

THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

By Kevin E. Hughes

What have we learned so far about Covenants ?

An Overall Recap discussion of the **Covenant** with **Adam** and the **Covenant of Marriage**. We have defined a **Covenant** and discussed different **Theological** and **scholars'** views on **them**.

Our Approach to the Study of Covenants

We are studying the **Covenants** for ourselves. [Not adopting an existing Theology on Covenants]

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 on 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.

Where do Covenant Names come from ?

Named after **People**, like Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Aaronic, Davidic **Covenants**

Named after **Places**, like Edenic, Palestinian, Moabic, Horebic, Sinaic **Covenants**

Named based on **Time** or when in effect, like **Old Covenant** or **New Covenant**

Named after aspects of **Salvation**, like **Covenant** of Redemption

Named after aspects of a **Covenant's Conditions**, like **Covenant** of Works, **Covenant** of Grace

Most all **Names** of **Covenants** have been set by **Men** and Not by **God**

Therefore, **Names** of **Covenants** are Not Inspired and Not found in the Bible, except for the **Names**, "the **Old Covenant**" (2 Cor 3:14) and the "**New Covenant**" (Heb 8:13).

the Two Testaments or Two Covenants of the Bible

Two Covenants: the **Old Mosaic Covenant** and the **New, New Covenant**.

2 Corinthians 3:14

14 But **their** minds were **hardened**; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant (**Mosaic**) the same **veil** remains **unlifted**, because **it** is removed in **Christ**.

2 Corinthians 3:6

6 who also made **us** adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of **the letter** (**Mosaic**) but of **the Spirit**; for **the letter** (**Mosaic Covenant**) kills, but **the Spirit** (**New Covenant**) gives life.

Hebrews 9:15

15 For this reason **He** is the mediator of a new covenant, **so that** (Reason), since a **death** has taken place for the **redemption** of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant (**Heb 9:1**) (**Mosaic Covenant**), **those** who have been **called** may receive the **promise** (of **God**) of the eternal inheritance.

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.

Historical Background - Between the Curse of Man and the Covenant of Noah

Adam and Eve and their descendants are Cursed, Gen 3:14-19

Satan is Cursed but becomes the Ruler of the World, with his seed, but will be Crushed, Gen 3:15

Cain and Abel are Born, Gen 4:1-2.

Cain kills Abel, Cain's Ground is Cursed and Cain is to be a vagrant and wander.

Genesis 4:25-26

Adam (130 yrs old) had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, Seth, in place of Abel.

Seth, begat a son; Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

So, there were 10 Generations from Adam to Noah.

From creation, until Noah was 480 years old, there was 1536 years.

Then the sons of God took wives for themselves, Gen 6:2, Jude 6, 14, 2 Pet 2:4-6, 1 Pet 3:19

Read Genesis 6:5-7

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, (the problem, wickedness) and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (the problem, man's heart)

6 The LORD was sorry (grieved) that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; (the problem, solution) for I am sorry (grieved) that I have made them."

Read Genesis 6:11-12

11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, (the problem, corrupt earth) and the earth was filled with violence. (the problem, violent earth)

12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; (the problem, corrupt earth) for (Reason) all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. (the problem, all flesh corrupt)

Read Genesis 6:14, 6:17-18

14 "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.

17 "Behold, I, even I am bringing (future) the flood of water upon the earth, (the problem, solution) to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; (the problem, solution) everything that is on the earth shall perish. (the problem, solution)

18 "But I will (future) establish My covenant with you; (Lord will establish Covenant with Noah) and you shall enter the ark— you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. (the saved remnant)

Read Genesis 7:1-5

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for (Reason) you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. (Reason for saved remnant)

2 "You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; (seven pair of clean) and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; (one pair of Not clean)

3 also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, (seven pair)

(Reason) to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth. (the saved creature remnant)

4 "For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made." (the problem, solution)

5 Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.

Read Genesis 7:6–12

6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.

7 Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him (the saved remnant) entered the ark because of the water of the flood. (Matt 24:37-38)

8 Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, 9 there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. (the saved creature remnant)

10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth.

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

Read Genesis 7:23

23 Thus He (God) blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. (the saved remnant)

COVENANT OF GOD — GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Working Outline > Genesis 8:20–22 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible),

Read Genesis 8:20–22

I. 20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord,

A. and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird Gen 7:2, Lev 11:1-47

1. and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

2. 21 The Lord smelled the soothing (pleasing) aroma; and the Lord said to Himself,

a. "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, (Curse removed, Gen 3:17)

3. for (Reason) the intent (inclination) of man's heart is evil from his youth; (Gen 6:5, 6:11-12)

I. and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. (Isa 54:9)

B. 22 "While the earth remains, (assumes earth won't remain) (new earth, 2 Pet 3:13)

1. Seedtime and harvest (shall not cease), (farming, reaping)

2. And cold and heat (shall not cease), (climate, earth tilt, temperature, sun)

3. And summer and winter (shall not cease), (seasons, weather cycles, earth tilt, sun)

4. And day and night Shall not cease." (earth axis rotation, sun light)

Q1: What did Noah do on the altar he built, in verse 20 ?

