

Kingdom Covenants

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Happy Labor Day weekend, we are glad that you chose to be with us today. What a wonderful occasion, a day of rest, to celebrate and honor those who are in the work force.

And as people of the **kingdom of God**, we also get to celebrate every weekend of the Spiritual Rest we have in **Christ**, who labored for us unto completion. And who called us to good works which he had prepared in advance for us.

Today I want to walk us through one of the most beautiful and refreshing display of God's love and faithfulness to us. Today we are going to do something a little different, instead of zooming in to a passage or story, I want us to take a step back and appreciate the **big turning points of the bible**. If you would ask me,

- what's one of the most important **themes** of the bible?
- what separates our **religion** from every other religion?
- What is the most **intimate** and **special** thing about Christianity and about our God?
- Or how can we really learn to **love him** and **love others**?

I think nothing will show us the Greatness of our God then the **Covenants** that he makes with us. If you are able to wrap your mind around just His **promises that he has made with you**, you will fall in love with him all over again.

For today, we will be waking through the **6 OT Covenants** God has made with his people and with all creation, and then together we will celebrate the message of the **New Covenant** we have in Jesus. Through His **words**, through **worship** and then through **communion**.
(As you can tell, I am very excited about today. We are going to have a good time)

For a lot of us, we are not accustomed to the word "**Covenant**". You've probably heard it a few times in church. I used to think **Covenant** is a very important **promise**, and it is. But a **covenant** is more than just a **promise**, it is more like an **unbinding contract or a partnership** between 2 people or 2 parties.

You have probably heard this word used in a wedding ceremony, when God brings a man and a woman together in a **covenant of marriage**. Both of them confess their **love** to each other, "*to have and to hold, for better or for worst, wither in plenty or in need, in sickness or in health, till death do us part.*" Vows are intimate and is considered such a **sacred binding covenant** that when one person **breaks that promise**, through an affair, or unforgiveness, or a divorce, it can damage us to the deepest core. The scars of **rejection** and **abandonment** never really goes away, because the most inner part of you have been violated, a **covenant is broken**.

Through these **6 covenants** I hope that you will see **God's faithfulness in displayed**, and how he has invited all of us into this partnership, agreement, and relationship with him.

Understanding these **Covenants** are the **key** to understanding the whole story of the bible. And that is what this year is all about. **Our year of biblical narrative**.

So please put on your seat belts and thinking caps, because we are going to be flying through these 7 covenants of the bible. I'll give it to you right now.

Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Priestly, Davidic, Messianic covenant/ new Covenant

The faithfulness of God through his promises

1. Adamic Covenant: There is Redemption through his death.

Not a lot of people would consider God making a **covenant** with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but I would argue that this is where the **first covenant** started between God and man. Since the beginning of time, God has brought humanity into a partnership with him to Reign and to Rule over all living things. In this **covenant** he says in Gen2:15, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

But we will see that Adam and Eve **disregarded** God's **agreement** and wanted to choose for themselves what is good and evil in their own eyes instead of trusting in God's words.

Although Genes 2 does not use the word **covenant** here, Prophet **Hosea** does refer to it as one, "Like Adam, they have broken the covenant; they were unfaithful to me there." (Hos. 6:7)

We see that since Adam and Eve's disobedient, it has caused **sin** and **death** to enter into our world. Each and every one of us bears the mark of **sin** and **death** in our flesh. For God said, when you eat from it, you will certainly die."

People may argue that this doesn't sound like a loving God, a God would not allow his children to die. But here I would argue, that it was by his great love that he did not allow us to live forever in our sin.

Can you imagine living with a deadly disease for eternity, that's evil. We have a hope that promises, one day there will be no pain, cancer, sadness, tears. And this promise was already put into motion in Gen. 3:15 right after Adam and Eve broke the covenant.

He says in verse 15: And I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

God told this serpent, that he will send a **Redeemer**, one of Eve's descendent, that will once day crush **evil** and **death** and **sin**, but in return He will also be **stuck down**.

We have here a promise of a **Redeemer** who will save the human race through his death. And in **verse 21** God gives us a picture of what that will look like.

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

See, don't miss this, God was demonstrating, that he will be the one that will cover their nakedness and sin through the shedding of blood. In this **Adamic Covenant**, something had to die to cover them.

2. Noahic Covenant: There is Renewal through his blood

Gen6:5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

Again, this doesn't mean that God made a **bad decision**, so he **regretted it**, it means that he could not stand to see his creation suffering under the curse of sin, so God sent a flood to cleans his world.

God chose Noah and his family to be **His new people**, a new Adam. After Noah and his family build the ark, and spent 40 days and 40 nights through the flood, **God made a covenant with Noah**. In this **covenant** He gives another **command to obey**, and a **promise to keep**.

