

# THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

By Kevin E. Hughes

Why Study the **Covenants** in the Bible ?

**Covenants** as a **Framework** for a **Biblical Theology**

Or a way of looking for **God's** Overall Plan for **Man** through **Covenant Promises**

## Covenant of God with Man

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A Promise of **God**, always initiated by **God**, between **God** and a **Person** or a **People** Group, according to **His** Plan, Purpose, and Will.

#### Unilateral - Covenant of God

IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding **conditions** for **God** to fulfill both parties' obligations then it was considered a **Unilateral** or **Un-Conditional Covenant**.

#### Bilateral - Covenant of God

IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding **conditions** for **God** to fulfill, **God's** Part, and separate conditions for **Man** to fulfill, **Man's** Part, then it was considered a **Bilateral** or **Conditional Covenant**.

#### Covenants of God >

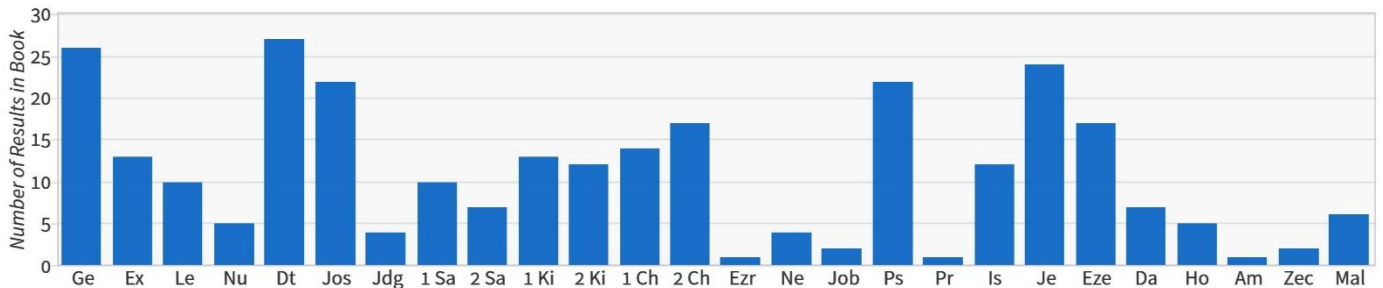
as a **Testament** or a **Will** of **God**  
 as **Binding Decrees** of **God**  
 as **Binding Agreements** of **God**  
 as a **Decree** of **God**  
 as **Promises** of **God**  
 as **"I Will"** statements, of **God**  
 as **Oaths** of **God**

## The Word "Covenant" in the

Bible

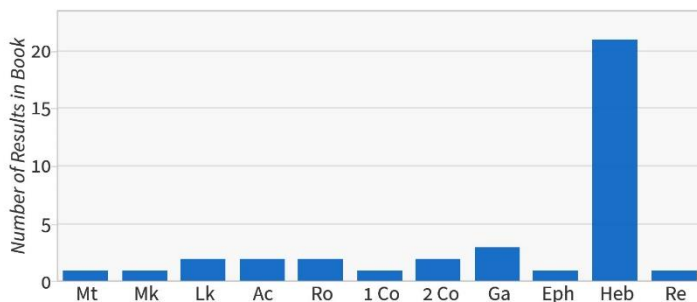
### The Word "Covenant" in Old Testament (284 Times)

'covenant" in NASB95



### The Word "Covenant" in New Testament (33 Times)

'covenant" in NASB95



## Hebrew word for Covenant in OT



## Greek word for Covenant in NT



### Another way to Define a Covenant

**COVENANT** (בְּרִית, **berith**; Hebrew, διαθήκη, **diathēkē**, Greek).

A **sacred** kinship bond between two parties, **ratified** by **swearing** an **oath**. *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*

It seems that All **Covenants** are “**ratified** by **swearing** an **oath**”

but some **Covenants** are also “**ratified** with **blood**”

**God's** Part of a **Covenant** > **He Ratifies it** “by **swearing** an **oath**” or “by **promise**”, Gal 3:17

**Man's** Part of a **Covenant** > **He Ratifies it** “by **swearing** an **oath**” or “by **promise**”, Gal 3:17

### Galatians 3:15

15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations:

even though it is only a **man's covenant** (diathēkē - Testament, not berith),

yet when **it** has been **ratified**, no one sets **it** aside or adds **conditions** to **it**.

In “a **man's covenant**, ... when **it** has been **ratified**, no one sets **it** aside or adds **conditions** to **it**.” Gal 3:15

In the same way, in **God's covenant**, when **it** has been **ratified**, no one sets **it** aside or adds **conditions** to **it**.

