

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**.

Change in Approach to the Study of **Covenants**

This Lesson we are changing from studying what a **Covenant** is and what different scholars over the centuries believe about the **Covenants** to actually studying the **Covenants** for ourselves. We will be starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament and look 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 **Covenant** based on certain criteria, such as the **Definition** of a **Covenant** hereon.

First **God** Creates the **Heavens** and the **Earth**, **Gen 1:1**.

Then **God** made all living creatures on the fifth and sixth days of **His** creation, including **Man**, **Gen 1:20-27**.

Read **Genesis 1:26-28**

26 Then **God** said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; and let **them rule over** the fish of the sea and **over** the birds of the sky and **over** the cattle and (**rule**) over all the earth, and **over** every creeping thing that creeps on the **earth**." **Ps 8:6**

27 **God** created **man** in **His** own image, in the image of **God He** created him; **male** and **female He** created them.

28 **God** **blessed them**; and **God** said to **them**, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the **earth**, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and **over** the birds of the sky and **over** every living thing that moves on the **earth**."

Q1: In **verse 26-27**, What **2 things** did **God** (**Elohim, Us God**) make **Man** "according to" ?

A1: "in **Our** (**Elohim, Us God's**) image (form), according to Our likeness (resemblance)", in **His** Image.

Q2: In **verse 26**, What is the **purpose** for **Man**, as given by **God** ?

A2: **God's** purpose for **Man** is to "rule over" the sea, the sky, and the **earth** creatures.....

Q3: In **verse 28**, What **4 things** or **actions** is **Man** to "Be" and Do, according to **God** ?

A3: (1) Be fruitful and multiply, (2) fill the **earth**, (3) subdue it (**earth**); and (4) rule over all creatures on **it**.

These things are mandated by **God** to **Man**, according to **God's Purpose** and **Will**.

Man is to subdue (bring into submission) and rule over (to exercise authority over) the **Earth**.

Man is to rule over all the **earth** as in a "**Theocratic Kingdom**"

Theocratic Kingdom > The **Rule** of **God**, through a **divinely** chosen representative (**man**), **who** speaks and acts for **God**. *Alva McClain, The Greatness of the Kingdom*

A **Kingdom** > always has a **King**, a **Land**, and a **People**

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM - GIVEN

Genesis 2:15–17 is commonly considered a Covenant of God. **Read** Hosea 6:6-7

Working Outline > **Genesis 2:15–17** (a portion of, a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible), **Gen 2:10-17**

Read **Genesis 2:15–17**



- I. 15 Then the **Lord** (yhwh) **God** (elohim) took the **man**
 - A. and put **him** into the **garden of Eden**
 1. to cultivate **it** and keep **it**.
 - B. 16 The **Lord God** **commanded** (authoritatively ordered) the **man**, saying,
 1. “From any **tree** of the **garden** (with, the **tree** of **Life**, 2:9) **you** may **eat** freely;
 - C. 17 **but** (exception) from the **tree** of the **knowledge** (for knowing) of **good** and **evil**
 1. **you** shall not **eat**,
 - D. **for** (Reason) in the day that **you** eat from **it**
 1. **you** will surely **die**.”

Q1: In **verse 15**, What are the **Purposes** given by **God**, for **Man** in the **Garden** ?

A1: **God’s Purpose** for **Man** is for **him** to “cultivate” and “keep” the **Garden**

Q2: What 2 Part **Command** (order) did **God** give to **Man**, in **verse 16** ?

A2: (1) **you** may eat freely of any **tree** (2) But of **tree** of the knowledge of **good** and **evil**, **you** shall not **eat**.
So **Adam** was **Commanded** (ordered) to freely eat of any **tree**, except one **tree**.

Q3: Were these **Commands** initiated by **God** and considered a **Covenant criteria** ? **A3:** Yes

Q4: What if any **Conditions** was **God** to fulfil, in this **Covenant** ? **A4:** None

Q5: What if any **Conditions** was **Adam** to fulfil, in this **Covenant** ? **A5:** Not **Eat** of **Tree** of **good** and **evil**

Q6: Is a **Curse** implied for Not obeying **God’s Command**, to Not Eat of **tree** ?

A6: Yes, if **Adam** ate of **tree**, **he** would surely **die**. **Curse:** to *inflict harm or punishment on another*

Q7: How do we know if an actual **Curse** will occur?