In this **covenants** that they are not permitted to **eat blood** or to **commit murder**. Look at this in Gen 9: 3-6 and see how it echo's the command in the garden, "3 Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. 4 "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. 5 And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting... I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. 6 "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

I know that sounds confusing, but God is just teaching us the **value of human life**. He says that there is life within blood, and when you shed blood you are talking its life away. And for that crime, blood will be demanded. Blood for blood.

And what God wants to show us through this command, is that it is **unachievable** without Him. prophet **Isaiah** says it like this, “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things.” Because of our wicked heart, every inclination of it is still evil. At the end of the story of Noah, we find in verse 20, “Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. 21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.” Once again, we find our *new Adam* in a garden, **naked** and needs **covering**.

We asked what happen? It seems like God’s plan to renew the world failed. But in this **covenant** God is showing us something so much greater. That **renewal** will not come through washing by **water**, but washing by **blood**. We don’t need something to **clean us on the outside**, but something that can **cleans our hearts**.

In this **Noahic Covenant** blood is demanded, so God gives us a **sign** of who that will be.

Gen 9:12, “12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

The word for “Bow” here in Hebrew is “Gesed” means a war-bow or a bow-and-arrow.

- Of course, a rainbow is what God puts in the sky, but according to Charles Spurgeon, *the rainbow shows us that God has laid down his war bow in the heavens.*
- In fact, Spurgeon, pointed out, “*if you look at this rainbow, A bow NOT turned downwards to shoot at us, but upwards.*”
- This points out, that God will one day wipe out evil from the earth, not by shooting the arrow of wrath into us, but by taking the flaming arrows of his own wrath, into himself.

This is the love of God, the Noahic Covenant, displayed in the sky every time it storms.

3. **Abrahamic Covenant:** There is a Reward through him for all nations

God chose Abram to be a father of his **new people**. A people that will be **set apart**, that will **follow** him, where He will be **their God** and they will be **His people**. In this covenant God promised him a **son** and said, ““I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God ... (Genesis 17:7)

In the Abrahamic Covenant God promised 3 things;

- A Land, which is the land of cannon, where it will become the **Promised Land**.
- A People, which will be the 12 tribes of Israel, the **Israelites**
- A Blessing, not just for him, but to all nations, through his **seed**.

And in order to solidify this **unbinding covenant** God request in **Gen 15:9-10**, “So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a young cow, a goat and a ram. Each must be three years old. Bring a dove and a young pigeon along with them.”10 Abram brought all of them to the Lord. Abram cut them in two and placed the halves opposite each other...

So picture this, in this time, for 2 people to make an **unbinding covenant**, this *intense pinky promise*, they would have to walk across this **bloody path**, and meet each other in the middle, and this was to say that if one of them would break this **covenant**, let them be torn apart like these animals.

But again, in our story God did something extortionary.

Gen. 15:12,17 As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. (in the same way Adam did) A thick and scary darkness covered him. 17 ... Then a burning torch and a pot filled with smoking coals appeared. They passed between the pieces of the animals that had been cut in two. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram.

God himself passed between the animals alone. Which shows us the love of God. God is demonstrating that even if WE break this **unbinding covenant**, he, himself will have to bear the punishment, and be torn apart! He himself will enter into the **thick and scary darkness of sin**.

God knew that we were not able to obey him fully. Every one of us have fallen short of his glory. In the psalms it says “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. (romans 3:10)

As this covenant ends with a **cliffhanger**. Israel was enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. And when the time came, God brought his people out of bondage, into another **covenant**.

4. **Mosaic Covenant: There is Righteousness for those who Remain**

At Mount Sinai God establish another **covenant** with Moses. In this covenant God says, “Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5–6)

In this **covenant**, God ask his people to only serve the one true, covenant-keeping God.

If Israel is **obedient** to this covenant, they will experience the **blessings** of this covenant, but if they are **disobedient**, they will experience its **curses**.

God even told Moses to ask the people if this is what they wanted, and they were like, “*Yes Lord, we will follow your commandments.*”

But what we will see through the bible is that Israel will not be able to keep his commandments, because to violate any one of these laws, is to **violate all of them**.

This covenant was to reveals the absolute Righteousness of God and the **sinfulness of mankind**.

As with other **covenants**, blood is involved. Moses sacrificed young bulls: “Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.’” (Exodus 24:8)

Now this must have been a gory and bloody scene, Moses standing their, sprinkling blood on these people. But again, it shows us that if we are ever able to keep this **covenant**, an innocent animal must be slain, and His blood must be on us.

God knew that we will not be able to keep these commandments and they will continue to sin, so God called the **tribe of Levi** to be the **holy priesthood of Israel**. In order to make **atonement** for Israel’s sin.

