

## THE NINE IMPORTANT COVENANTS

- I. THE MEANING AND USE OF THE WORD “COVENANT” IN THE BIBLE.
- A. The Word *Covenant* Is Used to Describe an Agreement Made by two or more Individuals to Do, or to Keep from Doing, a Certain Thing.
- B. Other Bible Terms Having the same Meaning as the Word *Covenant* Are “Testament,” “League,” “Promise” and “Agreement.”
- C. The Word *Covenant* Is Used in the Bible to Describe an Agreement Made by either God or Man.
1. Some covenants are made between men as in Genesis 21:27.
  2. Some covenants are made between families as in Jeremiah 35:1-19 and 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 20:11-17.
  3. Some covenants are made between peoples as in Joshua 9:3-15.
  4. Some covenants are made between nations as in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 16:1-4.
- D. There Are two Kinds of Covenants, Conditional and Unconditional.
1. Conditional:
    - a. The first party tells the requirements to be done by the second party before the covenant can either take effect or to remain in effect.
    - b. When the requirements are not met, the covenant is then broken.
  2. Unconditional:
    - a. There are no requirements to be done by the second party before the covenant takes effect or for it to remain in effect.
    - b. Sometimes unconditional covenants have conditional blessings attached that may be lost.
- E. Most Covenants in the Bible Are Dedicated with Blood when They Are Conditional (Heb 9:16-22).
- II. THERE ARE NINE IMPORTANT COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE THAT GOD MADE WITH MANKIND.
- A. The **Edenic** Covenant:
1. This conditional covenant is found in Genesis 1:26 to 2:17.
  2. This covenant was first made by God with Adam in Genesis 2:8-9 and 15-17, and then with Eve in Genesis 3:1-3, before their fall into sin.
  3. This covenant’s only condition, found in Genesis 2:16-17, was to not eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

4. This covenant promised dominion (power to rule) over the earth and the animal kingdom in Genesis 1:26-28.
5. The breaking of this covenant resulted in both a spiritual and a physical death.
  - a. Man has a spirit, soul and body (1 Thes 5:23) which are affected by sin (Rom 6:23).
  - b. The spirits of both Adam and Eve died when they ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen 2:16-17; 3:6).
  - c. The bodies of both Adam and Eve died years after they ate the forbidden fruit of the Tree (Gen 5:2, 5).
6. This conditional covenant was not dedicated with blood.

**B. The Adamic Covenant:**

1. This unconditional covenant is found in Genesis 3:7-21.
2. God made this covenant with both Adam and Eve after their fall into sin (Gen 3:6).
3. This covenant contains several curses:
  - a. The Serpent, the devil (Rev 12:9), was cursed (Gen 3:14-15).
  - b. Eve (woman) was cursed (Gen 3:16).
  - c. Adam (man) was cursed (Gen 3:17-19).
  - d. The ground was cursed (Gen 3:17-18).
  - e. The creatures were cursed (Rom 8:20-22).
4. Adam and Eve were both forced to leave the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:22-24.
5. This covenant was dedicated with blood in Genesis 3:21 when God provided animal skins to cover the sin of Adam and Eve (Pro 27:26).

**C. The Noahic Covenant:**

1. This unconditional covenant is found in Genesis 8:20 to 9:29.
2. God made this covenant with Noah, his descendants and the Animal Kingdom (Gen 9:8-10).
3. This covenant contains two promises:
  - a. The promise that the covenant will remain in effect as long as the earth is in its present state (Gen 8:22; Rev 21:1).
  - b. The promise that the earth will not be destroyed again by water (Gen 9:11-16; 2 Pet 3:7, 10).
4. This covenant is dedicated with blood and the sign of the covenant is a rainbow (Gen 8:20-21; 9:13).

**D. The Abramic (Abrahamic) Covenant:**

1. This unconditional covenant is found in several passages located in the Book of Genesis (Gen 12:1-4, 7; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-20; 22:1-18).
2. This covenant contains both conditional and unconditional promises.