A1:

Q2: What was the Lord's response to Noah's burnt offerings of every clean animal and clean bird ?

A2:

Q3: In verse 21c, What is the Lord's understanding of what man's heart intent (inclination) is ?

A3:

(as in, Gen 6:5, 6:11-12)

(as in, Ps 51:5, Jer 17:9)

Q4: In the Outline above, in verse 22, what 4 sets of things "shall not cease" ?

A4: Seedtime and harvest (shall not cease), (farming, reaping)

cold and heat (shall not cease), (climate, earth tilt, temperature, sun)

summer and winter (shall not cease), (seasons, weather cycles, earth tilt, sun)

day and night Shall not cease." (earth axis rotation, sun light)

Read Genesis 9:1-7

- I. 1 And **God blessed Noah** and **his sons** (like Gen 1:28) and said to **them**,
 - A. “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the **earth**. (like Gen 1:28) (populate the earth, 9:7)
- II. 2 “The **fear** of **you** and the **terror** (dread) of **you** (every living will now fear you)
 - A. will be on every **beast** of the **earth** and on every **bird** of the sky;
 - B. with **everything that creeps** on the **ground**,
 - C. and **all the fish** of the **sea**,
 - D. into **your hand they** (every living thing) are given.
- III. 3 “**Every moving thing** that is **alive** shall be **food** for **you**; (every living thing, shall be food)
 - A. **I** give all to **you**, as **I** gave the green plant (as **food**). (like plants have been food, Gen 1:29)
 - B. 4 “Only **you** shall **not eat flesh** with **its life**, that is, **its blood**. (not eat with life’s blood, Lev 17:10)
- IV. 5 “Surely **I will** require (reckoning) **your lifeblood**; (dim: **blood** + **nephesh**: **your** being, Gen 2:7)
 - A. from every **beast I will** require (reckoning of) **it** (lifeblood).
 - B. And from every **man**, from every **man’s brother**
 1. **I will** require (reckoning of) **the life** (the **lifeblood**) **of man**.
 - C. 6 “Whoever **sheds man’s** (life) **blood**, By **man his** (life) **blood** shall be **shed**, (Ex 21:12)
 1. **For** (Reason) in **the image of God He** made **man**.
- V. 7 “As for **you**, be fruitful and multiply; (populate the earth, by reproducing, like Adam told)
 - A. **Populate** the **earth** abundantly and multiply in **it**.” (populate the earth, 9:1, Gen 1:28)

Q1: In verse 2, What changed with **Man’s** relationship with the **beasts, birds, and fish** ?

A1:

Q2: In verse 4, Where is **all flesh’s** (creatures and **Man’s**) **life** located ?

A2:

Q3: In verse 5a, What is a **beast’s lifeblood** and **Man’s lifeblood** ?

A3: **lifeblood** (**blood-life**, dim, Heb: **blood** + **nephesh**, Heb: **your** being or **you** as a **living being**)

Read Gen 2:7, same Word (**nephesh**, Heb:) like **Adam**, a **living** (**chay**) **being** (**nephesh**) **Gen 2:7**)

Q4: In verse 5, what will **the Lord** “require (reckoning of)” ?

A4:

Q5: In verse 6, What must happen to anyone who “**sheds man’s** (life) **blood**” ?

A5:

Q6: In verse 6, What is the Reason given for Not **shedding man’s blood** ?

A6:

Capital Punishment (**Divine**) (**Divine Government**)

the **Divine** legally authorized **Government killing** of a **man**, by another **man**, as punishment for breaking **God** made, **Divine** Law, to Not **kill**.

Capital Punishment (**Secular**) (**Secular Government**)

the **Secular** legally authorized **Government killing** of a **man**, by another **man**, as punishment for breaking **Man** made, Civil **Secular** Law, to Not **kill**.

Read Romans 13:1-4

All **Secular Government**, “no (Government) **authority** except from **God**”, **Rom 13:1**

All **Secular Government** “those (Government **Authorities**) which exist are **established** by **God**”, **Rom 13:1**

“Therefore **whoever** **resists authority** has **opposed** the ordinance of **God**”, **Rom 13:2**

“**they** who have **opposed** will **receive condemnation** upon **themselves**”, **Rom 13:2**

Q7: In **Romans 13:4**, What is the **purpose** for “**governing authorities**” to bear **the sword** ?

