



## **Week 18 – The Old Covenants**

There are many examples of covenants being cut in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

All of these are examples to us of the plan God had from the beginning.

### **Gods Covenant With Noah (and all living flesh)**

After having sent a global flood to destroy the wickedness that had become so prevalent on earth after the Fall. God promised Noah (and by extension all humanity) to never again destroy the world with a flood.

*Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."*

*Genesis 9: 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it." 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the*

*covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

Do we see the steps of the covenant ceremony?

**STEP 1- TAKE OFF COAT OR ROBE**

\*N/M

\*N/M = Not Mentioned

**STEP 2- TAKE OFF BELT**

N/M

**STEP 3- CUT THE COVENANT**

*Genesis 8: 20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*

**STEP 4- RAISE THE RIGHT ARM AND MIX BLOOD**

N/M

**STEP 5- EXCHANGE NAMES**

N/M

**STEP 6- MAKE A SCAR**

N/M

**STEP 7- GIVE COVENANT TERMS**

*Genesis 9:11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”*

**STEP 8- EAT MEMORIAL MEAL**

N/M

**STEP 9- PLANT A MEMORIAL**

*13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will*

*remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

This is an example of a **Royal Grant** covenant; there is nothing that Noah or his descendants must do to ensure that this promise is fulfilled. Instead it finds its validity purely in God's faithfulness.

## **The Abrahamic Covenant**

### **STEP 1- TAKE OFF COAT OR ROBE**

N/M

### **STEP 2- TAKE OFF BELT**

N/M

### **STEP 3- CUT THE COVENANT**

*Genesis 15: 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

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*Genesis 22: After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the **land of Moriah**, and offer him there as a burnt offering on **one of the mountains** that I shall show you.”*

*Genesis 22: 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”*

*Genesis 22: 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”*

*2 Chronicles 3:1 Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had designated, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.*

#### **STEP 4- RAISE THE RIGHT ARM AND MIX BLOOD**

*Genesis 17: 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.*

#### **STEP 5- EXCHANGE NAMES**

*Genesis 17: 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

*Genesis 17: 15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."*

#### **STEP 6- MAKE A SCAR**

*Genesis 14: 11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.*

#### **STEP 7- GIVE COVENANT TERMS**

*Genesis 12: 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 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 shall be blessed."*

*Genesis 15: 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

*Genesis 15: 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of..."*

#### **STEP 8- EAT MEMORIAL MEAL**

N/M

#### **STEP 9- PLANT A MEMORIAL**

N/M

## The Mosaic Covenant

*Exodus 24:1 Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him." 3 **Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules.** And all the people answered with one voice and said, "**All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.**" 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 **And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord.** 6 **And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.** 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." 8 **And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."** 9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. 12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

### STEP 1- TAKE OFF COAT OR ROBE

N/M

### STEP 2- TAKE OFF BELT

N/M

### STEP 3- CUT THE COVENANT

v. 5 and Circumcision

#### **STEP 4- RAISE THE RIGHT ARM AND MIX BLOOD**

N/M

#### **STEP 5- EXCHANGE NAMES**

Israel

#### **STEP 6- MAKE A SCAR**

N/M

#### **STEP 7- GIVE COVENANT TERMS**

Leviticus , Numbers, Deuteronomy

#### **STEP 8- EAT MEMORIAL MEAL**

#### **STEP 9- PLANT A MEMORIAL**

This passage is key to understanding both redemptive history and the history of Israel as a nation. A conditional promise, the Mosaic Covenant is dependent on the peoples' response to the law He gives through His servant Moses. (Exodus 24:3)

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” – Exodus 19:5-6

God tells Moses that if Israel obeys, they will be His chosen people, His treasured possession. Ultimately, these blessings will be extended to all people. This conditional promise is a Suzerain-Vassal covenant and brings Israel closer to realizing the promises made by God in the Abrahamic Covenant.

### **The Davidic Covenant**

#### **STEP 1- TAKE OFF COAT OR ROBE**

#### **STEP 2- TAKE OFF BELT**

#### **STEP 3- CUT THE COVENANT**

**STEP 4- RAISE THE RIGHT ARM AND MIX BLOOD**

**STEP 5- EXCHANGE NAMES**

**STEP 6- MAKE A SCAR**

**STEP 7- GIVE COVENANT TERMS**

**STEP 8- EAT MEMORIAL MEAL**

**STEP 9- PLANT A MEMORIAL**

After the people disobeyed the commands made in the previous covenant, God made the Davidic covenant as a means to bring them back into relationship with Himself.

The key passage for this unconditional promise is 2 Samuel 7:12-17. Here God makes a Royal Grant covenant to David and his descendants that his house will rule over Israel forever.

The promise of an eternal kingdom is ultimately fulfilled in Christ, who is of David's kingly lineage. In the New Testament, Luke 1:30-33 tells us:

*30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

Although this is an unconditional covenant, there is a part of it which has a contingency: if the ruler of Israel is obedient, he will be blessed. If not, he will be cursed. As the books of 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles show us, Israel had many examples of both disobedient and obedient kings, which eventually lead to the nation's exile.

## Things to Mull

1. Why does God use the contract of a covenant to deal with people?
2. Did He know that the people were not able to keep their end of the covenant? Why did He keep making them then?
3. When talking about Gods covenant with Noah we see that He made a “Royal Covenant” with him. Why is this significant?
4. Why can we consider Abram’s first encounter with God cutting covenant with him a “Royal Covenant”? (Read Genesis 15:12)
5. At a later date (approx. 40 years later) God asked Abraham to prove his determination to keep the covenant. How did he do that?
6. What would have happened if Abraham had not kept his end of the bargain?
7. What is the key point we can take away from these verses that speak of Abraham’s covenant with God? (Read Hebrews 11)
8. Has God ever broken a covenant that He made with anyone?
9. What are the chances He will break His covenant with you?

## Bibliography

<http://reasonabletheology.org/5covenants/>

### Material for additional study:

The Blood Covenant by H. Clay Trumbull

The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread: Revealing the Power of the Blood of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation by Richard Booker