

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 Definition - Conclusion:

COVENANT of **GOD** with **MAN**. A **Promise** of **God**, always initiated by **God**, between **God** and a **Person** or a **People** Group, according to **His** Plan, Purpose and Will. IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill both parties' obligations then it was considered a **Unilateral** or **Un-Conditional Covenant**. 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 **Bi-lateral** or **Conditional Covenant**.

Our Approach to the Study of **Covenants**

We are studying the **Covenants** for ourselves. We are starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament to understand how **they** are **Chronologically** and **Progressively Revealed** and how each **Covenant** builds or does not build on each previous **Covenant**.

We will look at different locations in scripture that are considered **Covenants** by scholars and see if each location is an actual a **Covenant** based on certain criteria, such as the **Definition** of a **Covenant** hereon.

THE **REFORMED** THEOLOGY (**COVENANT** THEOLOGY) VIEW

Gen 3:15 is consider a **Major Covenant**, by **Reformed Theology** (**Covenant Theology**) Scholars.

Gen 3:15 is consistently Called the "**Covenant of Grace**" in the **Westminster Confession**, Chapter 7 and in the **2nd London Baptist Confession**, Chapter 7.

Reformed Theology says, this One verse **Gen 3:15**, is the **Overarching-Covenant** in the Bible, with other **Subordinate-Covenants** mentioned throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

The Word "**Grace**" is Not mentioned in **Gen 3:15**, But it is implied though Not plainly expressed.

IF we understand "**Grace**" to mean the **God's Grace**, as in "by **Grace** (of **God**) you are saved", **Eph 2:8**

Then the "**Grace of God**" is implied in this **Gen 3:15**, But Not expressed,

as in **Gen 3:15b**, "**He** (**woman's seed**, descendant) shall bruise (crush) **you** (**Satan**) on the head"

God will "**Graciously**" Crush **Satan**, by the **Woman's seed** (descendant, singular) **child**.

Even though this is the First revelation of **God's Grace** in Scripture,

there are many places in the Bible that reveal a **Gracious God**.

Q1: Is the word "**Covenant**" or the word "**Grace**" used in **Gen 3:15b**? **A1:**

Q2: Does this say anything about **God's Covenant** with **Adam** OR is it about **God's Promise** to **Satan** ?

A2:

Q3: Does **Gen 3:15**, say anything about "**salvation**" or "**redemption**" or a "**atonement**" ? **A3:**

Q4: Does **Gen 3:15**, say anything about a "**Savior**" or "**shedding of blood**" for **Sins**? **A4:**

Therefore, At this Time, about **4000 BC**

Adam now knew very little about the **woman's** descendant ?

But following **Adam**, **God Progressively Reveals** more and more about the **woman's** descendant.

In Conclusion, **Reformed Theology (Covenant Theology)** as stated in **their** two Confessions believe that **Genesis 3:15** is not only a **Major Covenant**, but the **Major Overarching-Covenant over all** the other **Covenants** in the entire Bible.

Genesis 3:15

And **I will** put **enmity** (hostility) Between **you** (**Satan**) and the **woman**,

And (**enmity**) between **your seed** (descendants) and **her seed** (descendant); **Matt 13:24-30, 34-35**

He (**woman's seed**, descendant) shall bruise (crush) **you** (**Satan**) on the head, **Rom 16:20**

And **you** (**Satan**) shall bruise **him** (**woman's seed**, descendant) on the heel."

Reformed Theology (Covenant Theology) uses **Genesis 3:15** to explain **God's overall Plan** of **Redemption** and the first presentation of the **Gospel Message**.

Genesis 3:15 – “no verse in the Bible is more crucial and definitive” (end solution)

They say,

“With the possible exception of **John 3:16**, no verse in the Bible is more crucial and definitive than **Gen 3:15**”.

“The whole of Scripture is not packed into every scripture, but we may allowably expect every scripture to prepare and make room for the whole. This is what happens in **Genesis 3:15**”

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/significance-genesis-315/>

Q1: Does **Gen 3:15**, give us the definitive (end solution) of what the final outcome of **Man's Fall** ?

A1: I don't think **Gen 3:15**, gives a definitive (end solution) of **Man**.

