

# COVENANT DYNAMICS

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# Understanding Covenant is important for several reasons:

- God deals with man in a **covenantal manner**.
- It helps us to see the **Bible as a covenant document**.
- Understand **God's responsibilities** towards us.
- Understand **our responsibilities** towards God.
- We can better **understand the symbols** used by God in covenant ratification (confirmation esp. legal agreements):  
**The Lord's Supper and Baptism etc.**
- Understand **covenant language** used throughout the word
- Covenant truths form the **basis of Christianity**

# Covenant vs. Contract

## Contract:

- A contract is an agreement between identified parties. A contract is a transaction.

## Covenant:

- The Hebrew word for Covenant – **berith: means to bind**
- **A binding obligation** between two parties – that creates a loving relationship
- A covenant is an agreement that **changes the identity of the parties**. A covenant is a transformation.
- For covenant to become true, **Deity was invoked as a witness** to render it valid, God has to be involved. 1 Sam 20 – Jonathan & David
- A covenant relationship that can **only be broken by death**

# How does one enter into covenant

## Key elements:

- **Revelation of Oneself:** The initiating party describes himself and what He has done
- **Promise & Obligation:** both parties responsibilities were declared
- **Conditions:** The “Do not’s” were mentioned. E.G. do not eat from the tree
- **Rewards & Consequences:** E.G. you will surely die
- **Mediator:** E.G. Moses & Israel / Christ & the Church
- **Seal:** Sign of the covenant

# How does one enter into covenant

- **Take off coat or robe** - 1 Sam 18:1-4
- **Take off belt** - 1 Sam 18:1-4
- **Cutting of Covenant** - Gen 15:1-9
- **Raise the right arm and mix blood** - Is 62:8
- **Exchange names** - Gen 17:5& 15
- **Make a scar** - Is 49:6
- **Give covenant terms** - Gen 31:52-53
- **Eat memorial meal** - Gen 26:28-30
- **Plant a memorial** - Gen 21:27-33

# Covenants made by God

## There were seven covenants made by God

- God's covenants with people are usually **unilateral**. He alone determines the terms and conditions.
- **We choose** whether to accept them.
- Once we are **bound to obedience**.
- **Continuing relevance**: but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today" (Deuteronomy 29:13-15).

# Covenants made by God - 1

## Eternal covenant:

- Heb 13:20 / 1 Pet 1:18-20
- **Promise:** choose a people and lavish His love upon them
- **Conditions:** Met on the cross Blood must be shed (sin offering on a tree)
- **Seal:** sealed before the foundation of the world (cannot be shaken)

# Covenants made by God - 2

## Adamic Covenant:

- **Promise:** Be Fruitful Multiply fill the earth - Eternal life
- **Conditions:** Don't touch the tree
- **Seal:** not sealed (or there would be no salvation – would have been sealed if he had eaten
- from the tree of life – protected by the angel)



# Covenants made by God - 3

## Noahic Covenant - *Genesis 8:1- Gen 9:17*

- **Promise & Obligations:** salvation from the flood
- Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue and have dominion
- **Conditions:** Build Accurately / Concerning Righteousness and sin (conditions met)
- **Sealed:** By the rainbow

# Covenants made by God - 4

## Abrahamic Covenant – *Confirmed to Isaac and Jacob*

- Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-22
- **Promise:** same promise ... land & Descendants (hope & a future)
- be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue and have dominion
- **Conditions:** Same conditions (conditions met) God makes an oath to keep the Covenant by
- His name
- **Sealed:** by circumcision
  
- YHWH – Yud Heh Waw Heh
- (Yud-hand; Heh-behold/reveal; Waw-nail; Heh-behold)
- Behold the hand behold the nail

# Covenants made by God - 5

## Mosaic Covenant - *Exodus 19-24*

- **Promise:** special treasure & holy nation & kingdom of priests
- (Identity / Priestly Function / Kingly Authority)
- **Conditions:** Same conditions / Keep the Law
- **Seal:** The law sealed the covenant (ratified by the sprinkling of blood)

# Covenants made by God - 6

## Davidic Covenant - *2 Samuel 7*

- **Promise:** Everlasting Kingdom - King on the throne
- **Conditions:** Same conditions
- **Sealed:** sealed with praise

## Examples of Covenant language:

- David & Saul
- David & Jonathan

# Covenants made by God - 7

## New Covenant:

*Predicted by Jeremiah (31), connected with the last supper, and further in Heb 8-10*

- **Promise:** Promise given
- **Conditions:** conditions met
- **Mediator:** Jesus is the Mediator of the New covenant
- **Seal:** sealed with the Holy Spirit

# Hidden message in the 7 Covenants:

- Adam – Man
- Noah – Peace/Rest
- Abraham – High Father
- Moses – Draw out/Rescue
- David – Loved one/Love token
- Jesus - Saviour

# Hidden message in the 7 Covenants:

The Trinity – God; the Word; the Spirit made a covenant in eternity past (**Eternal Covenant**) knowing that:

**(Adamic)** – ‘**Man**’ would sin and for man to return to God’s

**(Noahic)** – ‘**Peace**’ on earth the

**(Abrahamic)** – ‘**High Father**’ would have to

**(Mosaic)** – ‘**Draw out/rescue**’ the nation of Israel by sending His

**(Davidic)** – ‘**loved one/a love token**’ the King of Kings

**Jesus Christ** His Son the pure spotless lamb as a sacrifice, the **Saviour** of the world, to bring forth and become the Mediator of a **New and better Covenant**

# New Covenant

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