A7: By knowing the rest of what happened, in **Gen 3:16-19**, the **Curse** of **Adam** and the **Woman**.

Q8: Is a **Blessing** implied for obeying **God’s Command**, to Not Eat of **tree** ?

A8: Yes, implied that **Adam** will remain in **his** original state of **Blessing** with **God**, **Gen 1:28**
Gen 1:28, **God** had **Blessed** **them** when **they** were Created

Q9: Is the word “**Covenant**” used ? **A9:** No

Q10: Are **promises** of **God** present, as in “**I Will**” statements ? **A10:** No

Q11: Are **promises** of **God** present, as in “**Command**” statements ?

A11: Yes, **God’s Commands** imply that **He** is obligated by **His word** to follow through, as in a **Promise**.

Promise: “a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified” *Websters*

Q13: Is this **Adamic Covenant** a **Conditional** or **Un-Conditional Covenant** ? **A13:** **Conditional Covenant**

Q14: Do these **verses** qualify as, a stand alone **Major Covenant**, as many Commentators say ?

A14: Well, these **verses** do reveal some aspects of a **Major Covenant**.

Like, this being a **Promise** of **God**, as seen through **His Command**

Like, being initiated by **God**

Like, a Condition for **Man** to fulfill

Like, implied **Cursing** for disobedience, though in a **Blessed** state, as in **you** will surely **Die**.

Like, being called a **Covenant** in **Hos 6:6-7**

But it seems best to consider the Bigger Picture of **Gen 2:15-17** and **Gen 3:1-24**

This means that to confirm the **Adamic Covenant** as a **Covenant**

you need to understand all that occurred, between **Gen 2:15 – Gen 3:24**.

There we will see more about the actual disobeying, the **Fall** from **Blessing** of **God**, the **Cursing**, the **Tree** of **good** and **evil**, the **Tree** of **Life**, and the **Serpents** Role in the events etc...

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM - BROKEN

Working Outline > Genesis 3:1-7 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible),



Read Genesis 3:1-7

- I. 1 Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any beast of the field (Rev 12:9)
 - A. which the **Lord God** had made.
 - B. And **he** said to the **woman**, “Indeed, has **God** said, (**Serpent’s** Doubt)
 1. ‘**You** shall **not eat** from any **tree** of the **garden**?’”
- II. 2 The **woman** said to the **serpent**, (**Woman’s** Response)
 - A. “From the fruit of the **trees** of the **garden** we may **eat**;
 - B. 3 but from the fruit of the **tree** (of **Good** and **Evil**) which is in the middle of the **garden**,
 - C. **God** has said, ‘**You** shall **not eat** from **it** or touch **it**, or **you** will **die**.’”
- III. 4 The **serpent** said to the **woman**, “**You** surely will **not die**! (**Serpent’s** Lie, Deception, & Temptation)
 - A. 5 “For **God** knows that in the day **you eat** from **it**
 1. **your** eyes will be opened,
 2. and **you** will be like **God**,
 - a. knowing **good** and **evil**.” (like **Tree** name)
- IV. 6 When the **woman** saw that (**Woman** Contemplates Lie and **Her** fleshly Desires) 2 Cor 11:3
 - A. the **tree** was good for food, (desirable to mouth)
 - B. and that **it** was a **delight to the eyes**, (desirable to eyes)
 - C. and that the **tree** was **desirable to make one wise**, (desirable knowledge, Like **God’s**)
- V. **she** took from **its** fruit and **ate**; (**Woman** gives in to, Lie and **Her** fleshly Desires, Deceived) Gen 3:13
 - A. and **she** gave (fruit) also to **her husband** with **her**, (**Woman** shares **Her** Deception) Gen 3:12
 1. and **he** (**Adam**) **ate**. (**Adam** Not Deceived, 1 Tim 2:14, But **Adam** listened to **Woman**, Gen 3:17)
- VI. 7 Then the eyes (mind’s eyes) of both of **them** were opened,
 - A. and **they** knew that **they** were **naked** (exposed, ashamed, afraid); Gen 2:25, Gen 3:10, Isa 47:3
 - B. and **they** sewed **fig leaves** together and made themselves loin coverings. (covered or hid shame)

Q1: What does this have to do with **God’s Covenant** with **Adam**, in Gen 3:15-17 ?

