

## "THROUGH THE BIBLE"

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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### THE COVENANTS GOD MADE WITH ISRAEL

**INTRODUCTION:** Covenant (Hebrew *berith*) means "bond". One of the great *themes* of the first section of the Old Testament is God's covenant, and covenantal relationship with humanity. Even before the foundation of the world- God's act of creation, His plan for man's redemption was formed and in place. The work of redemption ("*ransom*"), as the scriptures will show, is God's eternal plan that points to Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:18-21*). God chose covenant to carry out His plan and provisions for man. The two party "*contract*" (*in Western culture*), is usually a written binding relationship, rooted in commitments of promises, obligations, and peace. It is to be signed by both parties in faith, that each party agrees to abide.

The sign of the **Noahic Covenant**: A unconditional commitment, ("God will remember") the rainbow (*v.14-17*). It would be a covenant of peace and faithfulness. God's promise was, never again, no more floods like the "Great Flood". God personally "signed" this covenant (*Genesis 9:13*).

There are key and significant Covenants God made with the men that He called. A basic understanding helps us to know the purposes and plans of God for our spiritual life and future. Remember, the **Genesis genealogies** ("*Family Trees*") serve to help our focus to remain on God's chosen family line. The hope of God's promised "seed" (*Genesis 3:15*) continues.

#### **1. Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-18, 17, 22:15-18)**

The repeated call, message, and promise that Abraham heard from God (*v. 1-3*). His response was of faith and obedience (*v.4*). Abraham agrees with God's covenant promise which consist of three separate parts: (1) the promise/gift of land for Abraham's descendants, (2) to be the father of a nation of countless offspring, (3) all nations of the earth would be blessed (one of Abraham's descendants would be Jesus Christ, the Redeemer). The terms of the covenant are very distinctly given (*17:1-27*).

The sign of the covenant: Circumcision (*17:9-13*). The "mark" of ownership/relationship. The covenant is formalized as an agreement between God and Abraham. It is finalized when God swore by Himself that He would do it (*22:15-18*). God's word cannot be reversed, cancelled, or undone. The Patriarchal Blessing: God's "Blessing" was passed down to Isaac (*Gen. 25:11*), then Jacob. It would be a generation-to-generation blessing.

#### **2. Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 3; 19-24, Exodus 31:12-18)**

Moses' Call and commission (*Exodus 3:1-10*). He was in Midian and 80 years old (*Acts 7:30-34*). The Covenant: God made the covenant with Israel as a national covenant, identifying them as the chosen descendants of Abraham. The covenant was given through Moses on Mt. Sinai

## “The Covenants” Continued

(Horeb). It was Israel’s “*Constitution*” including, the Ten Commandments, Levitical Laws, civil and ceremonial, basic instructions for human living, and the blueprint for the Tabernacle (19-24).

Key Word: **Redemption** (Israel’s redemption out of Egypt).

Purpose of the Law: To teach God’s instructions regarding the knowledge of sin and as a “school master” to lead them to Christ (*Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:24; II Corinthians 6:17*). To emphasize the great and significant importance of His Laws, God wrote them with his finger on tables (tablets) of stone (*Exodus 24:12; Exodus 31:18*). **Behavior** is key, because the wages of sin (evildoing) is still death (*Romans 6:23*). The Priesthood would be added later.

Sign of the Covenant: **The Sabbath** (*Exodus 31:12-18*).

**3. Davidic Covenant** (*2 Samuel 7:1-17; 2 Chronicles 7:18; 21:7; Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 9:7*)  
David, King of Israel, ruled for 40 years. He was devoted/loved God, but was imperfect. God established a royal kingly dynasty (*Isaiah 9:7*) through David and his family line. Obedience was required, but this *Covenant was to be an everlasting/eternal/unconditional covenant*. God’s promise to David would depend only on God’s unchanging covenant love relationship.

Sign of the Covenant: **The Temple** (*2 Samuel 7:13*).

**4. New Covenant (FUTURE) JESUS-** (*Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Hebrews 5; 1 Cor.11:23-25; Acts 2:38; Rom. 5:17; Matthew 1:1; Matthew 21:9, Matthew 22:45; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32-33*)

The Jeremiah prophecy emphasize the possibility of restoration, and a “*new covenant*” relationship between God and Israel in the future. The covenant would not be external, but internal. It would be written on the hearts of God’s people (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*).

THE GOOD NEWS: The prophecy was **fulfilled and completed** in the person and work of Jesus Christ, “Son of David” (*Matthew 9:27; 20:30-31*). He became the Mediator (“go between”) of the New Covenant. His Blood guarantees the covenant is valid (*Romans 5:17; 1 Cor.11:23-25*).

Christ: Appointed the Superior High Priest-Order of Melchizedek (*Hebrews 5:1-10; Hebrews 8:6*). The key word: **Redemption**, “*deliverance by payment of a price*” (*1 Cor. 6:20*).

The Future Heir/King/Successor to David’s Throne: **Jesus Christ** (*Revelation 22:16*).

**Messiah:** *The King descended from David. He defeated Satan to bring salvation and healing. He fulfilled God’s plan (Genesis 3:15) when He rose from the dead (Mark 16:6; .*

Sign of the Covenant: A “**circumcised**” (new) heart” (a new heart and spirit, *Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 37:26,27; Rom. 2:28,29; Acts 2:38*). Those who trust in Christ for salvation, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of future salvation (*2 Corinthians 5:1-5*).