

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**.

Covenants seen as under Various Dispensations

*"In theology, one meaning of the term **dispensation** is as a distinctive **arrangement** or **period in history** that forms the **framework** through which **God** relates to **mankind**."* wikipedia

1. **Covenants** under **Dispensations** > from **Reformed Theology** (**Covenant Theology**)
2. **Covenants** under **Dispensations** > from **Dispensational Theology**

Dispensational Theology,

is most known for using **Dispensations** to explain their **Theology**

Reformed Theology (**Covenant Theology**),

is most known for using **Covenants** to explain their **Theology**

BUT, Both **Reformed Theology** and **Dispensational Theology**,

use **Dispensations** with their **Theology**

AND, Both **Reformed Theology** and **Dispensational Theology**,

use **Covenants** with their **Theology**

Dispensational Theology,

follows their **Covenants** chronologically as progressively revealed in OT, Genesis to Malachi

Reformed Theology (**Covenant Theology**),

Does Not follow their **Covenants** chronologically as progressively revealed in OT.

It uses **Covenant** of **Redemption**, revealed in NT first, ("New is in the Old Concealed") then **Covenant** of **Works**, revealed in in OT, then **Covenant** of **Grace**, as seen in OT and NT

Theological Covenants and Non-Theological Covenants

Theological Covenants > **Covenants** according to a particular **Biblical Theology**, **they** use the Bible (Not Alone) along with adopted Confessions, Creeds, Catechisms, Church Father's writings, Reformation + Post-Reformation writings, Commentaries and Theologies.

As in, Augustine, Medieval Church, Catholic Church, Protestant Reformation and Post-Reformation

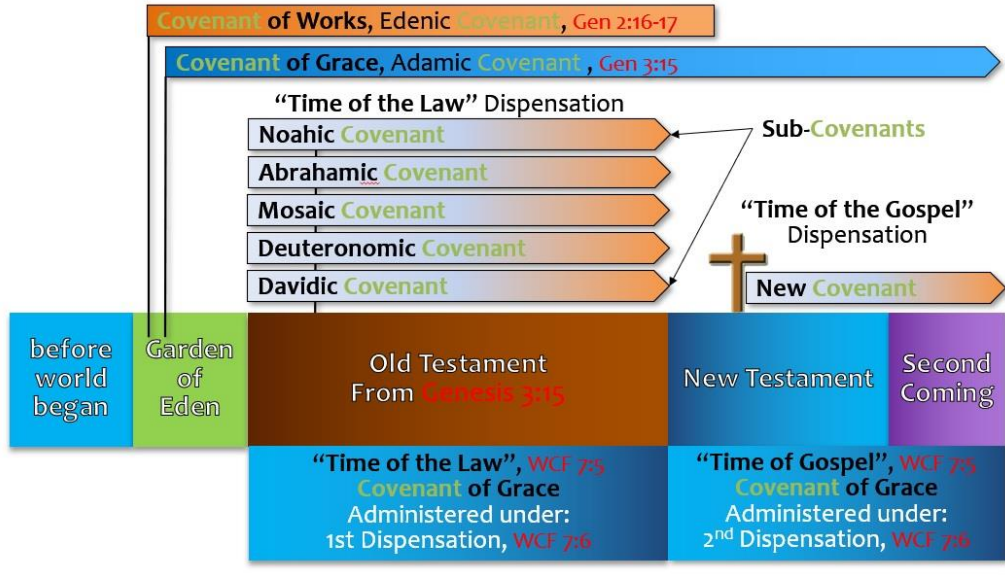
Non-Theological Covenants > **Covenants** Not according to a particular **Biblical Theology**, **they** use the Bible (Alone), without adopted Confessions, Creeds, Catechisms, Church Father's writings, Reformation + Post-Reformation writings, Commentaries and Theologies.

Scripture alone Used, usually in a **Chronological Progressive Order** given in Bible.

