

LESSON 10: KINGDOM THROUGH COVENANT

GROW University - Old Testament 101

Introduction:

The Storyline of the Bible: God's people, in God's place, under God's rule.

Creation and the Adamic Covenant

_Read **Genesis 1:1, 26, 28.**

–Paul Williamson, *“A solemn commitment, guaranteeing promises or obligations undertaken by one or both covenanting parties, sealed with an oath.”*¹

_Read **Genesis 2:15-17.**

– Daniel J. Elazar, *“A covenant is the constitutionalization of a relationship.”*²

_Read **Genesis 5:1-3.**

Q: Does their revolution succeed? Do they place themselves outside of God's rule and kingdom?

A: No

1.) The sword remains in God's hand, even if his hand is now invisible. The genealogical tables in Genesis 5 conclude every name with “and he died.” He's enacting his curse on humanity as promised.

¹ Paul R. Williamson, *Sealed with An Oath: Covenant in God's Unfolding Purpose, New Studies in Biblical Theology* (Downers Grove, IL: Apollos/InterVarsity Press, 2007)

² Daniel J. Elazar and John Kincaid, *Covenant and Polity* (Philadelphia, PA: Center for the Study of Federalism, Temple Univ., 1979, 24.)

2.) The fact that all humanity remains under God's rule is evident with the Bible's second major covenant, the Noahic Covenant.

Noahic Covenant

_Read **Genesis 9:1**.

Genesis 9:5b, "...From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man."

_Read **Genesis 9:8-13**.

Covenant Sign: God's bow of war set down.

New Adam: Noah

All humanity is subject to God's rule and are accountable to his judgment, whether they acknowledge God or not.

_Read **Psalms 96:10**.

Abrahamic Covenant

_Read **Genesis 12:1-3, 7**.

_Read **15:18**.

_Read **17: 4, 6-7, 10**.

Covenant Sign: Circumcision

New Adam: Abraham

Understand the relationship between the common covenants and the special covenants.

1:28, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."

9:1, 7, "So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply..."

12:2-3, “[God promises Abraham] 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you...”

17:2, 6, 8, “And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly...I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan...”

Q: What’s the difference?

A: The commands of Genesis 1 and 9 turn into promises in Genesis 12 and following.³ God means to use the redeemed line of Abraham to fulfill his creation purposes.

Q: How shall we characterize the relationship between the common covenants and the special covenants?

A: What the common covenants command, the special covenants give and therefore fulfill.

_Read **Exodus 1:7**.

Mosaic and Davidic Covenants

Q: Describe the relationship between the Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants.

A: Both the Mosaic and Davidic Covenants are devices for implementing these Abrahamic promises.

New (Corporate) Adam: Israel (a “son”)

_Read **Exodus 4:22-23**.

_Read **19:5-6**.

Covenant Sign: Sabbath keeping.

_Read **24:7-8**.

³ See also 26:3-5, 24: 28:3; 35:11-12.

_Read **Deuteronomy 17:18-20**. The occupant of David's throne was expected to preeminently embody the values of the Mosaic Law, thereby reflecting the kingship of God.

_Read **2 Samuel 7:12-13**. Terms of the Davidic Covenant.

Covenant Sign: David and his offspring

New Adam: David (a special son of God, representing and imaging his heavenly Father)

New Covenant

Sadly, Israel and its kings rebelled. The result: injustice and unrighteousness (e.g. Is. 1:23; 10:1-2; Jer. 5:28).

God therefore determined to offer a new covenant, and this new covenant would establish a truly just and righteous kingdom.

_Read **Jeremiah 31:33**:

- It gives them new, obedient, and free natures: "I will put My law in their minds."
- The covenant establishes a community of people ruled by one ruler—a body politic: "I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
- And it's a body politic, a kingdom, that destroys all the natural hierarchies of humankind. There are no classes, castes or ethnic rivalries here.
 - Read **31:34**
- And this covenant establishes this body politic on a foundation of judicial pardon and reconciliation: "For I will forgive their iniquity."

Q: How would you describe the relationship between the Mosaic Covenant and the New Covenant?

*A1: It's **not** about...*

- *...moving from corporate to individual,*
- *...or from obedience-required to no-obedience-required.*

A2: It is about moving from a covenant in which Israel's obedience and kingdom life...

- ...depend upon their own strength to a covenant in which their obedience and political/kingdom life would depend upon God and his Spirit.
- God commands. God fulfills. Notice, the relationship is similar to the relationship between common and special.

Fulfillment in Jesus: Who Is Jesus?

Matthew 1:1, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."

Matthew wrote these words in Greek. And in Greek, the first two words are *biblos* and *gene-se-os*.

*What does *biblos* sound like? "Book of."

*And what does *gene-se-os* sound like? "Genesis"

Genesis 5:1, "This is the book of the genealogy (*biblos gene-se-os*) of Adam..."

New Adam: Jesus

- The son of David.
- The Son of Abraham.

_Read **Matthew 2:14-15**.

- The new Israel.

Turn to chapter 4.

- What does the temptation by the devil remind you of? Adam.
- And what does 40 days remind you of? Israel.
- Jesus does what neither Adam nor Israel could do: resist Satan and obey!

The Covenant Thread	Application Questions
<p>2.) There is no such thing as spiritual neutrality, whether in public or private. There is only one standard of righteousness and justice—a biblical one.</p>	<p><i>How then would you describe your relationship with God, based on both your public and private life?</i></p>
<p>3.) God's special people exist to model what is required of all humanity: a true politic. Where should we look for true justice? Among God's people.</p> <p><i>This in turn should lead to discussions about...</i></p>	<p><i>Being made in God's image (Gen. 1:26), what have you been created to do?</i></p> <p><i>What have you been redeemed to do?</i></p>
<p>4.) The witness of the church, and how its evangelism is tied to its deeds.</p> <p><i>Which in turn is tied to...</i></p>	<p><i>Would you be able to share the gospel from the Scriptures with someone right now?</i></p> <p><i>How often you engaging in evangelism?</i></p>
<p>5.) The role of God's law in the life of God's people and...</p>	<p><i>What is the role of the law in your life? How do you make sense of it under the New Covenant?</i></p>
<p>6.) The institutional nature of the people of the new covenant, and how they should be marked off by the signs of the covenant: Lord's Supper and Baptism.</p>	<p><i>How does Baptism act as a sign of the New Covenant?</i></p> <p><i>Have you been baptized by immersion after trusting in Christ?</i></p> <p><i>How does Lord's Supper act as a sign of the New Covenant?</i></p>

The Covenant Thread	Application Questions
<p>7) More broadly, the church as the regenerate people of the kingdom.</p> <p><i>That's what the new covenant promises, right?</i></p>	<p><i>What does mean to be regenerate?</i></p> <p><i>How can you put this view about your brothers and sisters into practice?</i></p>
<p>8) The church's mission and whether we can say the kingdom extends further than the regenerating work of the New Covenant.</p>	<p><i>What is the mission of the church, under the New Covenant? Why?</i></p> <p><i>What is the relationship between this mission and the New Covenant?</i></p>

Hopefully, you're beginning to see that you need the whole storyline of "kingdom through covenant" to really see how God would address all of these issues we face in the day to day lives we live for His glory. Tracing the covenant is vital toward growing in our understanding of the story of redemption.