

THE 7 COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE

Question: "What are the covenants in the Bible?"

Answer: The Bible speaks of seven different covenants, **four of which (Abrahamic, Palestinian, Mosaic, Davidic)** God made with the nation of Israel.

Of those four, three are unconditional in nature; that is, regardless of Israel's obedience or disobedience, God still will fulfill these covenants with Israel.

One of the covenants, **the Mosaic Covenant, is conditional in nature.**

That is, this covenant will bring either blessing or cursing depending on Israel's obedience or disobedience.

Three of the covenants (Adamic, Noahic, New) are made between God and mankind in general, and are not limited to the nation of Israel.

(1)

The Adamic Covenant can be thought of in two parts:

(a) the **Edenic Covenant (innocence)** and

(b) the **Adamic Covenant (grace)** (Genesis 3:16-19).

The Edenic Covenant is found in Genesis 1:26-30; 2:16-17.

The Edenic Covenant outlined man's responsibility toward creation and God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Adamic Covenant included the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God's provision for that sin (Genesis 3:15).

(2)

The Noahic Covenant was an unconditional covenant between God and Noah (specifically) and humanity (generally).

After the Flood, God promised humanity that He would never again destroy all life on earth with a Flood (see Genesis chapter 9,)

God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant,

a promise that the entire earth would never again flood and a **reminder that God can and will judge sin (2 Peter 2:5).**

(3)

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18).

In this covenant, **God promised many things to Abraham.**

He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great (Genesis 12:2),

That Abraham would have numerous physical descendants (Genesis 13:16),

and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations (Genesis 17:4-5).

God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. In fact, the geographical boundaries of the Abrahamic Covenant are laid out on more than one occasion in the book of Genesis (12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21).

Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the world will be blessed through the physical line of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18).

This is a reference to the Messiah, who would come from the line of Abraham.

(4)

Palestinian Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). The Palestinian Covenant, **or Land Covenant**, amplifies the land aspect that was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant. According to the terms of this covenant,

if the people disobeyed, God would cause them to be scattered around the world (Deuteronomy 30:3-4),

but He would eventually restore the nation (verse 5).

When the nation is restored, then they will obey Him perfectly (verse 8), and God will cause them to prosper (verse 9).

(5)

Mosaic Covenant (Deuteronomy 11; et al.).

The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God's direct blessing for obedience or God's direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel. **Part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the rest of the Law, which contained over 600 commands—roughly 300 positive and 300 negative.**

The history books of the Old Testament (Joshua–Esther) detail how Israel succeeded at obeying the Law or how Israel failed miserably at obeying the Law.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 details the blessing/cursing motif.

(6)

Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-16).

The Davidic Covenant amplifies the “seed” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The promises to David in this passage are significant.

God promised that David's lineage would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away permanently (verse 16).

Obviously, the Davidic throne has not been in place at all times.

There will be a time, however, when someone from the line of David will again sit on the throne and rule as king.

This future king is Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).

(7)

New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The New Covenant is a covenant made first with the nation of Israel and, ultimately, with all mankind.

In the New Covenant, God promises to forgive sin, and there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord.

Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17) and create a new covenant between God and His people.

Now that we are under the New Covenant, both Jews and Gentiles can be free from the penalty of the Law. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Within the discussion of the biblical covenants, there are a few issues that Christians are not agreed upon.

First, some Christians think that all of the covenants are conditional in nature. If the covenants are conditional, then Israel failed miserably at fulfilling them. Others believe that the unconditional covenants have yet to be totally fulfilled and, regardless of Israel's disobedience, will come to fruition sometime in the future.

Second, how does the church of Jesus Christ relate to the covenants?

Some believe that the church fulfills the covenants and God will never deal with Israel again.

This is called replacement theology and has little scriptural evidence.

Others believe that the church initially or partially will fulfill these covenants.

While many of the promises towards Israel are still in the future, many believe that the church shares in the covenants in some way.

Others believe that the covenants are for Israel and for Israel alone, and that the church has no part in these covenants.

Recommended Resources: **The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns and Logos Bible Software.**

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The bottom line in Covenants (1) to (7) is the ‘thread’ that travels through them i.e. (“THE SEED” which is Jesus .

Jesus stated clearly in **Matthew 5:17-18** Amplified Bible (AMP) quote:

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to do away with *or* undo the ^[a]Law [of Moses] or the [writings of the] Prophets; **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

¹⁸ For I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished.

so Jesus did not come to DO AWAY WITH THE MORAL LAW OF GOD THE FATHER (The 10 Commandments) or THE PROPHETIC WORDS OF THE PROPHETS (Jesus being a Prophet himself (Mat;21:-11) <http://biblehub.com/matthew/21-11.htm> as well as son of man, son of God, saviour, Creator i.e. Jesus three main roles were Prophet, Priest, and King of Kings etc) .

The Final or NEW covenant (7) Jesus himself MERGED THE OLD into HIS BODY to THE NEW (Ephesians 2:20-22 (plus read whole chapter)

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone,

²¹ in whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, set apart, and sacred to the presence of the Lord].

²² In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

In fact the “SEED” which is **JESUS actually ACTIVATES ALL OF THE SEVEN (7) COVENANTS** so that we as BORN AGAIN (John 3:3) CHRISTIANS can actually OBEY THE MORAL LAW OF GOD THE FATHER and receive the BENEFITS of the BLESSINGS of ABRAHAM (father of the FAITH) and the promises of God the father (remember that the Holy Trinity always acts as ONE UNIT) is ACTIVATED THROUGH JESUS at THE CROSS of CALVERY .

Remember the Covenant of FAITH by Abraham **(3)** was 430 years BEFORE the 10 commandments of Moses **(5)** Gal;3:17 and there was another 480 (approx) years between Moses and King Saul and King David **(6)** and 1,000 years (approx) between King David and **(7)** Jesus.

The ISSUE IN ALL OF THIS is not the Moral laws of GOD , the ISSUE is the corruption of the Natural man gravitating towards SIN and as a consequence DEATH both physical and spiritual .(Romans 7 & 8 whole chapters) .

FORTUNATELY THROUGH THE CROSS OF CALVERY WE as Born again Christians (John 3:3) can now :

- a) BE FREE OF SIN and cleansed by the atoning blood of Jesus
- b) FREE to worship God with all out Heart ,mind and soul

c)Are Kings and Priests with Jesus

d)Can obey the Moral Laws of God because the Holy Spirit now LIVES IN OUR HEARTS

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There are of course many other benefits too numerous to detail here , but if you can get the BIG PICTURE that the WHOLE BIBLE and all its promises, blessings, and benefits outlined by ALL the (7) covenants are ACTIVATED by the ‘seed” Jesus and his atoning sacrifice by his Blood in the 7th.

So the debate or the discussion is not about WHICH COVENANT it is more about that we have BEEN SET FREE OF SIN and NOW ABLE to OBEY GOD without the bondage of the natural man and his inherited CURSE from the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:13-19) till the “Curse of SIN and DEATH” was removed by the blood of Jesus.

Removed for what purpose ?

TO BE ABLE TO OBEY GOD as Adam did in relationship with God before the fall in the Garden of Eden ,Jesus (the second or Last Adam) 1 Cor 13:45 has **ENABLED OUR RELATIONSHIP TO BE COMPLETELY RESTORED TO GOD**

(With all the blessings and benefits as Sons of God Rom 8:14)(and the God Head through Jesus) we are:

RESTORED TO INNOCENCE and RIGHT STANDING WITH A HOLY GOD.

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