1647 - Westminster Confession of Faith [Reformed and Covenant Theology]
 2 **Covenants**: 1st **Covenant of Works** and 2nd **Covenant of Grace**

Major & Sub-Covenants: Covenant Theology 1647 Westminster Confession of Faith

2 Major **Covenants** + 2 Major **Dispensations**

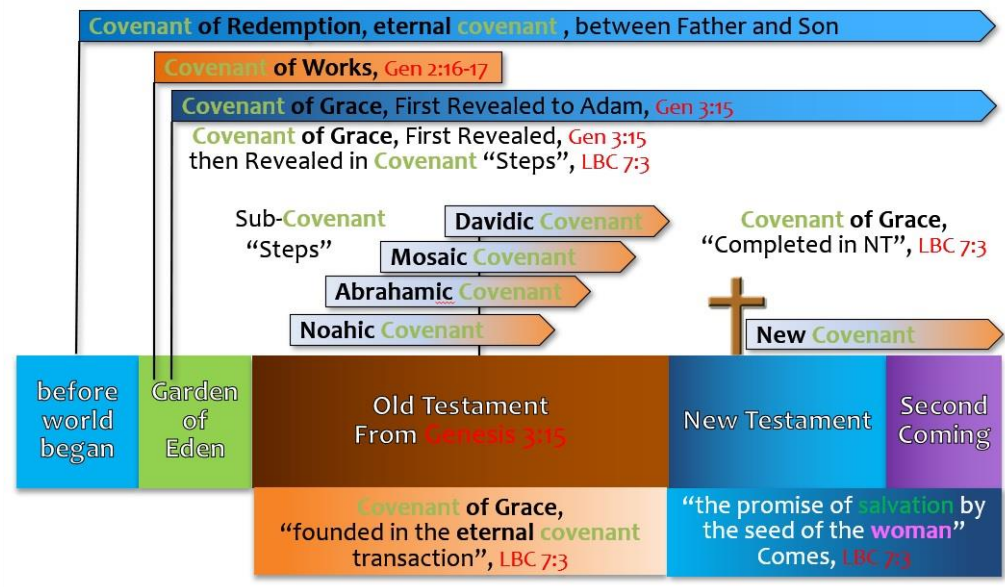


Reformed Theology
 is
 Covenant Theology

1689 - 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith [Reformed and Covenant Theology]
 3 **Covenants**: 1st **Covenant of Redemption**, 2nd **Covenant of Works**, 3rd **Covenant of Grace**

Major & Sub-Covenants: Covenant Theology 1689 Second London Baptist Confession

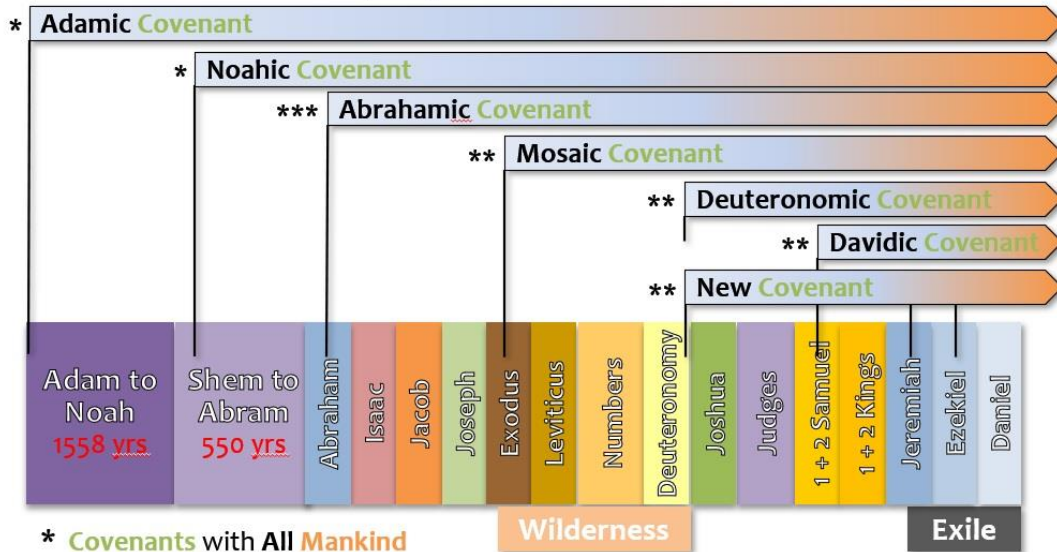
3 Major **Covenants** (No Dispensations mentioned)