It only says the (**woman's** descendant) shall bruise (crush) (**Satan**) and (**Satan**) shall bruise **him**.

Genesis 3:15 – “Creates an expectation of a **Redeemer**”

They say,

“**First, it** (**Gen 3:15**) *establishes a principle that runs throughout the Old Testament,*

*creating an expectation of a **Redeemer** who would be a descendent (a “seed”) of Adam and Eve.*”

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/significance-genesis-315/>

Q2: Does **Gen 3:15**, Create an expectation of a **Redeemer** ? **Redeemer:** One who buys back for a price

A2: No, it only says the (**woman's** descendant) shall bruise (crush) (**Satan**) and (**Satan**) shall bruise **his heel**.

Genesis 3:15 – Establishes: the **First Gospel** + **God's Redemptive intention** + **Promise a Saviour**

They say,

“**Second, it** *establishes the parameters by which **God** will **redeem His people** from their **sin**.*

*From the earliest times, **Genesis 3:15** has been called **the proto-evangelium** (the first **Gospel**)*

*because it is the first note of **God's redemptive intention** following the fall in the garden of Eden.”*

“When **Adam** and **Eve** failed to obey the terms of the **covenant of works** (Gen. 3:6),

God did not destroy **them** (which would have served justice),

but instead revealed **His covenant of grace** to **them** by promising a **Savior** (**Gen. 3:15**),

one who would **restore the kingdom** that had latterly been destroyed.”

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/significance-genesis-315/>

Q3: Does **Gen 3:15**, reveal the **First Gospel**, **God's Redemptive intention**, and **Promise a Saviour** ?

A3: For **Gen 3:15** to be seen as **the Gospel**, it has to agree with at least **1 Cor 15:3-4** below.

For **Gen 3:15** to be seen as **Redemptive**, it has to reveal **God** will **redeem His people** from their **sin**.

the **Gospel Message** - **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

3 For I (Paul) delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,

that **Christ** died for **our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 and that **He** was **buried**, and that **He** was **raised** (resurrected) on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Q4: Does **Gen 3:15**, reveal that a **Christ-Savior** would **die** for our **Sins** and **be resurrected** from the **Dead** ?

A4: No, the (**woman's** descendant **Jesus**) shall bruise (crush) (**Satan's**) **head**,

which occurs when **Jesus** gives **Satan** his fatal blow or final eternal destruction, **Rev 20:10**.

Then (**Satan**) shall bruise **him** (**Jesus**) on the **heel** is **Satan's** influencing the Non-Fatal sufferings of **Jesus**.

COVENANT OF GOD — COVENANT OF MARRIAGE OF MAN AND WOMAN

God established a **Covenant** between the **Man** and the **Woman**.

The Key Texts are **Genesis 2:18–25**, **Proverbs 2:17**, and **Malachi 2:14**

Notice:

Genesis 2:18–25 is within the overall text that explains the **Covenant** with **Adam**, **Gen 2:15-17** and **Gen 3:1-24**

Q1: How do we know that **Genesis 2:18–25**, is a **Covenant** of **God** and that it Concerns **Marriage** ?

Read Malachi 2:13-16 Concerning **Divorcing Wives**

Oracle of **the Lord** through **Malachi** the Prophet, **1:1**, about **437 – 417 BC**

Malachi 2:14

14 “Yet **you** say, ‘For what **reason**?’ (does **the Lord** Not accept your offerings)

Because the Lord has been a witness between **you** and the **wife** of **your** youth,
against **whom you** have dealt treacherously, (by Divorcing **her**)

though **she is your** companion and **your wife** by **covenant**. (Key)

Proverbs 2:16-17

16 To deliver **you** from the **strange woman**, From the **adulteress** who flatters with **her** words;

17 That leaves the companion of **her** youth And forgets the **covenant** of **her God**; (Key)

COVENANT OF GOD — COVENANT OF MARRIAGE OF MAN AND WOMAN

Working Outline > Genesis 2:18–25 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible),

