

The Covenants of the Bible (Part III)

Review

- Mosaic Covenant is continuation of Abrahamic Covenant – full grace
- and yet, duality in Mosaic Covenant
 - “covenant of grace” for salvation
 - “covenant of works” for land

DAVIDIC COVENANT

- king is representative of nation
- fate of nation rests on righteousness of king
- Mosaic Covenant narrowed to a single man

Davidic Covenant

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

He will be the greatest of all kings

- last forever – no mere human kingdom | eternal throne

God will rescue world through this king

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

His kingdom will cover whole earth

Psalm 2:6-8

⁶ As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.”

Davidic king will be God’s Son

- 2 Samuel 7:14 – “I will be his father; he will be my son”
- not divinity, but God’s likeness | “Son of God” is Messianic title

John 1:49

Nathanael answered Jesus, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God!
You are the King of Israel!”

“When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him”

- David’s human son will sin | but God will show steadfast love

Who is the Son of David?

- Solomon | Hezekiah | Josiah | Zedekiah

And yet, the Davidic Covenant becomes greater

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

This is no mere human king

- possess divine traits
- in fullness of time, realize Davidic king is God’s divine Son

Luke 1:31-33

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.”

Utter failure of the Mosaic Covenant

- Israel could not obey God because their hearts were hardened
- the problem was the heart

Jeremiah 5:20-23

²⁰ Declare this in the house of Jacob; proclaim it in Judah: ²¹ “Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not. ²² Do you not fear me? declares the LORD; Do you not tremble before me? ²³ But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away.”

Ezekiel 3:7

But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.

Judgment and Exile

- destruction of Jerusalem and Temple | God’s people are exiled

Prophets spoke of a “new covenant” for Israel

- Mosaic Covenant depended on external instruction
- but New Covenant will implant God’s Word in heart

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

The problem with the Old Covenant was a “heart of stone”

- New Covenant will transform the human heart to love God
- God’s own Spirit will come into the people

Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Old Covenant gave commands without power to obey

- thus, Old Covenant’s purpose is to kill – “ministry of death”
- New Covenant gives life because Holy Spirit produces obedience

2 Corinthians 3:5-8

⁵ Our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses’ face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

¹⁴ For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹ And Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”