3. This covenant also contains both physical and spiritual promises.
4. God made this covenant with Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:1-7).
5. The promises of this covenant are unconditional until Genesis 15:7 and are not dedicated with blood until then either.
6. Abraham was promised personal blessings, both physical (Gen 13:14-17; 24:34-38) and spiritual (Gen 15:2-6; Jas 2:23).
7. In Genesis 12:1-4, 7 and 13:14-18:
  - a. The promises of a land grant and many descendants were preconditioned on separation in Genesis 12:1 and was said to be everlasting (Gen 13:15; Rom 11:25-29).
  - b. Blessings and cursings are contained in this covenant for other people (non-Jews), depending on their treatment of Abraham (Gen 12:3). These blessings and cursings were later said to apply to other people, depending on how they treated Jacob (Gen 21:1-3; 27:26-30) and also the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Gen 32:24-28; Num 24:1-9).
  - c. The promise for other people through faith has spiritual blessings attached (Gal 3:5-8, 13-14, 16-18; Rom 4:1-16). However, many people falsely claim that the physical blessings also apply to Christians today.
8. In Genesis 15:1-21:
  - a. The promises found in verses 1 to 6 are to the spiritual seed of faith (both Jews and Gentiles) through Jesus Christ (Gal 3:9, 14).
  - b. The spiritual seed of faith is represented historically through the believing Jewish remnant beginning with Isaac and ending with Jesus Christ (Rom 9:6-13; Gal 3:16).
  - c. The promise to Abraham of many descendents found in verses 5 to 6 is preconditioned on belief.
  - d. The promises found in verses 7 to 21 are to the physical seed of Abraham (the Jews).
  - e. The covenant of an inheritance of the land (the Palestinian Covenant) found in verse 18 is given to Abraham's physical seed.
    - 1) This is a conditional covenant requiring Abraham's descendants to be physically circumcised. Physical circumcision is said to be the sign (token) of this covenant (Gen 17:8-14).
    - 2) Christians enter this covenant of inheritance of the land by being in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:18, 22) and receiving His righteousness by faith (Rom 4:8-11; 2 Cor 5:21).
  - f. Abraham was made righteous in verse 6 but was not justified until his work of obedience in Genesis 22:15-16 according to James 2:21 and 24.
    - 1) This clearly shows that Abraham was not saved as Christians are today in the present Church Age.

- 2) A Church Age Christian is made righteous and declared justified at salvation according to Philippians 3:8-9 and Romans 5:1 and 9.
  - g. This covenant is said to be unconditional in verses 12 and 18, and is dedicated with blood in verses 9 and 10.
9. In Genesis 17:1-20 and 22:1-18:
- a. Previously given promises in Genesis 12:1-4, 7; 13:14-18 and 15:1-21 are confirmed in these two passages.
  - b. The promise is confirmed that Abraham's descendants will multiply through **both** Isaac and Ishmael (Gen 17:5, 20; 22:17).
  - c. The promise of a land grant (physical inheritance) is confirmed and said to be only through Isaac and his descendants (Gen 17:7-8, 19-21; Psa 105:8-11; Gen 21:9-12).
  - d. The promise of a spiritual inheritance is confirmed and is said to be through Isaac's seed (descendant), Jesus Christ (Gen 17:19; 22:18; Gal 3:16).
  - e. The spiritual inheritance for Christians is conditioned on spiritual circumcision of the soul (Col 2:8-12; Phil 3:3; Rom 2:29; Gal 3:14).
  - f. The physical inheritance for Jews is confirmed and said to be conditioned on their being physically circumcised, the sign of the covenant that dedicates it with blood (Gen 17:9-11, 23-27). Neither physical nor spiritual inheritance is conditioned on physical circumcision for a Christian (Gal 6:14-15).

