

Study 1 COVENANT

Understanding the different covenants in the Old Testament and their relation to each other is important to having an understanding of God's Covenant relationship (He will never break) with His Chosen People and those grafted in, as well as His plan for our redemption through His Son Yeshua the Messiah.

Hebrew – beriyth (ber-eeth) A compact; league – In the sense of a cutting made by passing between two pieces of flesh.

Greek – diatheke – A disposition (ordinance) of property by will, testament or otherwise. A covenant or agreement from a verb signifying “to cut or divide”; A sacrificial custom in connection with “covenant making”.

Two different types of covenant God makes with humanity:

1. UNCONDITIONAL – **God will keep regardless of human actions.** UNILATERAL – Only one of the parties involved has to do something and nothing is required of the other party.
2. CONDITIONAL – **The people involved must obey the terms of the covenant in order to receive the promise related to it.** BILATERAL – An agreement that is binding on both parties for its fulfillment. Both parties agree to fulfill certain conditions. If either fails to meet their responsibility the covenant is considered broken and neither party has to fulfill the expectations of the covenant

A closer look at what is a covenant.

- A promise made between two or more parties to perform certain actions.
- Significant in Bible Scriptures – Used approx. 298 times (varies with translation)
- The word “Testament” is really another word for covenant.
- The Bible has 2 parts: Old Covenant and New Covenant
- Covenant was a well-known concept in ancient times. The covenant God made with Abraham wasn't created by Him at that time; it was already a well-known practice among men.
- The Old Testament is more than a history of Israel. It's also a history of the covenants in which God revealed, little by little, His character, plans, and purposes for mankind. His plan of redemption through His son the Messiah.
- The **Bible records 7 different covenants**
- Four of them God made with the nation of Israel – Abrahamic, Land, Mosaic, Davidic
- Three of the 7 covenants are made between God and all mankind – Adamic, Noahic, New Covenant

Let's explore each of these covenants in greater detail based on what God had His servants record in the Bible.

ADAMIC COVENANT

This one has 2 parts: Edenic (innocence) and Adamic (grace)

EDENIC is found in Genesis 1:26-30; 2:16-17 – Not explicitly called a covenant in Genesis, however it is later referred to a covenant in Hosea 6:7 “But like Adam, they transgressed a covenant.”

- Mankind (male and female) created in God’s image.
- Mankind’s dominion over the animal kingdom
- Divine directive to reproduce and inhabit the entire earth.
- Mankind is to be vegetarian (eating of meat was established in the Noachic Covenant in Genesis 9:3)
- Eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil forbidden (death the stated penalty)
- The first agreement made between God and man – A Conditional Covenant

ADAMIC is found in Genesis 3:15-19 – A Conditional Covenant – Eternal life if Adam and his descendants obeyed God. Adam failed and as the result of Adam’s sin the following curses were pronounced.

- Enmity between Satan and Eve and her descendants
- Painful childbirth for women
- Marital strife
- Soil is cursed.
- Introduction of thorns and thistles
- Survival to be a struggle.
- Death introduced (physical and spiritual)
- Death inescapable fate of all the living things
- Adam and Eve fell from their state of innocence and lost their intimate relationship with God.
- Covenant of Redemption

Although these curses are severe and inescapable, a wonderful promise of grace was also included in the Adamic Covenant.

Speaking to Satan and referring to Yeshua the Messiah, God says:

- ✓ I will put animosity between you and the woman - between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. Genesis 3:15

Here God promises that One born of a woman would be wounded in the process of destroying Satan.

- ✓ But when the fullness of time came, God sent out His Son, born of a woman and born under law - to free those under law, so we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5
- ✓ He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we, removed from sins, might live for righteousness. "By His wounds you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24
- ✓ But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement for our shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Evil behavior increased because of sin...it was time for God to intervene.

- ✓ Then ADONAI saw that the wickedness of humankind was great on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil all the time. Genesis 6:5

THE NOAHIC COVENANT - But Noah found favor in ADONAI's eyes. Genesis 6:8

God gave Noah the instructions for the ark and a covenant promise:

God established a covenant with Noah and all in the ark were delivered through the flood.

- ✓ But **I will establish My covenant with you**. So you shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ Also of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of everything—male and female—into the ark to keep alive with you. Genesis 6:18-19

In Genesis 9 is the next mention of a covenant. This one God made with Noah, his descendants and every living creature of the earth.

- ✓ Then God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you for all future generations. ¹³ My rainbow do I place in the cloud, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the land. Genesis 9:12-13

A perpetual covenant: Never again will God destroy all flesh by waters of a flood over the earth.

- ✓ Whenever I bring clouds over the land and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the cloud, I will look at it, to remember the perpetual covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the land."

¹⁷ Then God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have confirmed between Me and all flesh that is on the land." Genesis 9:14-17

An Unconditional covenant – it doesn't depend upon anything Noah or his descendants had to do to fulfill.

This promise is based on God's faithfulness to do what He says He will do. There will never again be a worldwide flood, as an act of His divine judgment for sin.

- ✚ There are different "rainbow flags" meaning different things not related to God's creation. The rainbow is God's creation and when you see one in the sky rejoice, give our Creator glory in this God-ordained symbol of His faithfulness, mercy and grace.

Just as God provided a way for Noah and his family to be saved in the ark, He also provided a way for us to be saved through His Son Yeshua. Noah and his family were saved from the wrath of God that came in the flood, just as **those who are in Yeshua are saved from the "wrath to come"**.

- ✓ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead - Yeshua, the One delivering us from the coming wrath. 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- ✓ You were dead in your trespasses and sins. ² At that time, you walked in the way of this world, in conformity to the ruler of the domain of the air - the ruler of the spirit who is now operating in the sons of disobedience. ³ We too all lived among them in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind. By nature we were children of wrath, just like the others. ⁴ But God was rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us. ⁵ Even when we were dead in our trespasses, **He made us alive together with Messiah. (By grace you have been saved!)** ⁶ And He raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Messiah Yeshua - ⁷ to show in the olam ha-ba the measureless richness of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Yeshua. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves - it is the gift of God. ⁹ It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship - created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them. Ephesians 2:1-10