

GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES

Dr. Dan Starcevic



OUR PLAN

- Goals and Introduction
- Biblical Covenants
- Covenants Between the Testaments
- Covenants in the Gospels and Acts
- Covenants in The Epistles
- Covenants in Revelation

By Perseverance Even The Snail Made it into the Arc—C.S. Spurgeon

OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE HIM GLORY

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Ro 11:33–36)

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INTRODUCTION

- Why Bother?
- God's Promises
- When a Promise is a Covenant
- Theological vs. Biblical Covenants
- Start Before the Beginning
- God's Ultimate Intent

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WHY BOTHER?

The Bible is a Big, and
Complex Book

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- 66 Books: 39 in Old and 27 in New Testaments
- 1189 Chapters: 929 in Old and 260 in New Testaments
- Written by 35 Authors We Know of
- Originally Written in 3 Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
- Written Over a Period of About 1500 Years
- Written By Authors Living in Africa, Middle-East, Asia, and Europe

WHY BOTHER?

- Understanding The Covenants:
 - Helps Us to Understand the Whole Bible
 - Helps us Value All of God's Revelation, Both Old and New Testaments
 - Gives Us Confidence in God's Faithfulness
 - Allows Us Insight into God's Eternal Plan
 - Shows Us Our Role / Responsibility / Place In the Plan of God
 - Gives Us Insight Into the Attributes of God
 - Helps Us to Keep Current Events in Proper Perspective

We Will Understand God's Character, Plans, and Promises In Order to Love and Worship Him More Fully

WHY BOTHER?

- **The concept of covenant is fundamental in understanding biblical history, theology and the intertwining of the two.** —T. Rata, "Covenant," ed. Mark J. Boda and Gordon J. McConville, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets* (Downers Grove, IL; Nottingham, England: IVP Academic; Inter-Varsity Press, 2012), 99.
- **the concept of covenant is fundamental to his[Paul's] thought.** — Mark A. Seifrid, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Second Letter to the Corinthians*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.; England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos, 2014), 124.
- **The concept of covenant is fundamental to our understanding of the Scriptures.** — *Tabletalk Magazine*, June 2004: *The Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic* (Lake Mary, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2004), 35.

You Can't Understand the Bible Without Understanding the Covenants

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THE PROMISES OF GOD

- Conditional Promises

- If You Do This...Then I Will Do That...
- Look At Gn. 2:16—17
- Look at Deut. 29:9
- Look At Jer. 18:7—10

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 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**.” (Ge 2:16–17)

In Conditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things **IF** Conditions Are Met

THE PROMISES OF GOD

- Conditional Promises

- If You Do This...Then I Will Do That...

- Look At Gn. 2:16—17

- Look at Deut. 29:9

- Look At Jer. 18:7—10

So **keep the words** of this covenant to do them, **that you may prosper** in all that you do. (Dt 29:9)

In Conditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things **IF** Conditions Are Met

THE PROMISES OF GOD

- Conditional Promises
 - If You Do This...Then I Will Do That...
 - Look At Gn. 2:16—17
 - Look at Deut. 29:9
 - Look At Jer. 18:7—10

At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. (Je 18:7–10)

In Conditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things **IF** Conditions Are Met

LET'S LOOK AT ONE MORE
CONDITIONAL PROMISE

- Conditional Promises
- Let's Look at Deut. 4:1
- The Condition For Israel to Possess The Land is to Obey The Mosaic Law

“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, **so that you may** live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. (Deuteronomy 4:1)

IF Israel Obey the Mosaic Law **THEN** They Will Possess The Land

THE PROMISES OF GOD

- UNconditional Promises

- I Will...
- Look At Gn. 3:15
- Look At Gn. 8:21
- Look At Gn. 12:1—3

And I will put enmity
Between you and the
woman, And between your
seed and her seed; He shall
bruise you on the head, And
you shall bruise him on the
heel.” (Ge 3:15)

In Unconditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do
Certain Things **No Matter What** People Do

THE PROMISES OF GOD

- UNconditional Promises
 - I Will...
 - Look At Gn. 3:15
 - Look At Gn. 8:21
 - Look At Gn. 12:1—3

The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, “**I will never** again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and **I will never** again destroy every living thing, as I have done. (Ge 8:21)

In Unconditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things **No Matter What** People Do

THE PROMISES OF GOD

- UNconditional Promises

- I Will...
- Look At Gn. 3:15
- Look At Gn. 8:21
- Look At Gn. 12:1—3

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which **I will** show you; 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; 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.” (Ge 12:1–3)

In Unconditional Promises God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things **No Matter What** People Do

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PLANS, PROMISES, AND COVENANTS

Plans Express
God's Intent For
the Future

Promises are a
Pledge to Do
Something, or Not
Do Something in
the Future

Covenants are
Divine Solemnly
Sealed and Explicit
Statements of
Intent and
Obligation

Every Covenant is a Promise, But Not Every Promise is a
Covenant

THE MAIN THING

This study proceeds upon the belief that since the covenants of the Bible are reinforcements of God's plain speech about important facets of His Great Plan or eternal decree, nothing else in God's revelation can counter or contradict the plain meaning of these covenants.

—Henebury, Paul Martin. *The Words of the Covenant - A Biblical Theology: Volume 1 - Old Testament Expectation* (p. 91). Xulon Press. Kindle Edition.

God Means What He Says

THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

- Promise/Noah/Nation (Gn. 9-11)
- Abrahamic Covenant (Gn. 12, 15, 17, 18, 22)
- Land Covenant (Dt. 30)
- Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 20-24)
- Priestly Covenant (Nm. 25)
- Davidic Covenant (2 Sm. 7, Ps. 89)
- New Covenant (Jer. 31)

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THEOLOGICAL COVENANTS

The Controlling Framework of
Covenant Theology Are Theological
Deductions

Not Explicitly Stated In the Bible

Said to Be Implied In Biblical Texts

Relies on Deductive Reasoning to Draw
These Covenants Out of the Bible

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COVENANT
OF
REDEMPTION

An Eternal Covenant Or Agreement Between
Members of the Trinity

God Appointed Jesus to Suffer and Die to Aton
for the Sins of Mankind

God Promised to Raise Jesus From the Dead,
Give Him a People, Glorify Him

Clarified/Systematized by Johannes Cocceius and
John Owen

Scriptural Support in Pss. 2, 110, Isaiah 53, Phil.
2:5-11, Rev. 5:9-10

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**COVENANT
OF WORKS**

A Covenant Between God and Adam, the Federal Head of All Mankind

God Agreed to Provide Adam With Eternal Life On Condition He Keep God's Single Command to Not Eat From the Tree of Knowledge

Adam Broke the Covenant Bringing Condemnation and Death Upon Himself and Mankind

Scriptural Support: Gn. 2:16-17, Hos. 6:7, Rom. 5:12-21

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COVENANT
OF GRACE

A Covenant By God To Provide Eternal Life For All Who Have Faith In Jesus Through the Spirit Who Gives the Elect Faith to Believe

Jesus is the Federal Head For all the Elect Who Fulfills the Conditions of the Covenant of Works For Them

The Historical Outworking of the Covenant of Redemption

Runs Continuously Through Old and New Testaments, Is the Basis for and Historically Administered Through the Biblical Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and New Covenants

Scriptural Support: Gn. 2:16-17, Hos. 6:7, Rom. 5:12-21

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CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS

- Karl Barth, Klaas Schilder, John Murray Recognize Only the Single Covenant of Grace
- Norman Shepherd Denies a Covenant of Works,
- Merideth Kline and Michael Horton Maintain that the Covenant of Works is the Basis of Grace in That Christ's Perfect Obedience is Graciously Imputed to Believers
- John Murray Maintains that Grace Preceded the Covenant of Works