A1: In Gen 2:15-17, the **Covenant** is **Given** and here in Gen 3:1-7, the **Covenant** is **Broken**.

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM - TRIAL

Read Genesis 3:8-13

- I. 8 **They** heard the sound of the **Lord God** walking in the **garden** in the cool of the day,
 - A. and the **man** and **his wife** hid themselves from the presence of the **Lord God**
 1. among the **trees** of the **garden**.
- II. 9 Then the **Lord God** called to the **man**, and said to **him**, “Where are **you**?”
- III. 10 **He** said, “**I** heard the sound of **You** in the **garden**,
 - A. and **I** was **afraid** because **I** was **naked** (feeling guilty, disgraced, or ashamed); Read Gen 2:25
 1. so **I hid myself**.” (shame, guilt often drives one to hide or deny act or defer blame) Ezra 9:6
- IV. 11 And **He** said, “Who told **you** that **you** were **naked** ?
 - A. Have **you eaten** from the **tree**
 1. of which **I commanded you not to eat** ?” (the **Covenant** reminder, Gen 2:15-17)
- V. 12 The **man** said, “The **woman** whom **You** gave to be with **me**, (deferred Blame)
 - A. **she gave me** from the **tree**, and **I ate**.” (did not take from **tree** himself)
- VI. 13 Then the **Lord God** said to the **woman**, “What is this **you** have done?”
 - A. And the **woman** said, “The **serpent** deceived me, and **I ate**.” (deferred Blame)

Q1: What does this have to do with **God’s Covenant** with **Adam**, in Gen 2:15-17 and Gen 3:1-7 ?

A1: In Gen 2:15-17 the **Covenant** is **Given**, in Gen 3:1-7 the **Covenant** is **Broken**, and here in Gen 3:8-13 is the **Covenant Breakers Trial**, with Questioning and Excuses

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM — SENTENCING OF THE WOMAN THE CURSE OF THE WOMAN — FOR BREAKING COVENANT

Read Genesis 3:16

- I. 16 To the woman He said,
 - A. “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth,
 - B. In pain you will bring forth children;
 - C. Yet (No Yet, in Hebrew) your desire will be for your husband,
 1. And he will rule over you.”

Q1: What are the 3 main aspects of the woman’s Curse ?

A1: (1) extra pain in childbirth, (2) desire (longing) will be for her husband, (3) husband will rule over her

Notice:

Woman Not Blamed for Listening to Serpent or for being an accessory to Adam’s eating.

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM — SENTENCING OF THE MAN THE CURSE OF THE MAN — FOR BREAKING COVENANT

Read Genesis 3:17–19

- I. 17 Then to Adam He said,
 - A. “Because (Reason) you have listened to the voice of your wife,
 - B. and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you,
 1. saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; (the Covenant reminder, Gen 2:15-17)
 2. Cursed is the ground because (Reason) of you;
 3. In toil you will eat of it
 - a. All the days of your life.
 4. 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
 5. And you will eat the plants of the field;
 6. 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread,
 - a. Till (until) you return to the ground, (surely dying) (Covenant stipulation, Gen 2:17)
 7. Because (Reason) from it you were taken;
 - a. For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.” (assumes the grave & death)

Q1: What is the Reason given by God for Cursing Adam, in verse 17 ?

A1: for listening to what his wife said, concerning Satan’s Deception, and Trusting-Believing in what she said, about what Satan said, and then eating the fruit.

Notice:

Basically Adam did Not Trust in what God had said, But Trusted in what his wife’s said.

Q2: What is the Key Thing Cursed by God, relating to Adam ?

A2: “the ground” was Cursed which led Toil to Eat, instead of Freely Eating from any Tree.

Q3: What does this have to do with God’s Covenant with Adam, in Gen 2:15-17 and Gen 3:1-7 ?

A3: In Gen 2:15-17 the Covenant is Given, in Gen 3:1-7 the Covenant is Broken, in Gen 3:8-13 is the Covenant Breakers Trial, and here in Gen 3:16-19 is the Covenant Breakers Sentencing.

This is like our Justice system Today.

- (1) You are given the Law to Obey
- (2) You Break the Law
- (3) You are Given a Trial to Test for Guilt
- (4) Then if found Guilty, You are Sentenced by the Law Giver, with a prescribed Punishment.

