

The Covenants of the Bible (Part I)

The organizing structure of the Bible is “covenant”

- “Old Testament” and “New Testament” – Latin word for covenant
- Luke 20:22 – “this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood”

What is a covenant?

- personal relationship with binding legal obligations
- covenant combines law and love
- if keep covenant – blessings | if break covenant – curses
- example of covenant: marriage

There are 6 covenants in Bible

- Adam | Noah | Abraham | Moses | David | New Covenant
- not separate, disconnected stories | but one unified story

Covenants are forever

Galatians 3:15, 17

¹⁵To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁷This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

Covenants cannot be canceled

- therefore, each covenant builds on top of another

ADAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Covenant of Works

- if Adam obeys, then eternal life | if disobeys, death and judgment
- this covenant is never annulled | goes on forever
- gospel does not contradict Covenant of Works | operates within

Where is the promise of eternal life in Adamic Covenant?

Genesis 2:9

⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:3

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Basic Structure of Bible

- “Covenant of Works” | “Covenant of Grace”

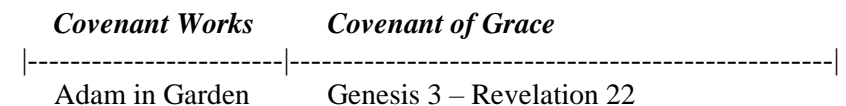
Galatians 2:16

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

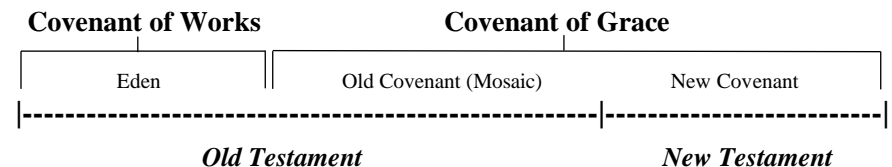
Galatians 3:10-11

¹⁰For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

The Bible in a nutshell



Covenant Theology



Dispensationalism