Covenant Theologians Disagree On Which Are The Supposedly Biblical Covenants

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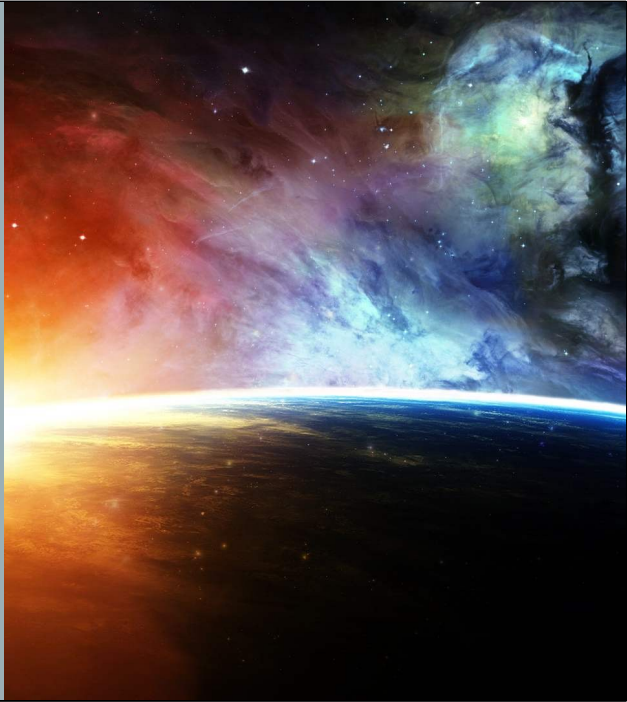


WHERE DO WE START?

Before the Creation of the World

God's Plan For The World Was in
Place Before He Created
Anything

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GOD'S PLANS WE MADE IN ETERNITY PAST

- The Work and Ministry of Jesus Were Determined (Micah 5:2)
- The Kingdom of God was Prepared (Mt. 25:34)
- The Fire of Hell Was Prepared for the Devil (Mt. 25:41)
- Jesus was Loved by the Father (Jn. 17:24)
- God Chose Who Would Believe (Eph 1:4)
- Granted Grace to Those Who Have been Called and Saved (2 Tim. 1:9)
- The Sacrificial Death of Jesus Was Known (1 Pet. 1:20)
- The Names of the Saved Were Written (Rev. 13:8, 17:8)

God's Plans Were Made Before Creation

PLANS AND PROMISES

- Plans Express God's Intent For the Future
- God Knew Before Creation
- Some Parts of the Plan are Revealed But Not All Parts
- In Unconditional Covenants God Commits Himself To Do Certain Things No Matter What
- God Graciously Reveals What He Will Do To Make His Plan Happen
- Since We Know His Plan And Covenants, We Can Know and Play Our Part

God's Decrees Are Being Worked Out Now

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GOD'S INTENT IS TO REVEAL HIS GLORY

- **Creation**, Ps. 19; Is. 40; Rev. 4:8-11.
- **God's Predestining and Calling Works**, Eph. 1:5-12; 2 Pet. 1:3;
- **Ministry of Christ** (including His resurrection), Jn. 13:31-32; 17:1-5; 21:19; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 13:21;
- **Keeping of His word**, Rom. 3:1-7;
- **Salvation**, Ps. 79:9; Rom. 15:7; 16:25-27; Eph. 1:14; 1 Tim. 1:15-17; 2 Tim. 4:18; Jude 24-25;

The Goal of Everything God Does is His Glory

GOD'S INTENT IS TO REVEAL HIS GLORY

- **The Church**, 1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 4:15; Eph. 1:12; Php. 1:11; 2 Thes. 1:11–12; 1 Pet. 4:11, 16;
- **Fruitfulness of Believers**, Jn. 15:8; 1 Cor. 10:31;
- **The Kingdom**, Php. 2:11; 1 Thes. 2:12; Rev. 1:6;
- **Sickness, Death, and Resurrection**, 1 Sam. 6:5; Lk. 17:11–18; Jn. 9:1–3; 11:4;
- **Judgment**, Rom. 3:7; Rev. 14:7;
- **Deliverance of Israel**, Is. 60:21; 61:3;
- **Fulfilling of covenants and summing up of all things**, Is. 25:1–3; 43:20; Lk.

The Goal of Everything God Does is His Glory

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- God's Plans Were Made Before the Creation of the World
- God Knows the Whole Plan and Has Revealed Some of it to Us
- In His Unconditional Covenants God Commits Himself to Do Certain Things to Work Out His Plans, No Matter What
- The Purpose of Everything God Does is To Reveal His Glory

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NEXT TIME

May 19th

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- What About Dispensations?
- God Made Promises To All People, Everywhere, and For All Time
- God's Plans Will Be Worked Out Through Nations

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Give Him Glory

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