

Covenants - in the Bible

Covenant comes from a root word which means "to come together".

A covenant is a binding agreement between God and His people.

This is different than a contract, which is an exchange of goods or services for money.

Illustration : the contrast of matrimony between a husband and a wife, and prostitution.

In marriage the two become one flesh with vows taken before God.

In prostitution sex is given in exchange for money.

A covenant is a sacred family bond, taken with an oath. Whereas a contract is an agreement to pay someone for services rendered. **BIG DIFFERENCE.**

A correct understanding of the divine covenants is more than an intellectual pursuit.

Covenants help us understand God's work in human history.

(1) the Noahic Covenant - Gen 9:9 God showed His mercy toward all mankind. He caused it to rain on the just and the unjust; and assured the ongoing, uninterrupted cycle of seasons.

In this covenant God demonstrated his unwillingness to allow the sinfulness of man to :

- (a) derail his plan set forth in Genesis 3:15 (i.e. to bring forth the Messiah),
- (b) change his pre-fall command : "be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth,"
this command was repeated to Noah after the flood. (Gen 9:1 = Gen 1:28)
the token = 'rainbow' Gen 9:13, 14, 16 - *the bow in the cloud*

(2) the Abrahamic Covenant - Gen 15:18 God demonstrated His favor and chose a man through whom he would birth the nation Israel ("the apple of his eye"): a special people called out from among the nations through whom the Messiah would come.

the token = circumcision (of the flesh) Gen 17:11

(3) the Mosaic Covenant - Exo 19:5 & 24:7 God revealed His holiness on the mount and the heinousness of sin in his written word. The daily sacrifices provided a constant reminder of the need for the shedding of blood for the remission of sin, for the propitiating of God's wrath.

the token = sabbath observance : for OT Jews Exo 31:12-17

(4) the Davidic Covenant - 2 Sam 23:5 God promised the perpetual reign of the descendants of David, ultimately fulfilled in the Messiah and His millennial reign.

the token = a kingdom with a throne 2 Sam 7:11-16

* **(5) the New Covenant - Jer 31:31** God evidenced anew his continual outpouring of grace, a promise whereby he would take away (remit) sins through the one time offering of the blood of the Lamb (i.e. the promised Messiah) and put his law within his people, writing it on their hearts.

the token = the seal of the Spirit (a circumcision of the heart) John 20:22

	<u>the Call</u>	<u>the Covenant</u>	['covenant' - 292 x in 272 v]
Noah	Gen 6	Gen 9	
Abraham	Gen 12	Gen 17	
Moses	Exo 3	Exo 19	
David	1 Sam 16	2 Sam 7	
the New	Jer 31	John 20	

'covenant' and 'God' - 152 x in **66** v

key verses : Exodus 2:24, Leviticus 26:44-45, Deuteronomy 5:2 & 7:9,
1 Kings 8:22-24, 2 Chronicles 6:12-15, Nehemiah 1:5 & 9:32