

January 2022

Covenant

(Have you ever made a covenant with God)

Have you had any doubts about your belief in the truth of the Bible?
What is covenant? What does covenant mean?

The dictionary definition of covenant is a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement such as a compact between “God and man” or “man and man”.

The Bible is a training manual for life according to 2 Timothy 3: 16 and 17 which says “**ALL** Scripture is God-breathed (inspired by God to all the authors of the Bible) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant (you and me as Christians) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”.

Let’s study the word covenant. Covenant means to “cut” as in to cut a deal.

The word “covenant” is mentioned 300 times in the Bible, There are 5 major covenants between God and man mentioned in the Bible.

The first major covenant is mentioned in the Bible is called the “Noahic Covenant” and it is in Genesis 6: 18 when God told Noah: “Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark --- you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you”.

In Genesis 9, God made a covenant with Noah and all living things on earth except under the sea. This was the first covenant between God and man. It was a covenant made that God would never again destroy the earth by flood and gives us a reminder today with a rainbow of that covenant. Do you ever stop to think whenever you see a rainbow exactly what it stands for? Covenant is mentioned 8 times in Genesis 9.

The second major covenant mentioned in the Bible was the “Abrahamic Covenant” in Genesis 12:1-3. Years after the Flood, God would eventually choose one man and one nation as the instrument of His blessing to the entire world. In this covenant God promised Abraham three specific things:

- 1. In Genesis 12:2, God promised Abraham that he would be made into a great nation by giving him a son called Isaac. Isaac would then have a son called Jacob which would later become known as Israel (the nation that God had promised with a covenant).**
- 2. In Genesis 12:1, the nation would eventually be led to a Promised Land.**
- 3. In Genesis 12:3, through Abraham and his descendants all people of the earth will be blessed with an unconditional promise from God.**

The third major covenant in the Bible was the “Mosaic Covenant” in Exodus 19 through 24. After the Jews escaped from Egypt, God spoke to Moses and said in Exodus 19: 5, “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured passion”. The covenant that was mentioned referred to obeying the Ten Commandments that God gave to the Israelites (Jacob’s descendants). Ultimately, by obeying the Ten Commandments, God’s blessings will be extended to all the people of earth which brings Israel closer to realizing the promises made by God in the Abrahamic Covenant.

The fourth major covenant in the Bible was the “Davidic Covenant” in 2 Samuel 7.

After King David defeated the Philistines, he changed the Ark of God to the Ark of the Covenant because God had promised to take care of Israel and give David a time of peace from his enemies. David wanted to build a temple to God, but God intended to build David a house which was a dynasty of long duration. The first provision of the Davidic covenant was that David would have a son for whom God would establish a kingdom. David gave a psalm of thanks to the Lord for remembering His covenant with Israel in 1 Chronicles 16: 15. It was an everlasting covenant.

The fifth major covenant in the Bible was the “New Covenant” as mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31. Because the Jewish people of Israel continually broke the Mosaic Covenant, God established the New Covenant and carried through the New Testament which is in effect in today’s world. The covenant is a promise that God makes with all humanity that He will forgive their sins and restore fellowship with God. Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise. He defeated death by His resurrection and restored life for those who believe in Him.

The first “man to man” covenant was in Job 31: 1 when he said “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl”. There were many “man to men” covenants in the Bible and the history of wars. For instance, two men would exchange amour and stand “back to back” as a covenant when battling enemies.

In summary, covenants played important parts in the history of the Bible.

So in conclusion, (**God’s promises as covenants are in effect today**).

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