

Covenants

The concept of a covenant permeates the Scriptures. Because God desired companionship, He made a covenant with the first human. In Genesis we read:

Gen 1:27–28 (NASB95)

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Gen 2:15–17 (NASB95)

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

That’s the deal. Ruling over My creation will be your job. You are My ruler. Populate the Earth. Eat whatever takes your fancy but not the fruit from the one harmful tree; it will kill you.

That covenant was broken. BY MAN.

Noah comes along and we are given his pedigree; son of Lamech son of Methuselah, son of Enoch. God makes another covenant, again, with one who will be progenitor to humanity.

Gen 6:18 (NASB95)

18 “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.

Gen 9:9–11 (NASB95)

9 “Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth.

11 “I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Lets move on. Abram.

Gen 12:1-3 (NASB95)

1 ...“Go forth from your country,

And from your relatives

And from your father’s house,

To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation,

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This was expanded in Gen 15 with more promises including a son and innumerable descendants. Then another covenant, same person, new name (Abraham)-

Gen 17:1-22 (NASB95)

1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.

2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 "I have made you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

7 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

...

Other covenants are made. Isaac (Gen 26:3-5). Jacob (Gen 28:13-15). Then another covenant, same person, new name (Israel)(Gen 35:11-12). Israel dies and along comes Moses and another covenant, this time with the nation called Israel.

Exodus 3:5-9 (NASB95)

5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.

8 "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

9 "Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

God does indeed rescue them from Egypt to the land flowing with milk and honey. Along the way he writes down the terms of the covenant for them - the ten commandments; the Law. Ex20. However the Law is weak because of the flesh and there are many references to a covenant coming to replace this covenant, to replace the Law. Jer31:31-34. Gal4:24... Heb8:6.

Rom 8:3 (NASB95)

3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

So, following Moses, God continued to make covenants with individuals and He continued to honour His covenant with the nation. He made covenants with Joshua, David and Solomon, even with kings and prophets. Eventually, in the fullness of time He sent His Son, His seed to execute and attest the New Covenant. And by His death and resurrection He established the promised covenant.

Heb 9:15 (NASB95)

15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.