Indeterminate
Violation	Yes	Yes

- To Sum up: A covenant is a formal way of entering(or building upon) a relationship, a relationship that marked by faithfulness.
- *Why Covenant is important for our understanding to the Bible*
 - To understand the Covenant is to tie the bible together. Covenants establish the framework of the whole Bible.
 - If you follow the covenants of the bible, you will follow the twists and turns of the bible's story, of salvation history.
 - Covenants are big part of how God relates to us.

The Power of Covenants

- *Length*
 - Everlasting

- Or...Until fulfillment
- *Love and Loyalty*
 - God always initiates a formal relationship with humanity
 - Words with Power: Standfast love and faithfulness (Prov. 3:3; Gen. 24:27; Gen. 32:9-10; Lam. 3:21-23; Ex. 34:6-7; John 1:14)

The Place of Covenants in the Bible

- Important Covenants
- *Creational Covenant (Gen. 1-2) (see also Hos. 6:7)*
 - Passages:
 - Genesis 1:28 - 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.”
 - Genesis 2:15-17 - The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.”
 - Words and Concepts
- *Noahic (Gen 6-9)*
 - Passages
 - Genesis 9:7 - And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”
 - [8] Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, [9] “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, [10] and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. [11] I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”
 - [12] And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
 - Renewing or Affirming existing Covenants
- *Abrahamic (Gen. 12, 15, 17,22)*
 - Passages
 - Genesis 15:17-18 - When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between *these pieces*. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, (ESV)
 - Genesis 17:3-6 - Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, [4] “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. [5] No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. [6] I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall

come from you.

- *Genesis 17:8 - And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” (ESV)*
- *Genesis 17:10 - This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.*
- *Genesis 17:14 - Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”*

- God continues to channel his promises through the covenants.

- **Mosaic/Sinaitic (Ex. 19-24)**

- Passages

- Exodus 19:4-6 - ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and **how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and **you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”
- Exodus 31:13 - “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for **this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations,** that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.
- Exodus 24:5-8 - And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” **And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”**

- Divine Grace and human responsibility is always apart from God’s plan for his people.

- The purpose of the Covenant is to begin a relationship; the purpose of the laws are to regulate that relationship.

- To be close to God, Sin must be dealt with

- **Davidic (2 Sam. 7; Ps. 89)**

- Passages

- 2 Samuel 7:11-16 - And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.** When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, [15] but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. [16] **And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”**
- 2 Samuel 7:9-11 - And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. **And I will give you rest from all your enemies.** Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
- Psalm 89:3-4 - You have said, **“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”**

- One of the first times we see a strong father/son relationship.
- God will establish David's line to have Israel find rest in the land
- An everlasting throne or an everlasting king?
- *New Covenant (Jer. 31-34; Isa. 54; Ezek 33-39; Lk. 22:14; Matt. 28:15)*
 - Passages:
 - Jeremiah 31:31-40 - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the **house of Israel and the house of Judah**, [32] not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. [33] **For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**" [35] Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name: [36] "If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever." [37] Thus says the LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD." [38] "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.
 - Jeremiah 33:14-15 - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David**, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
 - What not so new about the New Covenant.
 - Why is the New Covenant New?