

COVENANTS OF GOD OVERVIEW

These provide a foundational theological anchor for understanding God's working in human history. The Noahic, Abrahamic (including the expanded Canaan, Davidic, and New covenants) are **UNILATERAL** in nature. That is, God made the covenant without demanding conditions. The Mosaic covenant is **BILATERAL** in that it requires obedience by man. The Mosaic Law was "added" because of man's transgression (**Ga.3:15-19**).

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Land, Seed, Blessing

(Ge.12:1-3,7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21; 22:15-18)

SIGN: Circumcision is a sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Ge.17:11).

- God demonstrated His unmerited favor and unilateral choice of Israel to be called out from among the nations through whom the Messiah would come.
- God required faith alone in order to impute righteousness (**He.11:8-10**). We could call this the Covenant of Faith.
- The Abrahamic Covenant enlarges into the Canaan Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant.



CANAAN COVENANT

Land of Promise

(Ge.12:2-3; 17:8; Du.30:1-10; see He.11:13)

- God promised to Abraham, and to his seed forever, all the land of Canaan through which He would bless the world.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

Seed Promise

(Ge.17:7,19; 2Sa.7:10-16; Ek.36:1-12; Mi.4:1-5; Zp.3:14-20; Zc.14:1-21)

- God promised the perpetual reign of the descendants of David.
- This will ultimately be fulfilled during Messiah's reign during

NEW COVENANT

Blessing Promise

(Ge.12:3; 22:18; 28:14; Je.31:31-34; Lk.22:20; 1Co.11:25; 2Co.3:6; Hb.8:8,13; 9:15; 12:24)

- God promised continual pouring out of grace with a promise where He would put His law within His people, writing it upon their hearts.
- The promise for Israel includes permanent forgiveness and the pinnacle of her relationship with the Lord. Messiah will be identified with Israel.

MOSAIC COVENANT

Sinaitic, The Law

SIGN: Observance of Sabbaths.

- God revealed His holiness and how heinous sin really is. The daily sacrifices provided a constant reminder of the need for the shedding of blood for the remission of sin to propitiate God's wrath.



Levitical Priesthood

- God promised a perpetual priesthood to Phinehas which included his descendants (Levi) because of his righteous act in freeing Israel from the consequences of God's wrath (**Nu.25:10-13**).

Deuteronomic

- This is a renewal of the former treaty given at Sinai after leaving Egypt. This is in the land of Moab prior to entry into the land. Notice it is similar in character to the Sinaitic Law (**Du.28**).

- The law was added because of transgression till the Seed should come (**Ga.3:15-19**)
- Inheriting eternal life can not be by the Law because that would have broken the promise to Abraham (**Ga.3:18**). It could only be by faith (**Ga.3:8-9; 3:21; He.11:7**).
- **Jeremiah 31:31-33** makes it clear that the New Covenant came in the place of the Mosaic law.
- All the Law was viewed as a unit (**Lv.27:34**).

LEGEND

UNILATERAL

Grant: Performed by only one person. God committed Himself to fulfill the promise without any conditions upon man.

BILATERAL

Treaty: Relating to two sides or persons. God promises blessings for man's obedience, and curses for his disobedience.