

Doctrine of the Covenants

Nine Covenants of Scripture

- **The Eternal Covenant of Grace.** *Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*

This eternal covenant of grace was established before time began whereby God the Father gave to God the Son souls for redemption. In this everlasting covenant the Fall was anticipated and a way of salvation provided. The end result of this eternal covenant is that individuals can have peace from God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **The Covenant of Eden.** *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

The Covenant of Eden was a covenant of works whereby man was to have dominion over the earth and enjoy the labor of his hands with one exception. He was not to eat of the Tree of Life upon the pain and penalty of death. Obedience brought life, disobedience brought judgment.

- **God Made a Covenant with Adam.** *Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. 16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

In his covenant man, woman, serpent and the whole earth was judged but then a grand promise of redemption was given (Genesis 3:15).

- **God Made a Covenant with Noah.** *Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. 22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. 3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. 4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. 5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

In this covenant capital punishment was instituted as well as the judicial power of the state (Genesis 9:5-6). The promise of redemption was reaffirmed through the line of Shem (Genesis 9:26).

- **God Made a Covenant with Abraham.** *Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Study Genesis 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8).*

In the covenant made with Abraham God promised to give him a land, a descendant and a blessing of his name. In him (through Christ) all the families of the earth were to be blessed (Galatians 3:16; John 8:56-58). God has honored His word. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all look to Abraham as establishing their beliefs.

- **God Made a Covenant with Moses,** Exodus 20:1-31:18. Working through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob God gave to national Israel in particular and to mankind in general a social (Exodus 21:1; 24:11), moral (Exodus 20:1-26); and religious (Exodus 24:12-31:18) codex to live by called the Law. By divine design this covenant served as a ministry of 'condemnation' and 'death' (2 Corinthians 3:7-9) in order to lead the transgressor to the only Saviour of the soul, Jesus Christ.
- **God Made a Covenant with Israel Regarding the Land of Palestine.** *Deuteronomy 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, 2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; 3 That then the*

LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. 6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. 7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: 10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

One of the ironies of the modern era is that the term Palestine is associated more with the Arabs than the Jews. However, the original and true Palestinians of covenant were the Jews. According to the terms of the original covenant Israel was to possess the land in gospel obedience. Disobedience would bring dispersion. However, a return to the land would be enjoyed based upon repentance (Deuteronomy 30:2-5) with national prosperity to be known (Deuteronomy 30:9).

- **God Made a Covenant with David.** 2 Samuel 7:4-17, 1 Chronicles 17:4-15. In this covenant the line of David was established as the Messianic line. It was confirmed by divine oath in Psalm 89:30-37 and renewed to Mary in Luke 1:31-33. Christ is declared to be the fulfillment of this covenant as He came into the world as Sovereign, Saviour and King of kings (Acts 1:6; Revelation 19:16; 20:4-6).
- **God Made a New Covenant with the Church,** Jeremiah 31:31-33; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:8-12—In the provisions of this covenant God would write His commandments upon the hearts of His people who would be to Him a kingdom of priests based upon the finished redemption of Christ. The work of Christ at Calvary secures blessing for the New Testament expression of the church, flowing from the Abrahamic covenant (Gal 3:13-20). The ultimate fulfillment of all the other covenants are included in the provisions of the New Covenant.