A7:

Capital Punishment > Secular Government, is established by God

Read Genesis 9:8-17

- I. 8 Then **God** spoke to **Noah** and to **his sons** with **him**, saying,
- II. 9 “Now behold, **I Myself** do establish **My covenant** (Promised in, **Gen 6:18**)
- A. with **you** (**Noah** and **sons**), and with **your descendants** after **you**;
 - B. **10** and with **every living creature** that is with **you**,
 - C. the birds, the cattle, and **every beast** of the **earth** with **you**;
 - 1. of all that comes out of the **ark**, even **every beast** of the **earth**.
- III. 11 “**I** establish **My covenant** with **you** (**Noah**, **sons**, **creatures**);
- A. and **all flesh** (**man**, **creatures**); **shall** never again be **cut off** by **the water of the flood**,
 - B. neither **shall** there again be a **flood** to destroy the **earth**.”
- IV. 12 **God** said, “This is the **sign** of the **covenant** which **I am** making
- A. between **Me** and **you** and **every living creature** that is with **you**,
 - 1. for all successive generations;
- V. 13 **I** set **My** bow in the cloud,
- A. and it **shall** be for a **sign** of a **covenant** between **Me** and the **earth**.
- VI. 14 “It **shall** come about, when **I** bring a **cloud** over the **earth**,
- A. that **the bow** will be seen in **the cloud**,
- VII. 15 and **I will** remember **My covenant**,
- A. which is between **Me** and **you** and **every living creature** of **all flesh**;
 - B. and never again shall **the water** become a **flood** to destroy **all flesh**.
- VIII. 16 “When **the bow** is in **the cloud**,
- A. then **I will** look upon **it**, to remember the **everlasting covenant**
 - 1. between **God** and **every living creature** of **all flesh** that is on the **earth**.”
- IX. 17 And **God** said to **Noah**, “This is **the sign** of the **covenant**
- A. which **I** have established between **Me** and **all flesh** that is on the **earth**.”

Some Commentators say, this is the first **Covenant** in the Bible, because it is the first time the Word “**Covenant**” is used to describe **God’s Promises** to **Man**.

Q1: In **verses 8 and 9**, **Who** establishes this **Covenant**? and to **Whom** is **it** established with?

A1:

Q2: In **verse 10**, to **Whom** is **God’s Covenant** established with?

A2:

Q3: In **verse 11**, What **2 Things** does **God’s Covenant** with all **flesh** (**man**, **creatures**) establish?

A3:

Q4: In **verses 12-15**, to **Whom** is “the **sign** of the **covenant**” “between”, it is between **5 Things**?

A4: “between” (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Q5: In **verse 16**, **Who** is supposed to see **the bow** and “remember” **God’s everlasting Covenant**?

A5:

Most aspects of a **Typical Covenant** are revealed in this **Covenant of Noah**

God establishes **His Covenants**, **Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17**

God establishes **His Covenants**, as “**Promises**”, often with “**I will**” **9:15**, or “**I shall**” **9:11, 13, 14**, statements.

God establishes **His Covenants**, “**Between**” a **person**, a **people** Group, or **every living creature**, **9:10, 17**

God establishes **His Covenants**, with “specifying certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill, **God’s Part**”

This leads to this Covenant, being considered a **Unilateral** or **Un-Conditional Covenant**.

This leads to other Covenants, being considered **Bi-lateral** or **Conditional Covenants**.

God establishes **His Covenants**, often with **offered burnt (killed) offerings**, **Gen 8:20, Gen 22:2, Rom 8:3**

God establishes **His Covenants**, often with “**a sign**” to “**remember**” or identify with, that **Covenant**, **9:12**

God establishes **His Covenants**, often identified as an “**everlasting covenant**”, **Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40**

The First **COVENANT** Definition – Conclusion

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**.

The **COVENANT** Definition – Update One

COVENANT Definition: Update One

COVENANT of **GOD**. A **Promise** of **God**, always initiated and established by **God**, **Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17** between **God** and a **Person**, a **People** Group, or all **Living** things, **Gen 9:10, Gen 9:17**, according to **His** Plan, Purpose and Will.

COVENANT of **GOD**. as “**Promises**”, often with “**I will**” or “**I shall**” statements, that “**will come to pass**”.

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**.

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has **offered burnt (killed) offerings**, **Gen 8:20, Gen 22:2, Rom 8:3**

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has “**a sign**” to “**remember**” or to identify with, that **Covenant**, **Gen 9:12**

COVENANT of **GOD**, is often identified as an “**everlasting covenant**”, **Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40**