### Galatians 3:16

16 Now the **promises** (of **God**) were spoken to **Abraham** and to **his seed**. **He** does not say, “And to **seeds**,” as referring to many, but rather to **one**, “And to **your seed**,” that is, **Christ**.

### Galatians 3:17

17 What I am saying is this: **the Law**, which came four hundred and thirty years later, (after Abram Cov.)

does not invalidate a **covenant** (diathēkē - Testament, not berith) previously **ratified** by **God**,

so as to nullify the **promise** (of **God**).

**Notice:** (diathēkē, 1242, meaning **Covenant**, as in **Testament** or **Will** as defined above.)

## Covenants of God > as Ratified by Promise of God

Greek, προκυρώ: 4300, **Previously Ratified**, Gal 3:17, to cause to be in force in advance or ‘to authorize or establish in advance,’ *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament*

God caused His Covenants to be in force, in advance or ahead of time,

He authorized and established **them** in advance or beforehand.

God **Ratifies His Covenant**, Gal 3:17b (Gal 3:15-17 we just read)

God **Ratifies His Covenant**, by **Promise**, Gal 3:17c

When **God Ratifies His Covenant**, (1) **no one** sets **it** aside (2) **no one** adds conditions to **it**, Gal 3:15

When **God Ratified His Mosaic Covenant**, (1) **it** did not invalidate a previous **Covenant**, to **Abraham**, Gal 3:17

(2) **it** did not invalidate a previous **promise** of **God**, to **Abraham**, Gal 3:17

## Covenants of God > as Ratified (inaugurated) by Blood

Greek, ἐγκαινίζω: **inaugurated** (ratified), to cause something to go into effect, something being newly established, ‘to put into effect, to put into force, to establish.’, Heb 9:18 *Greek-English lexicon of the NT*

Some **Covenants** are clearly **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood**,

In the ancient practice of **cutting** a **covenant**, an animal **sacrifice** was divided in two and laid out on the ground and the partners to the **covenant** walked between the pieces twice for a witness, thus establishing a path between the **blood** of the **sacrifice** by which each (Party) was committing **themselves** to the **life** of the other member of the **covenant**. (best seen in Gen 15:9-18)

**Mosaic Covenant** > was **Ratified** with **Blood** of goats, calves, and bulls, Ex 24:5-8, Lev 16, Heb 9:18-22

**Abrahamic Covenant** > was **Ratified** with **Blood** of animals and birds, Gen 15:9-18

**New Covenant** > was **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood** of **Jesus**, Matt 26:28, Heb 9:12

**Covenants** are **Ratified** (inaugurated) with **Blood**, because the **Life** of the **flesh** is in the **blood**

**Life** is in the **Blood** of the **Flesh**, and don't Eat **it** and don't Shed **it**, Gen 9:4-6

‘For the **life of the flesh** is in the **blood**, and **I** have given **it** to **you** on the altar to make atonement for **your** souls; for **it** is the **blood** by reason of the **life** that makes atonement.’, Lev 17:11

**Covenants** are **Ratified** with **Blood** or with “the life of the flesh”, as in a sacrifice of one's **Life**.

“for **this** is **My blood** of the **covenant**, which is poured out for **many** for forgiveness of **sins**”, Matt 26:28

“and not through the **blood** of goats and calves, but through **His** own **blood**,

**He** entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption”, Hebs 9:12

## Covenants of God > as Ratified by Death of the Testator (“the one who made it”)

A **testator** (**person** who made a **Will**) is a **person** who has written and executed a last **will** and **testament** that is in effect at the time of his/her **death**.

“For a **covenant** (diathēkē – **Testament** or **Will**) is valid only when **men** are **dead**,

for **it** (**Testament**) is never in force while the one who made it lives. Heb 9:17

The **Testator** (**Jesus**) is a person who has written and executed a last **will** and **testament** (**Covenant**) that is in effect (or came into effect) at the time of **his** death.

**Jesus** revealed the **New Covenant** before he **died**, Matt 26:28

When **Jesus** **Died**, the **Covenant** was **inaugurated** (ratified), or “put into effect” or “established” as defined above, as in all last **Wills** and **Testaments** (diathēkē – **Testament** or **Will**).

## Covenants of God > are Ratified

by **Promise of God**

Gal 3:17

by **Life Blood**

Lev 17:11, Mt 26:28

by **Death** of the Testator

Heb 9:17

## When God Ratifies His Covenant

**no one** sets **it** aside or adds conditions to **it**

Gal 3:15

**it** does not invalidate a previous **promise**

Gal 3:17

## Covenants of God > Basic Process

Revealed > Ratified > Initiated > Fulfilled

### Revealed > God reveals (inaugurates) the Covenant

With any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on **Himself**, that **He Promises** to **Fulfill**  
Often with “**I will**” statements, implying Future implementation, so Prophetic.