Read Genesis 2:18–25

I. **18** Then the **Lord** (yhwh) **God** (elohim) said,

A. “It is not good for the **man** (**ish**) to be **alone** (w/o someone else); (the problem)

B. **I will** make **him** a helper suitable (fit, likeness) for **him**.” (the problem solution) **2:20b**

II. **19** (Now) Out of the **ground** the **Lord God** (had, ESV) **formed**

A. every **beast** of the field and every **bird** of the sky, (formed male & female, **Gen 6:19**)

1. and brought **them** to the **man** to see what **he** would call **them**;

2. and whatever the **man** called a **living creature**, that was **its** name.

a. **20** The **man** gave names to all the **cattle**, and to the **birds** of the sky,

b. and (names) to every **beast** of the field,

i. **but** (contrast) for **Adam** there was not found

l. a helper suitable (fit, likeness) for **him**. (the problem restated) **2:18b**

III. **21** So the **Lord God** caused a deep sleep to fall upon the **man**, and **he** slept; (problem being resolved)

A. then **He** took one of **his ribs** and closed up the **flesh** at that place.

IV. **22** The **Lord God** fashioned (made) into a **woman** (**ishshah**) the **rib** (problem being resolved)

A. which **He** had taken from the **man** (**ish**),

1. and brought **her** to the **man** (**ish**). (problem of aloneness solved, suitable helper)

V. **23** The **man** (**ish**) said, “This (**woman**) is now **bone** of **my bones**, And **flesh** of **my flesh**; (**Gen 29:14**)

A. **She** shall be called **Woman** (**ishshah**),

1. **Because** (Reason) **she** was taken out of **man**.”

VI. **24** For this **reason** (because **woman** made a helper suitable (fit, likeness) for **him**, **2:18b**)

A. a **man** shall (future) **leave** **his** father and **his** mother, (assumes future parents)

B. and (shall) be **joined** (brought together) to **his wife** (**Woman, ishshah**); (assumes future marriage)

C. and **they** shall (future) **become** one **flesh**. (assumes future relations)

VII. **25** And the **man** (**ish**) and **his wife** (**Woman, ishshah**) (assumes married)

A. were **both** naked

B. and were not ashamed. (Not ashamed > to Not feel guilty for one’s actions)

Walk through Key Points of Outline and (parenthesis statements)

Questions of > **Genesis 2:18–25**

Q1: What was the **Problem** for **man**, according to **the Lord**, in **verse 18a** ?

A1:

Q2: What was **the Lord's** stated "**I will**" **Promise Solution** for the **Problem** for **man**, in **verse 18b** ?

A2:

Q3: What **3 Key Things** tell us this is **Marriage Union**, in **verse 24** ?

A3: (1) (2) (3)

Q4: What previously stated **Command** of **God**, in **Gen 1:28**, does intimate relations solve ? **Read Gen 1:28**

A4:

Q5: When is it said, the **man** and **woman** first have "relations" ? **Read Gen 4:1**

A5:

Q6: What does the **man** call **his wife** and what **Reason** is given for that name, in **Gen 3:20** ?

A6:

The **Man** and **Woman Formed** and **Given Life** and **Joined**, **Genesis 2:18**

First, "It is not good for the **man** to be alone (w/o someone else); (the problem)