COVENANT OF GOD WITH ADAM — SENTENCING OF THE ACCOMPLICE THE CURSE OF THE SERPENT — FOR DECEIVING WOMAN

Read Genesis 3:14–15

- I. 14 The Lord God said to the serpent (Satan, Rev 12:9),
 1. “Because (Reason) you have done this (Deceiving and Lying),
 - B. Cursed are you [Curse: divine power, inflicts harm or punishment on another]
 1. (Cursed) more than all cattle, (cattle Cursed)
 2. And (Cursed) more than every beast of the field; (every beast Cursed)
 - C. On your belly you will go,
 1. And dust you will eat, (brought low, humiliated) Mic 7:17, Isa 65:25
 - a. All the days of your life;
- II. 15 And I will put enmity (hostility) Between you (Satan) and the woman,
 - A. And (enmity) between your seed (descendants) and her seed (descendant); Matt 13:24-30, 34-35
 1. He (woman’s seed, descendant) shall bruise (crush) you (Satan) on the head, Rom 16:20
 2. And you (Satan) shall bruise him (woman’s seed, descendant) on the heel.”

Q1: What does verse 14, have to do with God’s Covenant with Adam, in Gen 2:15-17 and Gen 3:1-7 ?

A1: the serpent, got between God and His Covenant with Man and usurped God, without the legal right.

The Covenant was Not with the serpent, But between God and Man, it was none of his business !

God Tested or Tried Man to Not Eat, to see if he would trust and obey Him, or His Covenant.

God Tested Man’s Faith, Jam 1:3, because “Blessed is the man that perseveres under Trial”, Jam 1:12.

Later we will see how God Tested Abraham’s Faith, Gen 22:1-2, concerning Isaac,

and how God Tested the Sons of Israel Faith, Ex 20:20, with His Ten Commandments.

The US God, wanted Man to Rule the Earth, Gen 1:26, the serpent didn’t want Man to Rule the Earth.

The serpent wanted Man to Fail in his God given Role as a Ruler of the Earth.

Q2: So WHY was Serpent Cursed ?

A2: the Serpent, was Cursed for:

Deceiving the Woman that led to Her and the Man breaking God’s Covenant with them, in Gen 2:15-17.

In verse 15a, God put enmity (hostility) Between Satan and the woman.

This Leads to thousands of years of hostility (enmity) of Satan toward the Woman, Gen 3:15a, Rev 12:17

In verse 15b, God put enmity between Satan’s seed (descendants, plural)
and the woman’s seed (descendant, singular).

This Leads to hostility (enmity) of Satan toward “her seed”,

the Woman’s seed (descendants, plural) and to the Woman’s seed (descendant, singular)

Q3: Who are the Woman’s seed (descendants, plural) ?

A3: the Woman’s seed (descendants, plural) are all those future Offspring of the Woman.

They are all those future Offspring-Descendants or children that Women will Bear in the future.

These Offspring will ultimately become either, children of Satan or children of God.

Q4: Who is a Woman’s seed (descendant, singular) ?

A4: the Woman’s seed (descendant, singular) is the future Offspring of the Woman.

The future Offspring-Descendant or child that a Woman will Bear in the future.

Q5: Does Gen 3:15 tell us Who this Woman’s seed (descendant, singular) child is, or Who the Woman is ?

A5: No, it only tells us What this child will do to Satan, specifically that future child will, bruise Satan’s head.
it also says, that he, Satan, will bruise that future child on the heel.

Q6: But don't we know many, many more things about this **Woman's seed** (descendant, singular) **child** ?

A6: We know, only What is revealed to **Satan**, overheard by **Adam**, and described by **Moses**, so far, in **Genesis 3:15**.

Q7: But don't we know about this **Woman's seed** (descendant, singular) **child**, from the rest of the Bible ?

A7: Yes, We know many things as **Progressively Revealed** as said on Page 1 of this Lesson.

"We will be starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament and look how **they** are **Chronologically** and **Progressively Revealed** and how each **Covenant** builds or does not build on each previous **Covenant**."

Q8: But can't we know Who this **Woman's seed** (descendant, singular) **child**, from the rest of the Bible ?

A8: Yes, **First** we know, the **Woman's seed** (descendant) will crush **Satan**, **Gen 3:15b**

Second we know, the 75 Descendants of the **Woman** (Eve), from **Adam** to **Jesus**, **Luke 3:23-38**

Luke 3 is **Eve's Descendants** (descendants, plural), the 75 Generations from **Adam** to **Mary**.