**Read** Gen 6:18 (Gen 12:1-3, 12:7, 15:14, 16:10, 17:2, 17:5-8, 21:13, 22:17, 2 Sam 7:8-17, Jer 31:31-34)

With any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**, that **the Lord Promises** to **Fulfill**  
Often with “**you will**” statements, implying Future implementation, so Prophetic.

**Read** Gen 2:17 (Gen 3:14-19, 15:15, 16:11, 17:4, Ex 19:5)

With any **Conditions** (Stipulations), **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**, that the **Recipient Promises** to **Fulfill**  
Often with “**we will**” statements, implying Future obedience

**Read** Ex 19:8 (Gen 24:3, 24:7, Jos 24:24-25)

### Ratified > God Ratifies (formally sanctions), by **Blood and/or Promise**, certain **Covenants**.

**Covenants** by **Blood** and **Promise**: (Abrahamic, Mosaic, New Covenant,...)

**Read** Gal 3:15 (Gal 3:17, Ex 24:8, Lev 4, Heb 9)

**Covenants** by **Promise**: No obvious **Blood** (Adamic, Davidic, others)

### Initiated > “at (God’s) appointed times” **God initiates** (causes to begin) each **Covenant**

“at appointed times”, a specific time **God** sovereignly initiates each **Covenant**

**Read** Gen 18:14 (Gen 18:14, 21:2, Lev 23:4, Acts 7:17)

This Time is all according to **God’s** Plan, Purpose, and Will (Isa 46:8-11, Heb 6:17)

May be **initiated** after a **shorter time** (Mosaic),

May be **initiated** after a **longer time** (Abrahamic, Davidic, New Covenant)

### Fulfilled > as **God Promised**, often by **Oath**, each **Covenant** will be **fulfilled**

**Read** Gen 50:24 (2 Sam 7:28, 2 Chron 1:9, 6:10, Neh 9:7-8, Acts 13:23, 33, Gal 3:17-21, Heb 6:13)

## Covenants of God > Basic Process



### 3 Types of Conditions or Stipulations, of a **Covenant** of **God**

1. any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on **Himself**, that **the Lord Promises** to **Fulfill**
2. any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**, that **the Lord Promises** to **Fulfill**
3. any **Conditions** (Stipulations), **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**, that the **Recipient Promises** to **Fulfill**

### CHART

#### 3 Types of Conditions, of a **Covenant** of **God**

any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on **Himself**,  
that **the Lord Promises** to **Fulfill**, “**I will**” statements.

any **Conditions** (Stipulations), that **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**,  
that **the Lord Promises** to **Fulfill**, “**you will**” statements.

any **Conditions** (Stipulations), **the Lord** puts on the **Recipient**,  
that the **Recipient Promises** to **Fulfill**, “**we will**” statements.

**The Lord** always sets the **Conditions** (Stipulations) of the **Covenant**, **He** is the **Author**.

**The Lord** always **Fulfills His** part or parts of **His Covenants**.

The **Recipient Promises** to **Fulfill his** part of some Covenants, like **Mosaic Covenant**.



## The **Covenant Giver** > **Covenantor** - 1 Type – the Lord

**Covenant Giver** > as **Covenantor** (a party who initiates a formal agreement or contract, who is to perform certain obligations or **Promises** expressed in the **Covenant**.)

Names for **God** as **Covenant Giver**

“the Lord” as (**Yahweh**, “yhwh”), **The Lord** to **Abraham**, **Gen 15:18**

“**God**” as (**Elohim**), **God** to **Noah**, **Gen 9:8-11**

“the Angel of the Lord” as (“**Malak** of **Yahweh**”), **The Messenger** of **Yahweh**

“the Angel of the Lord” to **Hagar**, (**Gen 16:7-13**) Called **God** by **Hagar**, **Gen 16:13**

“the Angel of the Lord” to **Abraham**, (**Gen 22:11-18**) Called **the Lord**, **Gen 22:16-18**

“the Angel of the Lord” to **Moses**, (**Ex 3:1-22**) Called **the Lord, God, God** of your Fathers, “**I AM**”

## The **Covenant Receiver** > **Covenantee** - 2 Types – Man

**Covenant Receiver** > as **Covenantee** (a party (man) to whom is made a formal agreement or contract, who **IS NOT** to perform certain obligations or **Promises** expressed in the **Covenant**.)

**Covenantee IS NOT** Put under Obligation by **God** to perform **Covenant** obligations. (New Cov)

**Covenantee** is instead an **Heir** and **Beneficiary** of the **Covenant Promises**

**Covenant Receiver** > as **Covenantee** (a party (man) to whom is made a formal agreement or contract, who **IS** to perform certain obligations or **Promises** expressed in the **Covenant**.)

