

THE GENESIS GENESIS FIVE

Part 3 · February 9, 2025 · Pastor Jason Smotherman

COVENANTS

Bruce Shelley:

In modern times we define a host of relations by contracts. These are usually for goods or services and for hard cash. The contract, formal or informal, helps to specify failure in these relationships. The Lord did not establish a contract with Israel or with the church. He created a covenant. There is a difference. Contracts are broken when one of the parties fails to keep his promise. If, let us say, a patient fails to keep an appointment with a doctor, the doctor is not obligated to call the house and inquire, "Where were you? Why didn't you show up for your appointment?" He simply goes on to his next patient and has his appointment secretary take note of the patient who failed to keep the appointment. The patient may find it harder the next time to see the doctor. He broke an informal contract. According to the Bible, however, the Lord asks: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 49:15) The Bible indicates the covenant is more like the ties of a parent to her child than it is a doctor's appointment. If a child fails to show up for dinner, the parent's obligation, unlike the doctor's, isn't canceled. The parent finds out where the child is and makes sure he's cared for. One member's failure does not destroy the relationship. A covenant puts no conditions on faithfulness. **It is the unconditional commitment to love and serve.**

Jonathan Lunde of the CS Lewis Institute:

Every Biblical Covenant is grounded in grace, and yet this gracious foundation never diminishes the divine demand of righteousness.

In every Covenant there is a responsibility on both parties. There is God's Part and then there is our part. ***JEREMIAH 31:31-34 (AMP), LUKE 22:20 (AMP)***

A biblical covenant is a sacred agreement or binding promise between God and

humanity (or specific individuals), where God commits to certain promises, and, in many cases, people are called to respond with faith and obedience.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL COVENANT:

Parties Involved: God is always one of the parties. The other may be an individual (like Abraham), a group (like Israel), or all humanity (like with Noah).

Promises & Conditions: Some covenants are unconditional, meaning God fulfills His promises regardless of human actions (e.g., the Noahic and Davidic covenants). Others are conditional, requiring obedience or specific actions from people (e.g., the Mosaic covenant).

Signs or Symbols: Many covenants include a physical sign as a reminder of the agreement. Example: The rainbow (Noahic Covenant), circumcision (Abrahamic Covenant), or the Lord's Supper (New Covenant).

Blood or Sacrifice: Covenants in the Bible are often sealed with a sacrifice or blood, symbolizing the seriousness of the commitment. Example: Jesus' sacrificial death sealed the New Covenant (Luke 22:20).

Eternal Impact: Covenants in Scripture often have long-term or even eternal significance, revealing God's overarching plan of redemption and relationship with humanity.

In summary, **a biblical covenant is more than just a contract—it's a divine commitment** that reflects God's desire to be in relationship with His people, offering blessings and requiring faith and obedience in return.

According to Pentecostal doctrine, the Bible highlights several **key covenants that demonstrate God's unfolding plan of redemption and relationship with humanity**. These covenants reveal God's character, His promises, and His expectations for His people. They build on each other, fulfilling the unfolding promise of God being our God and we being His people. **MATTHEW 5:17 (AMP)**

The Law (the way and manner of order and obedience) has not been abandoned but fulfilled. 3 types of law (Moral, Civil, Ceremonial).

The following are covenants that are built on each other in an unfolding relationship with God.

THE ADAMIC COVENANT (GENESIS 1-3)

Type: Conditional

Summary: God created Adam and Eve, giving them dominion over the earth and the command to be fruitful. However, they were forbidden to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Their disobedience introduced sin and death into the world, but God also promised a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15), hinting at Christ's victory over Satan.

THE NOAHIC COVENANT (GENESIS 9:1-17)

Type: Unconditional

Summary: After the flood, God promised Noah that He would never again destroy the earth with water. The rainbow was given as a sign of this covenant, representing God's mercy and patience with humanity despite ongoing sin.

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (GENESIS 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-14)

Type: Unconditional

Summary: God promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, land (Canaan), and that all nations would be blessed through his lineage. This covenant is foundational for Israel and points to Jesus Christ, the ultimate blessing to the nations.

THE MOSAIC COVENANT (EXODUS 19-24)

Type: Conditional

Summary: Through Moses, God gave Israel the Law (including the Ten Commandments) at Mount Sinai. The covenant required Israel to obey God's commands to remain in His favor. Disobedience brought consequences, but obedience brought blessings. It highlighted humanity's need for grace, leading to the New Covenant in Christ.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 SAMUEL 7:12-16)

Type: Unconditional

Summary: God promised King David that his throne would be established forever. This covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the eternal King from David's lineage, whose reign is everlasting.

THE NEW COVENANT (JEREMIAH 31:31-34; LUKE 22:20): (We are here)

Type: Unconditional

Summary: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God established a covenant of grace and forgiveness. Believers receive the Holy Spirit, transforming their hearts and enabling a personal relationship with God. This covenant fulfills the promises of the Old Testament and offers salvation to all who believe.

In every Covenant: **there is God's Part and our part.** God has made an unconditional promise, that He will make a way for individuals to be in relationship with Him through the sacrifice and obedience of Jesus.

We are the whosoever and we have a choice.

- John 3:16: Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life
- John 11:26: Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die
- John 15:1: Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God
- (Salvation) Acts 2:21: Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved

- Romans 10:13: Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”
- (Judgment) Luke 17:33: “Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it”

In the New Covenant, the role of believers is centered around a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. **Here's a breakdown of their responsibilities:**

1. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

Trust in His Sacrifice: Believers are called to put their faith in Jesus' death and resurrection as the only means of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Live by Grace: Unlike the Old Covenant, which focused on keeping the Law, the New Covenant emphasizes living by grace through faith.

2. OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART

God's Law Written on Hearts: Instead of following external rules, believers are guided by the Holy Spirit and the law written in their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

Pursue Holiness: They are called to live lives that reflect God's character and values (Romans 12:1-2).

3. LOVE GOD AND OTHERS (BIBLICAL LOVE)

The Greatest Commandments: Jesus summarized the believer's duty as loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39).

Show Grace and Forgiveness: Just as believers receive grace, they are called to extend grace and forgiveness to others (Colossians 3:13).

4. BE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST

Share the Gospel: Believers are tasked with spreading the message of salvation, being witnesses of Christ's love (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Make Disciples: Jesus' Great Commission calls believers to make disciples of all nations, teaching others to follow Him (Matthew 28:19-20).

5. FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Be Part of the Body of Christ: Believers are to engage in fellowship with other Christians, using their spiritual gifts to build up the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Encourage One Another: They should support and encourage each other in faith, especially during difficult times (Hebrews 10:24-25).

6. HOPE IN ETERNAL LIFE

Await Christ's Return: Believers live in anticipation of Jesus' return and the fulfillment of God's promises in the new heaven and new earth (Titus 2:13).