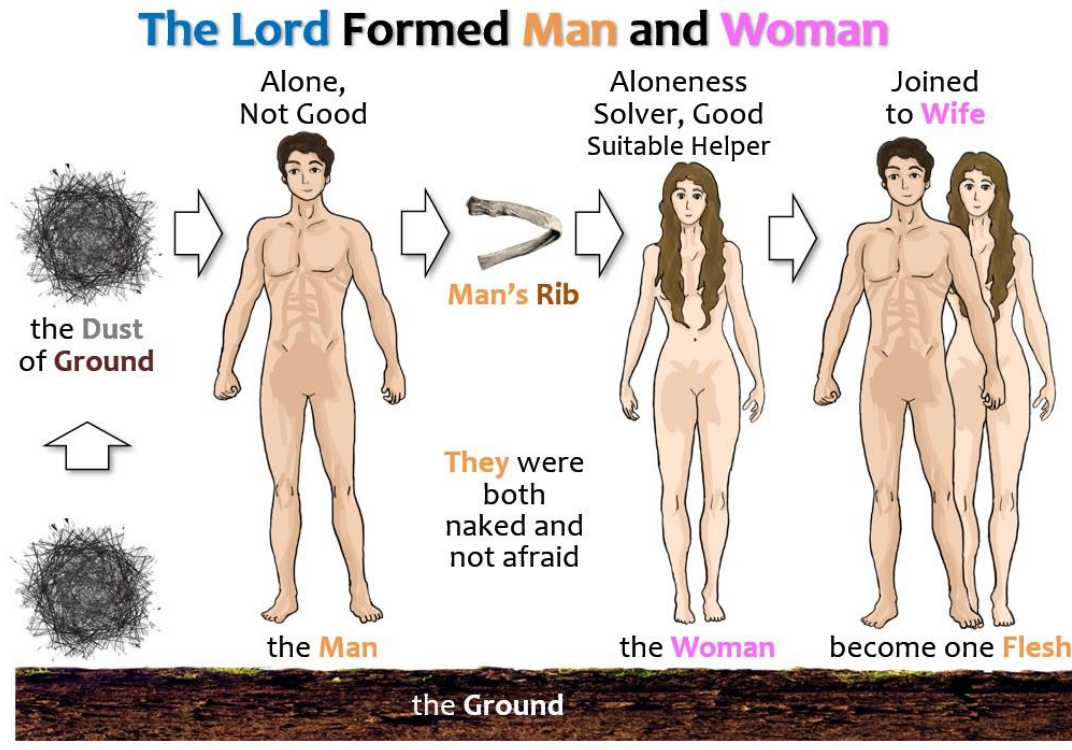
I will make **him** a helper suitable (fit, likeness) for **him**." (the problem solution) **2:20b**

Second, **Genesis 2:22a**

"The **Lord God fashioned** (made) into a **woman** the **rib** (from the **Man**)" (the problem solution made)

Third, **Genesis 2:22b**

(the **Lord**) "brought her to the **man**" (problem of aloneness solved, brought to Man)



Previously > The **Man** was **Formed** and **Given** Life, **Genesis 2:7**

- (1) “the **LORD God formed** (2:8) **man** of dust from the **ground**, (formed, the **flesh** of **man**)
- (2) and breathed into **his** nostrils the breath of life; (the **spirit** of **man**) (formed, **Zech 12:1**)
- (3) and **man** became a living **being** (**soul = flesh + spirit**).”
 (Gen 1:27, 3:19, 1 Cor 15:45, Job 33:4, Ps 103:14)

Read Psalm 139:13-16

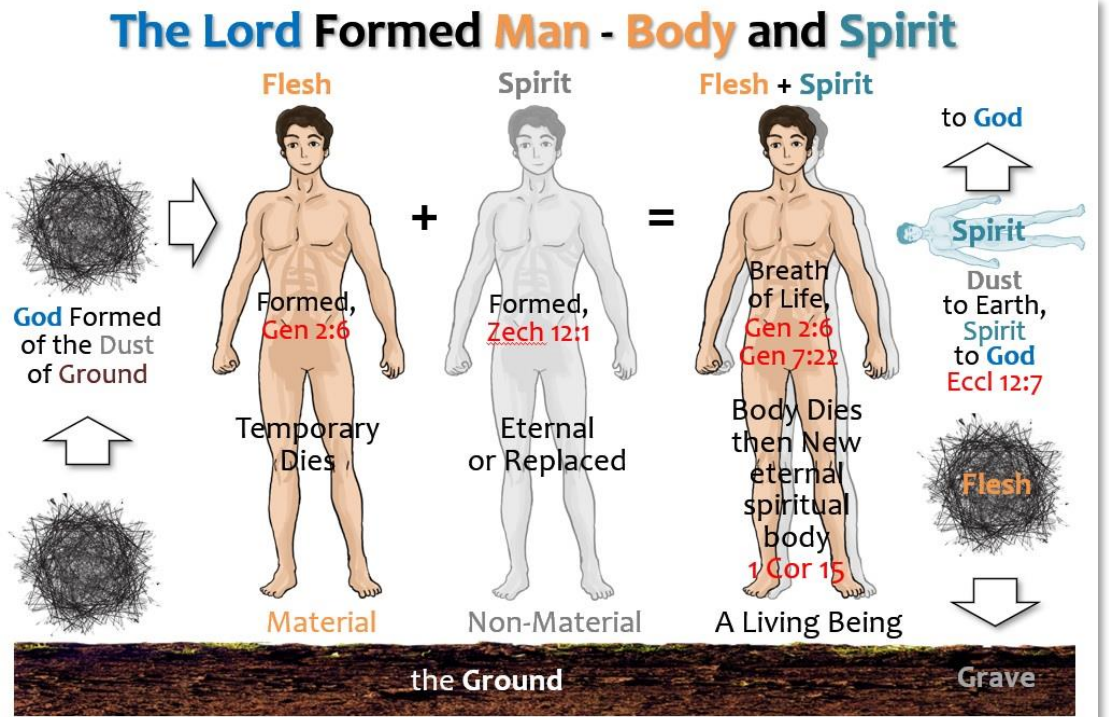
13 For **You** formed **my** inward parts; **You** wove **me** in **my** mother’s womb.

