

KINGDOM -2 – GOD’S REDEMPTIVE COVENANTS

Covenants are a solemn relationship. Like marriage, right? **God’s covenants are the steps in God’s redemptive plan for Him to have a binding relationship with you.** A relationship you can take to the bank, so to speak. A relationship that is very close and deep now and will be perfected in the age to come.

God’s Covenants

Adamic: Not actually called a covenant. One-way covenant between God and man, with responsibilities given to man in Genesis 2:15-17.

- Be fruitful and multiply
- Have dominion and rule over all the creatures on the earth
- Don’t eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil

Noahic: After the flood, the rainbow is the “seal” of this covenant. Similar to Adamic in God’s will for mankind... dominion, etc.

- Be fruitful and multiply
- Human dominion over earth
- Humans can eat other creatures
- Forbidden to eat or shed blood
- Days and seasons shall not cease
- Never again wipe out all life

Abrahamic: Strong blood covenant repeated several times, beginning God’s dealings with Israel on a national level as Abraham’s seed. We are brought into this one and we Gentile Christians are also his seed because of the seed of Christ in us.

- An extremely solemn, everlasting blood covenant promised by God
- Land of Canaan given to his seed forever
- His seed like the stars in number
- A multitude of nations from his seed
- Circumcision
- Bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you

Sinai Covenant: Moses and Children of Israel. Established in Exodus 19:3-8, 24:4-8 and at the end of the 40 years in Deuteronomy. Blessings of

the Covenant, including individual and national blessings, are noted in Deuteronomy 28:1-10.

The curse of not keeping the covenant, as foretold in Deuteronomy 28, led to the conquest and scattering of the nation. Individual consequences were mentioned, but much of this applied to the whole community. As a covenant community, they held each other accountable to obey the covenant.

Deuteronomy 30:1-6. In the video I mistakenly called this part of the Song of Moses, which is Deut. 32. Nonetheless, Moses prophesied about disobedience ultimately leading to captivity. After the punishment of captivity and Israel's repentance, God promised to gather them all back into the land promised in Abraham. This was partially fulfilled after the Assyrian and Babylonian captivity, but its complete fulfillment is in the future.

It is very important in reading the OT prophets to remember this cycle of disobedience-captivity-repentance-regathering to the land. Almost all of them talk about this. Often, prophecy is fulfilled partly at different times and completely in the Promised Kingdom. This will really help you to better understand the OT prophets.

The Davidic Covenant: 2 Samuel 7:8-16, 2 Chronicles 13:5. Promised by God to David that a descendant of his would reign over the House of Israel forever. This is a promise of just and righteous government which mankind has never really known. Government is a very important blessing. Even when sin is gone, or mostly gone, there will still need to be government. This prophecy again foretold the restoration of the kingdom and the rise of a messiah. However, the cycle of Israel's disobedience and captivity persisted. It is interesting that, as was the king, so went the nation. That is under the good kings the nation thrived and was blessed and under the bad kings the nation suffered and endured the punishments of the curse of the law.

How to solve the Sinai Covenant promise of the curse of the Law?

- Israel & Judah were blessed when they keep it—cursed when they don't.
- Humans can't exactly keep the law. Sin nature. Romans 7
- Repeated cycles of disobedience, being conquered or exiled
- God had immutably promised to bless Abraham's seed and give them the land.

- God demands their righteousness and holiness

Ezekiel's prophecies in Ezekiel 36:19-38 and Ezekiel 39:21-29 addressed this cycle, envisioning a future restoration and the defeat of Gog and Magog, which aligns with the description of Armageddon in Revelation 19.

The New Covenant: Promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34, specifically to Israel and Judah.

Jeremiah 31:35-37 emphasized that Israel will always be a nation before Him. This is very important to remember. What nation in history was scattered all over the world for almost 2000 years and then return to their historical land to exist again as a nation? There are teachers of "replacement theology" and supersessionism which say that the church replaced (superseded) Israel and is the recipient of all the promises foretold for Israel. This simply cannot be true. There are so many places where the Old Testament specifically refers to Israel and Judah in the land promised to Abraham. God must fulfill that.

Key promises of the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36:21-33.

- From God to man... for His glory... not by their works
- For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
- Their sins will be forgiven
- They will have His spirit and a new heart that wants to keep God's law
- They will all be brought back from captivity and the land blessed
- This comes to pass in the Kingdom of God

THE CHURCH IS IN THIS NEW COVENANT. THROUGH CHRIST WE ARE BROUGHT INTO THIS PROGRESSION OF REDEMPTIVE COVENANTS FIRST PROMISED TO THE FLESHLY DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB.

Galatians 3:7, 14. Gentile believers now in the Church are made to be the seed of Abraham and receive the promised spirit through faith.

Ephesians 2:12-13 is saying that you gentiles were strangers and foreigners from this line of covenants but now you are brought into them in Christ.

Ephesians 3:6 the mystery is that the gentiles are now fellow heirs and full partakers of his promise in Christ through the gospel. Think of what that is saying. The Jews were always going to receive the messianic blessings. This surprise the mystery, is that the gentiles come in too. Some have taught that the church administration or dispensation is completely separate from Israel and everything that went before. I would say that the New Testament and Paul's epistles are telling us that we are brought into it not separate from it.

Matthew 26:26-29 (and corresponding records in the other gospels) declare that Jesus instituted the new covenant at the Last Supper foretelling that his blood would be the blood that sealed that covenant. We could say that it fully came on Pentecost when the spirit was given to those who believe.

2 Corinthians 3:3-6. Paul says quite directly that he and his fellow ministers (and by extension, we believers) are not only in the new covenant but we are ministers of the new covenant to bring it to others.

Hebrews 8:6-13. This says that Jesus Christ mediated the new covenant and then it quotes Jeremiah 31 verbatim making it clear that believers in Christ are specifically brought into the new covenant of which Jeremiah spoke. While it is true that Hebrews was written to believers of a Jewish background, it applies to believers of a gentile background also because we are all one in Christ and there is no difference.

Summary

What difference does all this make in our everyday Christian life and faith?

- Do we care about knowing the Lord Jesus? Who he is? His glory?
- Do we care about where and how we will spend eternity?
- Do we care about this major plot-line of the Bible?
- Do we care about living under just government?
- Do we care that earth will not be ruined by man?
- How does a new, perfect body on a beautiful restored Earth sound?

- Knowing about all these things gives greater depth and strength to our faith.

God's Plan for the Church

- Is it totally separate from Israel? No
- Is the Church included in God's redemptive covenants? Adamic Yes; Abrahamic Yes; Sinai not much; Davidic yes; New Covenant Yes
- Do Paul's epistles reveal greater blessings for the Church than were promised in the Old Testament? Yes
- Will the Church be in the 1,000 year Kingdom? Yes

How should the Church feel about Israel?

- Does Jesus love his nation? Yes
- Should we love what our Lord and King Jesus loves? Yes
- Is the nation of Israel in covenant obedience today? No
- Are non-believing Jews in covenant obedience today? Basically, no
- Blindness, in part for Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles come in. Israel is beloved and elect.
- We look forward to God opening their eyes at or before Messiah returns

Romans 11 was not covered much but you should read it on your own. It is very important in understanding (to the extent our human minds can understand) what God is doing with Israel now.