

Chapter 3: Major Biblical Themes / Chapter 3C: Covenant (Reviewed)

- I. **Series Theme Verse:** The Kingdom of God should be our Goal & Priority
(Matthew 6:10) “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”
- II. **The Bible: A Series of Covenants** (See Chapter 5: A Survey of Kingdom History in the Hebrew Scriptures)
- A. Misnomer: The Old & New Covenants
- B. Adamic, Creation or Dominion Covenant; Noahic or Societal Covenant; Abrahamic Covenant, Mosaic or Old Covenant; Davidic Covenant; New Covenant; Marriage Covenant; Etc. (See Chapter 5)
- III. **Common Characteristics of Biblical Covenant (s)** – Suzerainty Treaties of The Ancient Levant (Orient)
- A. Lord & Vassal; Fear vs. Love; Unalterable (Accept or Reject: No Alterations: Ch. 12); Blessings vs. Curse (Is. 1:18-20) “Come now ... reason together,” ... ¹⁹“If you consent and obey ...” ²⁰“But if you refuse and rebel ... You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Read in Context: Later) (Ps. 37:4)
- B. Eight Ingredients of All Biblical Covenants: (Note: Not sure this list is complete or exhaustive.)
1. Identification of the Parties; Historical Prologue & Declaration of the New Order: Biblical covenants begin with God's absolute Lordship & Grace. He grants covenant. He is the Redeemer King. Identifies recipients of the Covenant. Members. He declares His intention to “make all things new.”
 2. Hierarchy: God always appoints leaders as covenantal representatives. When God's leaders are faithful, His people are protected. When God's people are faithful to God, she obeys her leaders.
 3. Ethical Laws: The central section of the covenant defines how God's people are to live so that they can be His holy nation. (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16) God's relationship with His people is ethical. We must be righteous to enjoy the blessings of the covenant. (Blessings vs. Curses or Sanctions)
 4. Oaths: God takes the oath of the covenant. Vows. Publically before God & man. Confess. (Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15; Genesis 22: 1-8-24) (Matthew 10:32-33; Confess in Word & Deed) (Hebrews 6:13-14; 16-18) For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” ¹⁶For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. (Genesis 15:8-18) ⁸He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?” ⁹So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; ... but he did not cut the birds. ¹¹The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away... ¹⁷It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, ... (Genesis 22:8) ⁸And Avraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a seh (lamb) for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. (OJB / Orthodox Jewish Bible) ^{22:8} Avraham replied, “God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son”; and they both went on together. (CJB / Complete Jewish Bible)
5. Ceremonies of Celebration: All Biblical Covenants are Sealed with Ceremonies / Celebrations of Enactment & Reinforcement. Covenant Meal / Supper / Feast (Gen. 1:29-30; Food; Ps. 104:14-15)
 6. Signs & Symbols: Biblical Covenants have Boundaries stipulated by the Laws, but also depicted in the Covenantal Signs & Symbols. A Biblical View of Remembrance. (Baptisms: Hebs 6:1-2)
 7. Sanctions: The covenant promises blessings for those who obey and curses for those who rebel. (See Deuteronomy 28) (Read Exodus 19:1-6ff) (Conditional & Unconditional Aspects) (Ps. 130:3-4)
 8. Succession: Covenants always focus on the heirs of the covenant. God intends for the covenant to continue from generation to generation. Training disciples / children to follow God & working to pass the blessings of faithfulness on to the future is essential to true covenantal obedience.

IV. Next Week: Chapter 3: Major Biblical Themes Continued / 3D: Major Views of History (Doubly Inevitable)

Note: See Chapter 15 for Much More Detail: Paradigms; Nature of Man; Interpreting Prophecy; Eschatology

- A. Cyclical View (History Inevitably Repeats Itself. No Ultimate Progress.)
- B. Chaos View & Historical Linear Pessimism – (Note: Many Hold Inconsistent or Mixed Views)
- C. Historical Linear Optimism – The State; Technology; Marxism; Third Reich, Liberalism; Etc.
- D. Contemporary Christian Views – Pessimistic Interventionist Catastrophism
- E. Biblical View – Progressive Revelation & Establishment of the Kingdom of God on His Earth
 - 1. Theology the Queen of the Sciences
 - 2. Covenant History: Companion to the Queen, Holding Major and Critical Keys
 - 3. Historical Books Foundational: 18 Old Testament & 5 New Testament
 - 4. Dominion Theology & Eschatology vs. Reductionist Escapism

(Isaiah 9:7) There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. (Psalm 2; 110) (Isaiah 2:1-4) (Matt. 13: 31-34)

V. Two Weeks: Chapter 3: Major Biblical Themes Continued / 3E: Covenant Theology: Covenant Continuity

- A. Covenant Continuity Between Covenants (Testaments)

(Galatians 3:19-22) ¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. ¹⁷ What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

- B. Jesus: Eternal Covenant / Guarantee of a Better Covenant / Fulfillment of all God's Covenants

(Hebrews 7:22) This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. (ESV)

(Hebrews 8:6) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (NASB)

(Hebrews 13:20) Now may the God of peace who by the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, (NET) (See also Luke 24: 27 & 44)

The Kingdom of God Series – 15 Chapter Titles (2 Notes: Most Chapters Multiple Weeks; Subject to Change)

Chapter 1: The Primacy of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 2: The Kingdom of God Defined ... *or...* What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Chapter 3: Major Biblical Themes: Creation, Dominion, Covenant, Kingdom, Redemption, Enemies and Christ

Chapter 4: An Introduction to Biblical Imagery (Major Symbols Surveyed)

Chapter 5: A Survey of Kingdom History in the Hebrew Scriptures (Covenant Heads, Types of Christ & More)

Chapter 6: A Survey of Kingdom History in the New Covenant

Chapter 7: Seven Inevitable Institutions of Government (Changing the World via the Plan of Jesus)

Chapter 8: Three Agents of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 9: The Mystery of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 10: The Clash of Kingdoms (Who are the Enemies? The Nature of the Opposition & Their Futility)

Chapter 11: Cross and Kingdom (Who Is the Greatest?)

Chapter 12: Current Concepts that Conceal the Kingdom (Why Has the Kingdom Been Ignored?)

Chapter 13: Seek First the Kingdom (Defense That Generates Offense)

Chapter 14: Our Priorities (Rebuilding Age-Old Foundations. Restoring His Church / Making Disciples.)

Chapter 15: The Direction History is Moving (... All the Earth Will Be Filled With the Glory of the Lord!)