Reformed Theology
 is
 Covenant Theology

Major Covenants: Dispensational Theology

7 Major Covenants



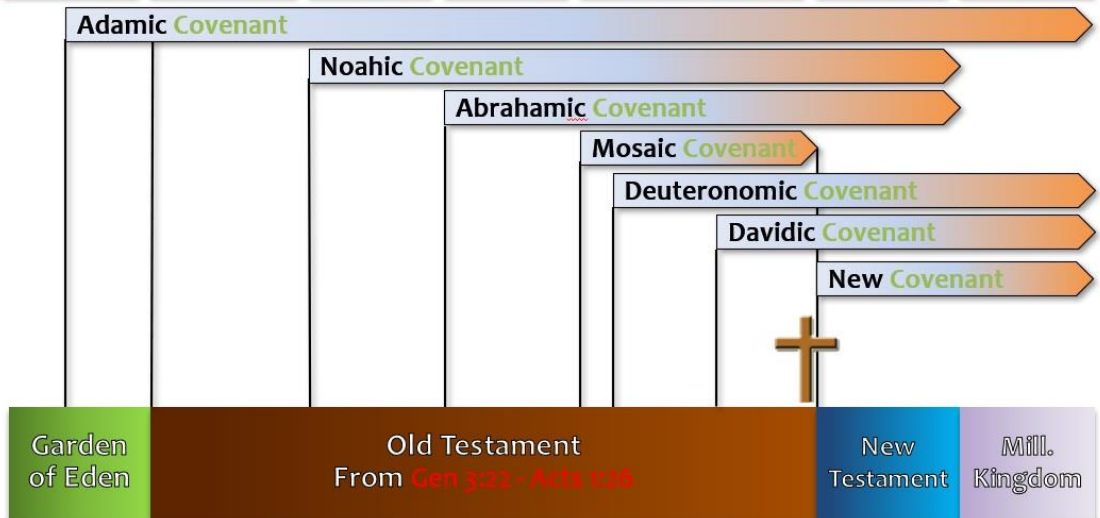
- * Covenants with **All Mankind**
- ** Covenants with **Nation of Israel**
- *** Covenant (1) with **Abraham's Descendants**, **Israel** (2) with **All Families (Nations)**

Covenants and Promises belong to **Israel, Rom 9:4**
 Except * **All Mankind Covenants** > with (2) **All Families (Nations)**

Major Covenants: Dispensational Theology

7 Major Covenants + 7 Major Dispensations

Edenic	Adamic	Noahic	Abramic	Mosaic	New Cov	New Cov
Innocence Gen 1:1 - Gen 3:21	Conscience Gen 3:22 - Gen 8:12	Civil Gov. Gen 8:13 - Gen 11:32	Promise Gen 12:1 - Ex 18:27	Law Ex 19:1 - Acts 1:26	Grace Acts 2:1 - Rev 19:21	Mill. Kingdom Rev 20:1-7



Dispensational Theology, is Not primarily based on **Dispensations**,
 but is based on a consistent **Literal, Historical, and Grammatical** method of **Interpretation**.

Covenants given to All Mankind

Some Covenants apply to All Mankind like the Covenant with Adam. It applied to all those born after him, his future descendants. Everyone ever born is a descendant of Adam, except Christ who is the seed of the woman and not the physical descendant of Adam but of the Holy Spirit as the son of God, Lk 1:35.

Another Covenant applied to All Mankind is the Covenant with Noah. All people on the earth were corrupt, except Noah, so the Lord said He would destroy them and the earth, Gen 6:13. It applied to all those born after him, his future descendants or seed, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Gen 6:10, Gen 10 & 11.

Covenants given to the Nation of Israel

Covenant with Abraham

PART 1 applied first to Abraham's physical descendants, the Nation of Israel (Abraham to Christ, in OT)
"I will make you (Abraham) a Great Nation", Gen 12:2.

PART 2 applied next to all families or nations, everyone Not of the Nation of Israel (the Gentiles)
"in you (Abraham) all families (nations) blessed", Gen 12:3, Acts 3:25.