E. The **Mosaic** Covenant:

- 1. This conditional covenant is found in Exodus 19:1 to 31:18.
- 2. God made this covenant with the Nation of Israel, through Moses, according to Exodus 34:1-27 and is commonly called "the Old Testament" (2 Cor 3:13-14). This covenant did not replace the Abrahamic Covenant according to Galatians 3:16-18.
- 3. This covenant was conditioned on keeping the whole law given by Moses (called the Mosaic Law and the Law of Moses) (Exo 19:1-8). This included the Ten Commandments, the sacrifices, the dietary laws, and the other rules for everyday life (2 Chr 33:8).
- 4. The purpose of the Mosaic Law was twofold:
  - a. It was given to show the Israelites their sinfulness (Rom 3:20; 7:7; Jas 2:10).
  - b. It was given to show the Israelites their need for a Messiah (Savior) (Gal 3:23-24; John 1:40-42a).
- 5. Provision was made for the restoring of those who broke this covenant (Lev 26:14-16, 40-46).
- 6. This covenant was dedicated with blood in Exodus 24:4-8 and was to be repeated daily according to Exodus 29:38.
- 7. The sign of this covenant was the keeping of the Sabbath (Exo 31:12-18).

F. The **Palestinian** Covenant:

1. This unconditional covenant is found in Deuteronomy 27:1 to 30:2 and 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 16:7-19.
2. God made this covenant with the Nation of Israel (Deu 29:1).
3. This covenant is an unconditional land grant based on the Abrahamic Covenant (1 Chr 16:15-16; Gen 15:18).
4. This covenant contains a conditional portion that results in a temporary scattering of the Nation of Israel because of disobedience (Deu 28:58-64) and a restoring of the land to Israel after their repentance (Deu 30:1-6).
5. All blessings are conditioned on obedience and faith according to Deuteronomy 28:1-2 and 30:9-10.
6. This covenant is an eternal (never ending) one according to Psalm 105:6-12.

G. The **Davidic** Covenant:

1. This unconditional covenant is found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1-17 and 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 17:1-15.
2. God made this covenant with King David, including his descendants, in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:16.
3. This covenant gives David a lineage (house; descendants), a throne and a kingdom “forever” (2 Sam 7:12-16; Psa 89:20-37; Luke 1:26-33).
4. This covenant contains punishment for sin and the restoration of the Nation of Israel (2 Sam 7:14-15; Rom 11:25-27; 2 Cor 3:14-16).
5. This covenant will be completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ at the Second Advent (coming) (Acts 1:6-7; Rev 19:11-16; 20:4-6; 22:1-5).

H. The **Everlasting** Covenant (the New Testament):

1. This unconditional covenant is found in Hebrews 13:20 and Matthew 26:26-28.
2. God made this covenant with Jesus Christ (Heb 10:1-14; 1 Cor 1:2, 30) and applies to those in Christ who become His spiritual children (Isa 42:1-6; 53:1-12; Heb 8:6; 12:18-24; 1 Tim 2:5).
3. The entering into of this covenant by man is pre-conditioned on receiving Jesus Christ (John 1:12; 1 John 5:11-12) and has unconditional blessings coming from the Abrahamic Covenant (Gal 3:13-20).
4. Entering into this covenant results in eternal redemption and peace through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Heb 9:14-17).
5. This covenant was dedicated with the blood of Jesus Christ (Mat 26:26-28).

I. The **New National** Covenant:

1. This unconditional covenant is found in Hebrews 8:7-13 (cf. Rom 11:25-28).

2. God will make this covenant with the regathered Jewish people, who were divided into the two separate nations of Israel and Judah in the Old Testament (1 Kgs 11:29-39).
  - a. The Nation of Israel (the 10 northern tribes) was conquered and dispersed by Shalmaneser King of Assyria (2 Kgs 17:1-6, 24).
  - b. The Nation of Judah (the 2 southern tribes) was conquered and dispersed by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (2 Kgs 25:1-11).
3. The nations of Israel and Judah will become one nation again after the judgment of the Jews at the beginning of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Eze 37:15-22; Luke 1:30-32 & “The Seven Judgments,” V.).
4. This is an everlasting covenant that will replace the old promises of God to national Israel according to Jeremiah 31:31-37 and 32:36-41.