14 **I will** give thanks to **You**, for **I am** fearfully and wonderfully **made**; Wonderful are **Your** works, And **my** soul knows it very well.

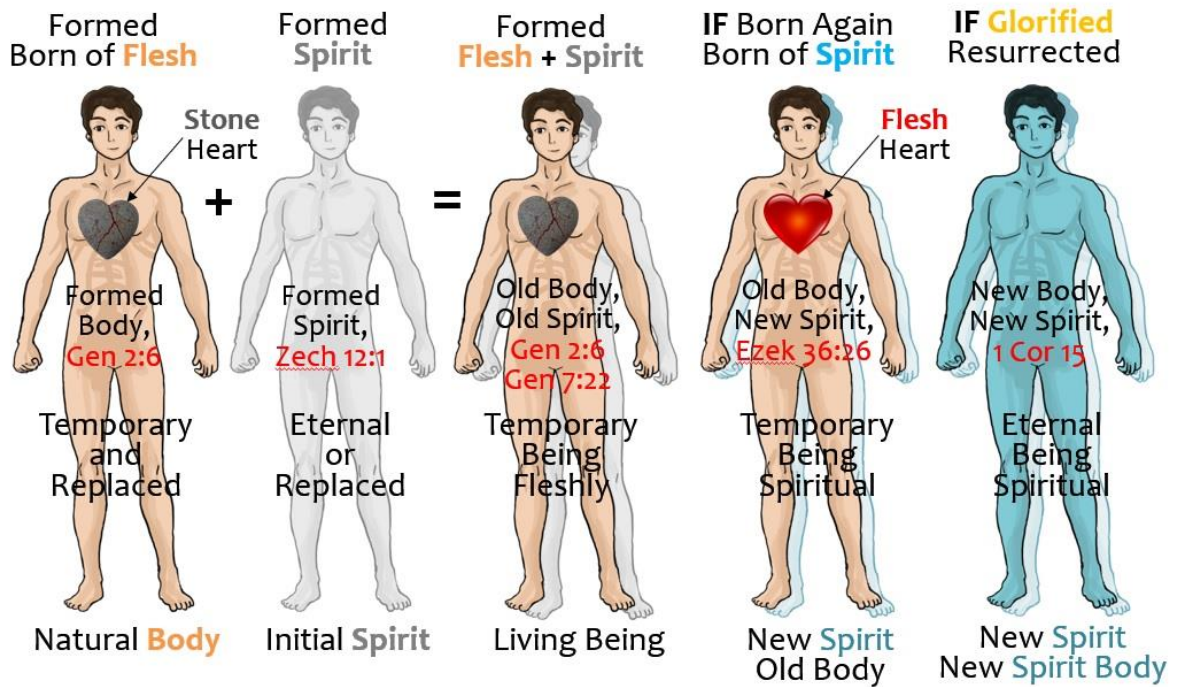
15 **My** frame was not hidden from **You**, When **I** was **made** in secret,

And skillfully **wrought** in the depths of the **earth**;