5. **Priestly Covenant: There is Reconciliation for those who Return**

In this **covenant** the present of God is able to dwell among his people, if they continue to sacrifice a lamb as a **substitute** for their sins. He says in Exodus 29:44-46, “So I will set apart the tent of meeting and the altar. And I will set apart Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. 45 Then I will live among the people of Israel. And I will be their God. 46 They will know that I am the Lord their God. They will know that I brought them out of Egypt so I could live among them...”

But Israel soon realize that these **sacrifices** are just **temporary**, through them they are able to receive **forgiveness** for sin, but it is not able to **defeat** their sins, it cannot **destroy** the **power of sin at its core, which is the heart**. That’s why we see Israel began to **sacrifice** to other gods and so **God turned away from them**.

This **Priestly Covenant** tells us that we need a **Perfect Priest**. One that can **reconcile God and man**, one that can bring a greater **sacrifice**, a **Lamb** that must be **completely holy** and **completely innocent**, one that can atone for the sins of the world.

6. **Davidic Covenant**: There is Refuge in his Reign

In this **covenant** God promised David that he will have a **son**. A **seed** that will rise up as **king**. This son will sit on his **throne forever**. This son will NOT take the place OF God, but will representative God to his people. This son will come to **restore** and to **rescue**.

There will be refuge in his reign.

2 Samael 7:11-14

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son.

After receiving this covenant, David understood that it was a **covenant of Grace!** He worship God, because he knew he did nothing to deserve this kingdom, but that God has chosen him despite of his sin.

2 Samael 7:18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: “Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? 19 And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human!

God’s covenant has always been **Covenants of Grace**, he chose to bless undeserving people and call them into his purpose. **Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Aaron, Joshua**, it wasn’t their strength or cleverness, or deeds or hearts that God chose them, but that he WANTED them to be his people.

And as history goes on, all of David’s sons turned out to be **unfaithful**. Generation after generation, the people find themselves waiting and anticipating this **Deliverer**, this promised son of David. In the midst of silence and darkness God sends Jeramiah, another prophet, to shed a glimpse of hope.

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7. **New Covenant**: There is Resurrection power for those who Repent.

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Through all **6 covenant** God has shown us the wickedness of sin on display. Front the very start,

- We **rebelled** the Adamic covenant
- We **murdered** the Noahic covenant
- We **left** the Abrahamic covenant
- We **broke** the Mosaic covenant
- We **abused** the Priestly covenant
- We **gave up** on the Davidic covenant

Israel have been like an **unfaithful spouse**, though God was like a **good husband** to her. He could have destroyed them, he could have divorced them right then and there, but you see;

- if God **gave up** on them, he would not be **Faithful**
- If God **gave in** to them, he would not be **Holy**
- But because God is **faithful** through his promises, and **holy** in his character, he will make a way through himself in a **New Covenant**. This time, it will not be dependent on our **performance** or our **behavior**, but it will be completely dependent on **his actions alone**.

This is the covenant I **WILL** make. I **WILL** put my law in their minds, I **WILL** write it on their hearts, I **WILL** be their God and they will be **MY** people.

You see, the problem is not that we don't know what is right and wrong, because we have been given the ten commandments. The problem is that **we lack the power to obey**. We don't need **RULES written in stone**, we need God to put it in our minds and write it on our hearts.

This **New Covenant** is said to be fulfilled through the coming **Messiah**. The one that will **deliver** us from evil, **rescue** us from death and **defeat** sin at its core.

But who would have thought, that it had to be God himself in the flesh?

2000 year ago, God stepped back into his creation to save his children. His name was **Yeshua**- our salvation, **Emanuel**- God with us, the son of God and man.

And like he said, he did not come to destroy these **covenants of old**, but was the **promised one** that will FULFILL ALL OF THEM:

1. He was a descendant of Eve, our new and better Adam. The promised seed that will crush the head of the serpent, as he will die on the cross. Where there will be Redemption through his death.
2. He will drown in the cup of God's wrath so that we might be spared. This time God will not cleanse the world with a flood, but with **water** and **blood** that poured out of his side. So that there can be Renewal through his blood
3. He was the promised **seed of Abraham**, the one that was ripped apart for our disobedient to God's covenants. "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by HIS wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) Whoever believe in him, will also be brought into the family of Abraham. There is a Reward through him for all nations.
4. Jesus lived a perfect life, in full obedient to the 10 commandments, and took the punishment for those who broke it. So that we may receive his Righteousness for those who Remain in him.
5. He is our **Great High Priest**, and the **Sacrificial Lamb of God** who will take away the sins of the world. making reconciliation for those who return to him.
6. He is the **son of David**, the rightful king that will establish is **throne forever**. And there will be refuge for those to submit to his reign.

Jesus is our only HOPE, have you given him all your **heart** and all **your mind, soul, and strength**? He died and came back to life, so that you may live in relationship with God your father. That's why we believe there is **resurrection power for those who repent of their sins and trust in him**.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.