Covenant with Moses

Applies to Abraham's physical descendants, the Nation of Israel, Read Exodus 19:1-6
No Gentiles involved

Covenant with David

Applies to Abraham's physical descendants, the Nation of Israel
David to be ruler over the Lord's People (Israel) forever, Read 2 Sam 7:8, 7:16
No Gentiles involved

The New Covenant

Given to Abraham's physical descendants, the Nation of Israel Read Jer 31:31-34

PART 1 applied first in NT to Abraham's physical descendants, the Nation of Israel
a "chosen" "remnant" of the Nation of Israel, the rest were hardened. Read Rom 11:1-10

The "chosen" "remnant", "devote Jews from every nation" Read Acts 2:5, 2:41, 4:4, 21:20
Read Rom 11:25-32

"this mystery... that a partial hardening has happened to Israel
until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; Rom 11:25

"then all Israel will be saved", Rom 11:26

When Saved? When "the Deliverer comes and removes all ungodliness from Jacob", Rom 11:27

PART 2 applied next to all families or nations, everyone Not of the Nation of Israel (the Gentiles)
Then "chosen" of the Gentiles, that will be saved, before the Deliverer comes, Rom 11:26

First Saul (Paul) was "chosen" by the Lord to go to the Gentiles, Read Acts 9:15

Then, "the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Gentiles", Read Acts 10:43-11:1

The Holy Spirit is poured out, until "the fullness of the Gentiles"

or until all "chosen" Gentiles have been saved, that will be saved, before the Deliverer comes, Rom 11:26

Covenants for: Mankind, Jew, & Gentiles

All Mankind - Covenants

Adamic Covenant

Noahic Covenant

Nation of Israel - Covenants

Abrahamic Covenant – Part 1

“I will make you a Great Nation”, Gen 12:2
“descendant/tribe of Abraham”, Rom 11:1
“from your own Body, heir”, Gen 15:4

Mosaic Covenant

Deuteronomic Covenant

Davidic Covenant

New Covenant – Part 1

Remnant of Israel, saved, Rom 11:4
“Some branches broken off”, Rom 11:17-20
“mystery, partial hardening of Israel”, Rom 11:25
“and so all Israel will be saved; just as written,
“the deliverer will come from Zion,
he will remove ungodliness from Jacob, this My
(New) Covenant with them, when I take away
their sins, Rom 11:25-26, Isa 59:20-21, Jer 31:33

Gentile (all not Israel) - Covenants

Abrahamic Covenant – Part 2

“in you all families (nations) blessed”, Gen 12:3
“those of faith, sons of Abraham”, Gal 3:7
Gentiles: Not from Abraham’s Body, heirs
Gentiles: Not Physical, But Spiritual heirs

New Covenant – Part 2

mystery, Gentiles are fellow heirs, Eph 3:6
“to bring to light what is the administration
of the mystery which for ages has been hidden
in God who created all things, Eph 3:9, Col 1:26-27
Gentiles: mystery, are
fellow heirs (with Israel),
fellow members of the body (of Christ)
fellow partakers of the promise (New Cov), Eph 3:1-6

All saved of the Nation of Israel and saved of the Gentiles, are Sons of Abraham

(1) All saved of the Nation of Israel that are physical Sons of Abraham

OR All those descendants from Abraham’s body, will be heirs, Read Gen 15:4

Galatians 3:7

7 “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”

Those of faith > of physical Sons of Abraham, of the Nation of Israel

(2) All saved of the Gentiles that are Not physical Sons of Abraham

OR All saved of the Gentiles that are spiritual Sons of Abraham

Galatians 3:7

7 “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”

Those of faith > of spiritual Sons of Abraham, of the Gentiles

Galatians 3:8-9

8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,
preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying,

“ALL THE NATIONS (All families) WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.” (from Gen 12:3, we read)

