

Identify Scope & Terms

Intro

- Previous session
 - presented the concept of covenant
 - identified typical covenant elements
 - examined the covenants we will study in this series

General

- Scope, terms, stipulations, type
 - identify each party's role & responsibilities
 - define the covenant's purpose
 - identify what's included in covenant
 - most typical types of covenants:
 - business covenant
 - defense covenant
 - life covenant
 - a pledge of total loyalty
 - literally giving their lives to each other
 - each partner serves the other's best interests
 - they have everything in common
 - suzerain covenant: granted by one who is clearly superior, allows the inferior party to continue exercising normal control or authority within its domain

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- Gen 1:28, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"
- Gen 2:15-17, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'"
 - According to this passage, what were Adam & Eve role & responsibilities?
 - What were God's responsibilities?

God's Covenant with Noah

- Gen 9:4 (God speaking to Noah), "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it."
 - What were their responsibilities?
- Gen 9:7, "As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

- What were their responsibilities?
- Gen 9:15, “I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.”
 - What were God’s responsibilities?

God’s Covenant with Abraham

- God’s responsibilities
 - Gen 17:4, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.”
 - Up to that point, was it possible for Abraham to be the father of many nations? Explain.
 - Gen 17:7-8, “I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”
 - What is the significance of this being an everlasting covenant with Abraham & his descendants?
 - What is the significance of God giving the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession to Abraham & descendants?
- Abraham’s responsibilities
 - Gen 17:1, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.’”
 - What was Abram required to do?
 - Gen 17:10, “This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.”
 - What was Abram required to do?

God’s First Covenant with Israel

- Ex 24: 3-4, 7, “When Moses went and told the people all the Lord’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, ‘Everything the Lord has said we will do.’ Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said. . . . Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, ‘We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.’”
- Ex 34:27-28, “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.’ Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights

without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant — the Ten Commandments.”

- Israel’s responsibilities are documented in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers
 - civil law: Ex 19-23; Lev 19-20
 - ceremonial & religious law: Ex 25-31, 33, 35-40; Lev 21-25
 - dietary law: Lev 11, 17
 - health law: Lev 12-15
 - moral law: Lev 18
- God’s responsibilities
 - Ex 20:24, “Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you.”
 - What is God’s responsibility?
 - Ex 23:22-23, “If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.”
 - What are God’s responsibilities?
 - Ex 23:25-27, “Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.”
 - What are God’s responsibilities?
 - Ex 29:44-45, “So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God.
 - What are God’s responsibilities?
 - Ex 34:10, “I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you.
 - What are God’s responsibilities?

God’s Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 1:8, “See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore he would give to your fathers — to Abraham, Isaac and

Jacob — and to their descendants after them.”

- To whom did God promise the land?
- Was his promise of the land conditional or unconditional? Explain the significance.
- Deut 4:1, “Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you.”
- Deut 29:1, “These are the terms of the covenant the Lord commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.”

David and Jonathan’s Covenant

- 1 Sam 20:4, “Jonathan said to David, ‘Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.’”
 - What was the scope or breadth of Jonathan’s commitment to David?

God’s Covenant with David

- 2 Sam 7:8-9, “This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.”
 - What had God already done for David and promised he would do?
- 2 Sam 7:11, “I will also give you rest from all your enemies.”
 - What is God’s responsibility?
- 2 Sam 7:16, “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”
 - What is the scope of this covenant?
 - Problem: There hasn’t always been one of David’s descendants sitting on his throne in Jerusalem.
 - “endure” (Heb, *aman*): being confirmed, supported, established, enduring
 - “established” (Heb, *kun*): formed, established, made firm, decided, prepared
 - “forever” (twice, two Hebrew words): until forever, until everlasting
 - Do these words mean David will have a descendant on the throne at all times? Or throughout eternity?
- Acts 13:22, “I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”

God's New Covenant with Christians

- Heb 13:20-21. "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."
 - What does this say God the Father will do for us?
- Heb 9:15. "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."
 - How and from whom do we receive the eternal inheritance?
 - Jesus died as a what?
 - So what control does sin now have over us?
- Col 1:21-22. "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."
 - According to this passage, what was Father's goal?
- Rom 8:16-17, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."
 - "testify" (Gk, *symmartyreō*): testify in support, confirm, testify along with others
 - According to this passage, what legal role does the Holy Spirit perform?
- From other verses, we see the Holy Spirit's role includes:
 - molding us into God's image
 - teaching us what we need to know to function effectively in God's kingdom
 - enabling us to do God's work by providing what we need and actually producing the results for us
- Because Jesus met all requirements for all people for all time, covenant itself is now irrevocable
- Mt 4:17 "From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.'"
 - Gk word translated "repent": *metanoio*
 - first part, *meta* refers to transformation
 - second part, *noio* refers to your mind, what you

think

- Ac 26:20-21 “First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.”
 - How can we tell whether we are effectively changing the way we think?
- Heb 11:6. “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
 - What else does our covenant require us to do?
- Jn 15:14-17. “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”
 - What is the significance of the word, “friend”?
 - What condition is there for being a covenant friend?
- So our top covenant responsibilities are what?

God’s New Covenant with Israel

- Jer 31:33-34
“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”
 - What is God’s role in this covenant, according to this passage?
- Jer 32:40-41, “I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart

and soul.”

- What role does God define for himself?
- Eze 36:27, “And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
- How enthused is God about putting them in the land?

Marriage

- Gen 1:28, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”
 - What does this suggest about a husband and wife’s roles?
- 1 Co 7:10-11, “To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.”
 - What responsibility does this describe?
- 1 Co 7:33-34, “But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife. . . . A married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world — how she can please her husband.”
 - What responsibilities does this describe?
- 1 Co 7:39, “A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”
 - What does this reveal about the duration of marriage?
- Eph 5:33, “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”
 - What responsibilities does this describe?

Closing

- Today we discussed covenant scope, terms, stipulations, type
 - identify each party’s role & responsibilities
 - define the covenant’s purpose
 - identify what’s included in covenant
- Daily review & meditation card
- Blessing