We know that **Mary's offspring** (descendant, singular), was born of a **Woman**,

Born by the **Holy Spirit** and Power of **God**, **Holy offspring** shall be called the **Son of God**, **Read Lk 1:35**

Mary's offspring ("seed of the **woman**") through **Eve**, in **her** womb, was to be Named **Jesus**, **Luke 1:31**

Q9: What does this have to do with **God's Covenant** with **Adam**, in **Gen 2:15-17** and **Gen 3:1-7** ?

A9: In **Gen 2:15-17**, the **Covenant** is **Given**, in **Gen 3:1-7**, the **Covenant** is **Broken**,

in **Gen 3:8-13**, is the **Covenant Breakers Trial**, in **Gen 3:16-19**, is the **Covenant Breakers Sentencing**,

and here in **Gen 3:14-15**, is the **Covenant Breakers Accomplice Sentencing**. (See Chart, on last page)

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 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**.

[See more Comments on this in Lesson 06]

Q1: Is the word "**Covenant**" or the word "**Grace**" used in **Gen 3:15**? **A1:** No

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

A2: The focus is about **God's Promise** to **Satan**, that **he** will be crushed, in the future.

Q3: Does **Gen 3:15**, say anything about "**salvation**" or "**redemption**" or a "**atonement**" ? **A3:** No

Q4: Does **Gen 3:15**, say anything about a "**Savior**" or "**shedding of blood**" for **Sins**? **A4:** No

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

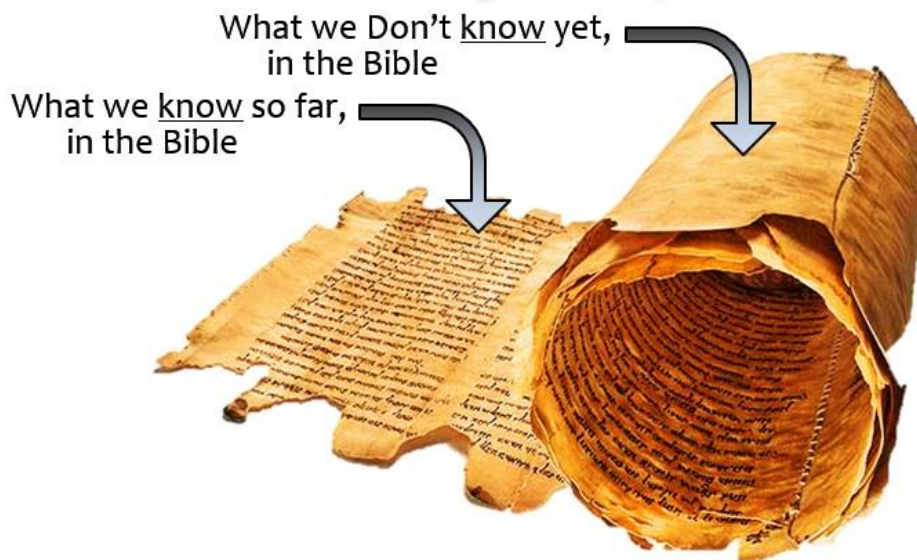
Adam now knew very little about the **woman's** descendant ?

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

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

Kevin E. Hughes

Covenants are Progressively Revealed



Covenant of God with Adam

God's Covenant with Adam is Given, Gen 2:15-17

God's Covenant with Adam is Broken, Gen 3:1-7

Covenant Breaker's (Adam's and Eve's) Trial, Gen 3:8-13

Covenant Breaker's (Adam's and Eve's) Sentencing and Curses, Gen 3:16-19

Covenant Breaker's Accomplice's (Satan's) Sentencing and Curses, Gen 3:14-15

Covenant of God with Adam - Outline

I. God's Covenant with Adam is Given, Gen 2:15-17

II. God's Covenant with Adam is Broken, Gen 3:1-7

A. Covenant Breaker's (Adam's and Eve's) Trial, Gen 3:8-13

B. Covenant Breaker's (Adam's and Eve's) Sentencing and Curses, Gen 3:16-19

C. Covenant Breaker's Accomplice's (Satan's) Sentencing and Curses, Gen 3:14-15