9 So then those (either Jew or Gentile) who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

This is the mystery, that Gentiles are fellow heirs with Israel, Read Eph 3:1-7

“to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery

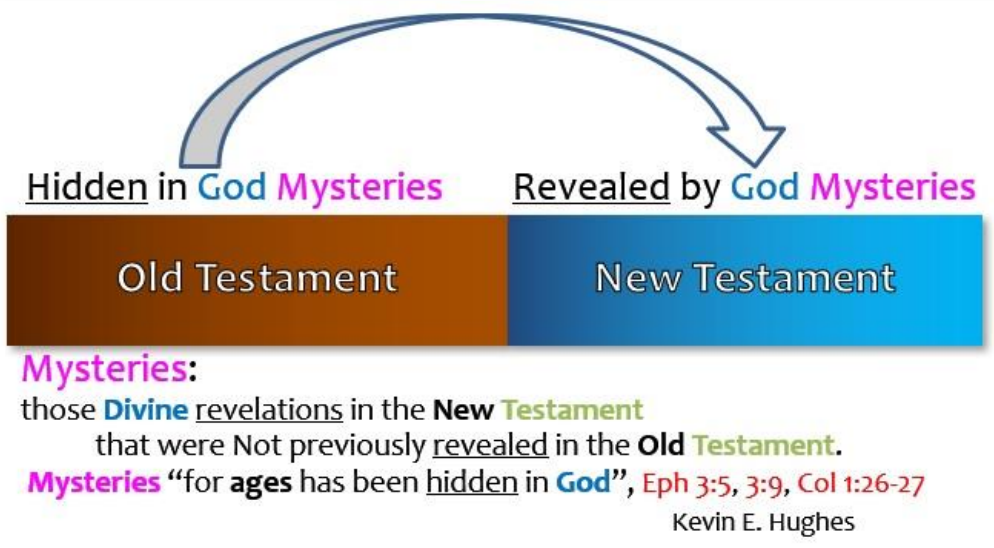
which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things, Eph 3:9, Col 1:26-27

The mystery concerning the Gentiles, Eph 3:6

That the Gentiles: are fellow heirs (with Israel)

That the Gentiles: fellow members of the body (of Christ) (with Israel)

That the Gentiles: fellow partakers of the promise (New Cov), Eph 3:1-6, (with Israel)



The **Mystery** of **Israel's** Hardening

that **Israel** partially Hardened

Romans 11:25

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this **mystery**

.... that a partial **hardening** has happened to **Israel** until the fullness of the **Gentiles** has come in;

Romans 11:7-10

7 What then? What **Israel** is seeking, **it** has not obtained,

but **those** (of **Israel**) who were **chosen** obtained it, and the rest (of **Israel**) were **hardened**;

8 just as it is written, (from **Isa 6:9-10**)

“**God** gave **them** a spirit of stupor, Eyes to see not and ears to hear not, Down to this very day.”

(**Israel Hardened**)

(**Isa 6:9-10**, **Matt 13:14-15**, **Mark 4:12**, **Luke 8:10**, **John 12:40**, **Acts 28:26-27**, **Rom 11:8**, **2 Cor 3:14**)

9 And **David** says,

“Let **their** table become a snare and a trap, And a stumbling block and a retribution to **them**.”

10 “Let **their** eyes be darkened to see not, And bend **their** backs forever.”

(**Israel Hardened**, until given a **heart** to know **God**, **Jer 31:33**, **Ezek 36:25-28**)

The **Mystery** of **Gentiles**

that the **Gentiles** are fellow **heirs**, **members**, and **partakers** of **promise** (with **Israel**), **Eph 3:6**

Ephesians 3:1-6

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of **Christ Jesus** for the sake of **you Gentiles**—

2 if indeed **you** have heard of the stewardship of **God's** grace which was given to me for **you**;

3 that by **revelation** there was made **known** to me the **mystery**, as I wrote before in brief.

4 By referring to this, when **you** read **you** can understand my insight into the **mystery** of **Christ**,

5 which in other generations was **not made known** to the **sons of men**,

as **it** has **now been revealed** to **His** holy **apostles** and **prophets** in the **Spirit**;

6 to be specific, (about **Mystery**)

that the **Gentiles** are fellow **heirs** (with **Israel**)

and fellow **members** (with **Israel**) of the body, (of **Christ**)

and fellow **partakers** (with **Israel**) of the **promise** in **Christ Jesus**

through **the gospel**,