

INTRODUCTION: THE DIVINE COVENANTS

- A. SOVEREIGN RELATIONSHIP: TERMS DECREED** (Gen.1:26f; 2:15f; Ex.6:7; Lk.22:20)
- B. LIFE OR DEATH OUTCOMES: INVIOABLE RELATIONSHIP** (Gen.2:17; 15:7f (Jer.34:18); Lk.22:20)
- C. CONTINUITY IN PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT** (Ex.2:24; 6:5; Ps.105:8; 106:45; Jer.33:25f; see Lk.3:23-38; Mt.1:1-17; Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David)
- D. FULFILLMENT OF ALL IN CHRIST** (2Cor.1:20; Lk.22:20; see Hebrews)
- E. CHRISTMAS & COVENANTS JESUS CAME TO FULFILL GOD'S COVENANT/S** (see Lk.22:20; 2Cor.1:20)

I. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ADAM

A. THE COVENANT OF CREATION

1. capacity: made in God's image (Gen.1:26f; see 5:3; 9:6)
2. blessing: fruitful, multiply, fill, subdue (Gen.1:28)
3. power: breath of life (Gen.2:7)
4. domain: garden for work, rest, marriage, children (Gen.2:8f,15; 3; 18f,24; see 2:24 w/1:28)
5. communication: blessing and curse proclaimed in word & work (Gen.2:9,16,17)
6. summary: the gift of a covenant of works (see Gen.1:26f; 2:8f; 16,17; see Gal.3:12)

B. THE COVENANT OF REDEMPTION (i.e., *new* creation; see Noah, Gen.6-9)

1. the gift of enmity: woman, seeds, seed (Gen.3:15; see Num.30:5,8)
2. curse deferred: die, but not immediately (Gen.2:17; 3:17,19; yet see 3:24)
3. blessings sustained: children, marriage, labor (Gen.3:16a, 16b, 17f)
4. blessings cursed: children, marriage, labor (Gen.3:16a,16b,17f; see Rom.8:20f)
5. promise of curse removed at a price (Gen.3:15b)
6. hope of a homecoming (Gen.3:24b)
7. summary: the gift of a covenant of grace (Gen.3:15,24)

II. JESUS FULFILLS GOD'S COVENANTS WITH ADAM (*new* covenant; Lk.22:20 /Rom.5:12f; 1Cor.15:22f)

A. THE COVENANT OF CREATION

1. capacity: made in God's image (Heb.1:3; see Col.1:19; 2:9; Jn.1:14; Phil.2:6f; see Lk.3:38; 1Cor.15:45)
2. blessing: fruitful, multiply, fill, subdue (Heb.2:13; see Mt.28:18f; Eph.1:18f)
3. power: breath of life (Lk.1:35)
4. domain: wilderness for work, rest, marriage, children (Lk.4:1f(Gen.3:24),16; Eph.5:23; Heb.2:13)
5. communication: blessing & curse proclaimed in word & work (see Lk.6:20-26; see Phil.2:8; Gal.3:13)
6. summary: the gift of a covenant of works accomplished (Rom.5:12f; 1Cor.15:22,45)

B. THE COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

1. the gift of enmity: hatred of sin (Rom.6:2f; 7:24,14f; Col.3:5)
2. removes the curse: out of our sin & death (Acts 26:18; 2Cor.5:21; Gal.3:13; incl. work, rest, marriage, children/Rom.8:23f)
3. secures the blessing: into His righteousness & life (Rom.5:12f,17; Act 26:18; 2C5:21; Rom.10:4; work, etc./Rom.8:23f)
4. removes curse at a price: heel bruised / crushes head (Gen.3:15; see Acts 2:24f; Phil.2:8f; Rev.5:6 / Col.2:14; Rev.13:3,12; see Lk.4:1f; 2Cor.5:21; 1Cor.15:56; Rev.12:9; Jn.12:31)
5. brings us home to the garden (Gen.3:24; Heb.9:11f; 10:19f; see Rom.5:12f)
6. summary: the gift of a covenant of grace accomplished (Gen.3:15; Rom.3:23-26; Jn.12:31)

III. MERRY CHRISTMAS! JESUS CAME TO FULFILL GOD'S COVENANTS WITH ADAM!

A. RECEIVE THIS WORD WITH JOY IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH! (see Acts 2:41,42)

B. LOOK TO JESUS TO MAKE YOU TRULY HUMAN! (Lk.3:23f,38; Heb.1:2; Eph.4:13,24; Col.3:10 /2Pt.2:12)

C. LOOK TO JESUS TO REMOVE THE CURSE OF YOUR SIN! (Gal.3:13; Gen3:16f;Acts2:38;Col.3:9,5; 2:12f)

D. LOOK TO JESUS TO APPLY THE BLESSING OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Gen3:15,24;Col.3:10f; 2:12f)

E. LOOK TO JESUS TO DELIVER YOU FROM YOUR ADVERSARY! (Gen3:15; 1Pt5:8f; Rev12:9f,12; 20:10f)

Discussion question: *Brethren, what shall we do?* (see Acts 2:37f)

Recommended reading: *The Christ of the Covenants* by O. Palmer Robertson (P&R, 1980)