**Covenantee IS** Put under Obligation by **God** to perform **Covenant** obligations. (Mosaic Cov)

### Secular Definition of **Heir**

**Heir** > a person who will legally receive money, property, or a title from another person, especially an older member of the same family, when that other person dies: *Cambridge Dictionary*

### Biblical Definition **Heir**

a person (**Covenantee**) who will legally receive certain **Physical** and/or **Spiritual Promises** from **God** as a member of **His** Family, as in an adopted son of **God** or a child of **God**.

**Heir** > as an **Heir** of **God's Promises**

An **Heir** may be an **Heir** to: **Land** or **Blessings** or **the Kingdom** or a **Heart** to know **God**

An **Heir** may be an **Heir**: **Read Verses**

by being the biological **Child** of **their Father**, from **his Body**, like **Isaac** to **Abraham**, **Gen 15:4**

by being the biological **Seed** of **their Father**, like **Isaac** to **Abraham**, **Gen 22:17-18**, **Ps 89:4**

by being “**Children of God**” of **their Father**, **Jn 1:12**, **11:52**, **Rom 8:16**, **1 Jn 3:1-2**, **3:10**

by being the biological **Offspring** of **their Father**, like **Isaac** to **Abraham**, **Gen 15:3-4**

by being **adopted** as a **child** or **son**, by ones **Grandfather**, by an **Earthly Father**, **Gen 48:4-6**

by being **adopted** as a **child** or a **son** of **God**, as in **Nation of Israel**, **Ex 4:22**, **Rom 9:4**

by being **adopted** as a **child** or a **son** of **God**, as in **Israel** and **Gentile Church**, **Gal 4:4-7**, **Rom 8:15**, **23**

**Ephesians 1:5**

**5 He** (*the Father*) predestined **us** to **adoption** as **sons** through **Jesus Christ** to **Himself**, according to the kind intention of **His will**,

Like an **Heir** to the **Promised Land**, **Promised** to **Abraham** and **his descendants**, **Gen 13:15**, **Heb 11:9**

Like an “**heir of promise** (of **God**)” “to **Abraham** and **his descendants**”, **Rom 4:13-14**, **Heb 6:11-17**

Like an “**heirs of the kingdom**” “**promised**” to those who love **God**, **Jam 2:5**

**Heir** > an **Heir** of **God's Promises** > Both **Jew** and **Gentile** **Read Verses**

Like **Gentiles** are “fellow **heirs**” with **Israel**, **Eph 3:6**

Like **Gentiles** are “fellow partakers (with **Israel**) of the **promise** in **Christ Jesus**” with **Israel**, **Eph 3:6**

**Ephesians 3:6** “to be specific, that the **Gentiles** are fellow **heirs** (with **Israel**) and fellow members of **the body** (the **Church**), and fellow partakers (with **Israel**) of the **promise** in **Christ Jesus** through **the gospel**,...”

## Covenants of God > Duration

Psalm 105:8

8 He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,

Q1: How long will God remember His Covenant? A: forever

Q2: How long did God command “The word” of His Covenant? A: to a thousand generations

1 Chronicles 16:15–17

15 Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,

16 The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac.

17 He also confirmed it (covenant) to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

Q1: How long will God remember His Covenant? A: forever

Q2: What Covenant is this speaking of? A: Abrahamic Covenant

Q3: What 4 Things underlined did God Proclaim about His Covenant with Abraham?

A3: (1) He “commanded” it (2) He “made” it (3) by His “oath” (4) He “confirmed it”

Q4: What 3 Persons or People Groups was this Abrahamic Covenant applied to?

A4: to Isaac, to Jacob, and to Nation of Israel

## Covenants of God > many are Everlasting or Perpetual

Noahic Covenant, Genesis 9:16

16 “When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

Abrahamic Covenant, Genesis 17:7

7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

Aaronic Priesthood Covenant, Num 25:10–13

10 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them,

so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy.

12 “Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give him (Phinehas) My covenant of peace;

13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel.’ ”

Davidic Covenant, 2 Samuel 23:5

5 “Truly is not my (David’s) house so with God? For He has made an everlasting covenant with me, Ordered in all things, and secured; For all my salvation and all my desire, Will He not indeed make it grow?

New Covenant, Jeremiah 32:40

40 “I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

## Covenants of God > the Lord’s Promises Do Not Fail

Joshua 21:45

45 Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. all (the good promises) came to pass.

Q1: How many of God’s Promises to Israel failed? A: Not one of the Lord’s good promises failed

Q2: Instead of Failing, what happened to all of the Lord’s “good promises” A: They “came to pass”