

UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

Session 17: Conclusion

19 February 2023

Learning objectives

- Define what covenants are.
- Know seven biblical covenants.
- Understand God's commitment to our salvation.
- Remain loyal to God by faith in Jesus Christ

Theme: "Membership in God's family has only one condition: unswerving faith in the God of Gods, [who has] come to us in the person of Jesus Christ." Michael S Heiser, *Supernatural*, page 166

Covenant

"A widespread legal means by which the duties and privileges of kinship may be extended to another individual or group, including aliens." — Harvard professor F.M. Cross

- Legal. It will be enforced.
- Duties. Obligations to fulfill.
- Privileges. Benefits to receive.
- Kinship. Become family members.
- Aliens. Former strangers or aliens.

Biblical vocabulary

Frequency in the English Standard Version

1. God, Lord, 10,562
2. Life, live 835
3. Love, 505
4. Law, 431
5. Faith, believe, 394
6. Covenant, 295
7. Obey, obedience, 168
8. Promise, 152
9. Hope, 145
10. Cross, crucify, 79

Hittite 'Suzerainty' Treaties

Dating from the second millennium BCE.

Compared to the Book of Deuteronomy

- I. Title and Preamble (Dt 1:1–5)
- II. Historical Prologue (Dt 1–3)
- III. General Stipulations (Dt 5)
- IV. Specific Stipulations (Dt 6–11; 12–26)
- V. Dual Sanctions: Blessings and Curses (Dt 27–28)
- VI. Instructions for the Storage and Reading of the Covenant Document (Dt 31:9–13)
- VII. Invocation of Witnesses (Dt 31:14–29)

God–human covenant relations through time

1. God chooses a people whom he loves.
2. God proposes a covenant with that people.
3. God specifies both promises and warnings.
4. Humans swear allegiance, forsaking other gods.
5. Humans ratify the covenant with a sacrifice.
6. God renews the covenant with their descendants.
7. Humans show loyalty to God by seeking to obey him.
8. God protects and provides for his loyal subjects.
9. Humans who rebel return under lesser gods.
10. God invites rebels to repent and to return to him.
11. God proposes a better covenant and sacrifice.
12. Some humans repent, believe and persevere.
13. God adopts the faithful into his royal family.
14. God finally exalts the faithful, destroy the rebellious.

Seven biblical covenants

1. With **Noah** and all humanity, Gen 9
2. With **Abraham** and his offspring, Gen 17
3. With **Moses** and the Israelites, Exo 19, 26
4. With **Phinehas** and his offspring **Levi**, Num 25, Mal 2
5. With **Moses** and Israelites in Canaan, Deuteronomy
6. With **David** and his offspring, Psalm 89
7. With **Israel** and **Judah**, Jer 31:31 (A New Covenant)

Covenant breakers

1. Non-circumcision, Gen 17:14.
2. Breaking bad, Lev 25:15.
3. False gods, Deu 31:20.
4. Forsake Yahweh, 1 Kin 11 :11.
5. Ancestral iniquity, Jer 11 :10.
6. Christians who turn back, denying Christ, Heb 6:6

Christians under the New Covenant

1. Jesus has inaugurated the New Covenant with his blood. Luk 22:20
2. Israel and Judah are united anew by faith in Messiah Jesus. Act 2:5
3. Gentiles are adopted by faith into Abraham’s family in the Lord Jesus. Gal 3:7
4. We who believe in him have become God’s adopted children. Eph 1:5
5. God promises everlasting life to us who remain loyal to Jesus Christ. 1 Joh 2:25
6. Jesus asks us to show our love for him by obeying his commands. Joh 14:15
7. We who believe find ways to invite other to put their faith in Jesus. 2 Cor 5:20
8. Those who remain loyal will dwell forever in the restored Eden. Rev 3:3
9. Those who disbelieve fall under the jurisdiction of lesser gods. Eph 2:2
10. Disbelievers will follow the lesser gods into the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:15