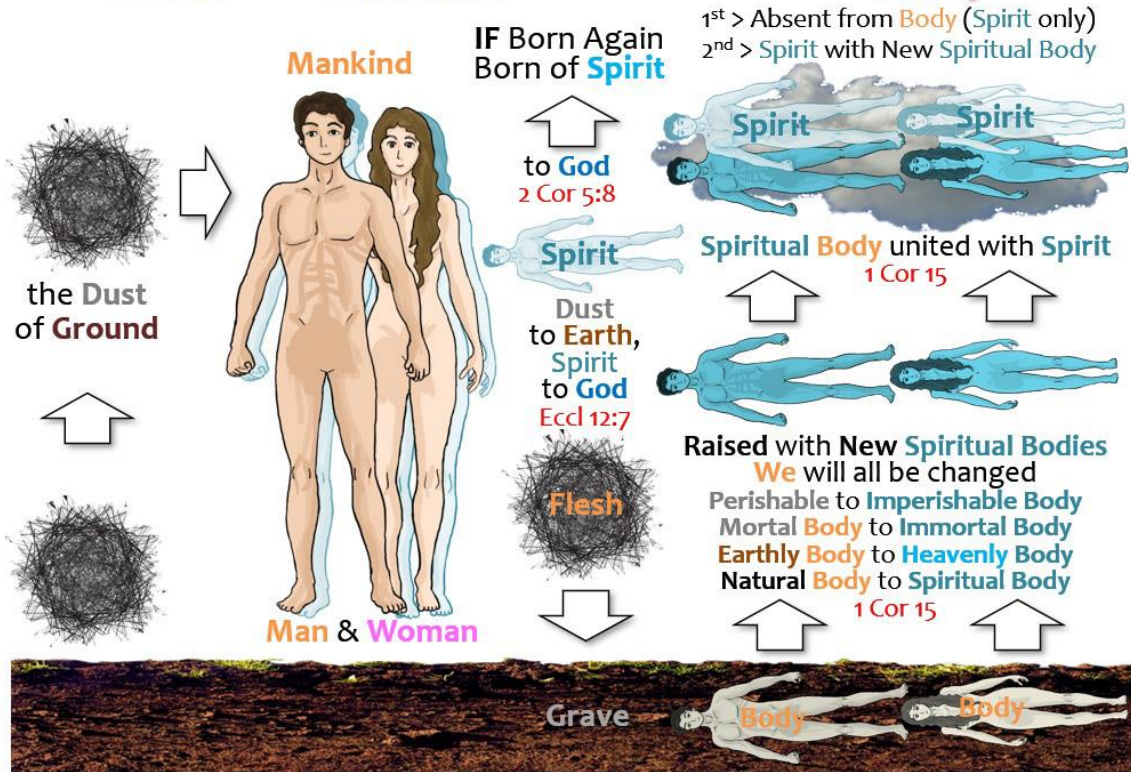
16 **Your** eyes have seen **my** unformed substance; And in **Your** book were all written The **days** that were **ordained** for **me**, When as yet there was not one of **them** (days).



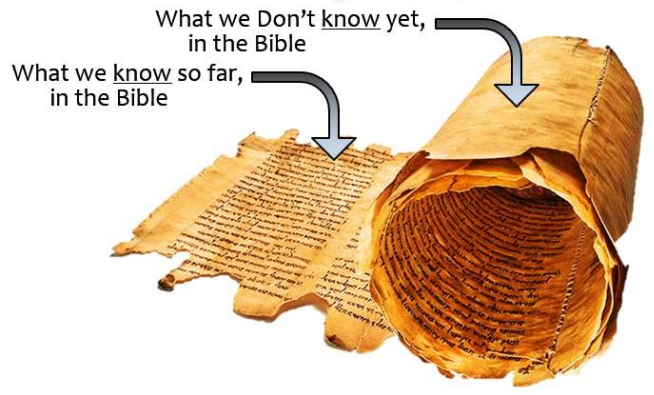
Man’s - Body and Spirit Stages



Man and Woman – from Dust to Glory



Covenants are Progressively Revealed



"When you start a book, you don't know what happens until you read the next chapter",

Kevin E. Hughes