



OUR COVENANT KEEPING GOD

REV DR NG KOK MOI | 2 FEB 2020

Contract vs Covenant



CONTRACT

An official written agreement
(Oxford Dictionary)

A legal document that states and explains a formal agreement between two different people or groups
(Cambridge Dictionary)

Contract vs Covenant



Covenant

- A contract is an agreement between parties while a covenant is a pledge.
- You seal a covenant while you sign a contract.
- A contract is a mutually beneficial relationship while a covenant is something you fulfil.

“Solemn Binding Agreement”

Kay Arthur in “Covenant”



Covenant



- Covenant is used almost 300 times in the Bible.
 - KJV – 272 (OT); 20 (NT)
 - NIV – 263 (OT); 33 (NT)
- **“Solemn Binding Agreement”** between God & men.
- The Hebrew term for covenant is *beriyth*, meaning “to bond or fetter.” The Greek term for covenant is *syntheke* or *diatheke*, “binding together”.

How Many Covenants in the Bible?



5

6

8

- ❖ The Bible is **ONE BOOK**
- ❖ Only **ONE STORY LINE**
- ❖ Bible Time Line & Covenant -- parallel

2 Types of Covenants in the Bible



1. Suzerain-Vassal Covenant

- 2 unequal parties
- **Suzerain** – more powerful; **Vassal** – less powerful
- Vassal must show submission to the Suzerain
- “CONDITIONAL”

2. Royal Grant Covenant

- King granting a promise to his subject, who does not have to do anything in return
- “UNCONDTIONAL”

The Beginnings

2200 BC

2100

Creation: Adam through Abraham

Patriarchs

 (The Fall) **ADAM** 930*

SETH 912

ENOS 905

KENAN (CAINAN) 910

MAHALALEEL 895

JARED 962

ENOCH 365 (God took him.)

METHUSELAH 969

LAMECH 777

NOAH 950 (The Flood) 

SHEM 600

ARPHAXAD 438

SALAH 433

EBER 464

PELEG 239

REU 239

SERUG 230

NAHOR 148

TERAH 205

ABRAHAM 175

 **ABRAHAM** c. 2100

Some scholars place Abraham's birth at 2000 BC. The biblical events through Joseph would still be in the future.

KEY

-  Life of Jesus
- C. Circa (about)
-  Key Person
-  Key Event
-  King of Israel Northern Tribes
-  King of Judah Southern Tribes



ABRAHAM

* The numbers in this section indicate the age of the person at death. The red lines indicate the life span in relationship to the others.

Adamic Covenant



Gen 2:15-17

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Gen 3:15

¹⁵ "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."



Noahic Covenant



Gen 9:8-11

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth... ¹¹ Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Gen 9:12-13

¹² "This is the sign of the covenant... ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth..."



Abrahamic Covenant



Gen 12:2-3

² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Gen 15:5

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars — if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."



Mosaic Covenant



- God gave Moses the 10 Commandment at Mount Sinai. (Ex 19-24)

Ex 19:5

“⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.”

- Moral Law – 10 Commandment
- Ceremonial Law – sacrifices

- Obedience → Blessings (Deut 28:1-14)
- Disobedience → Curses (Deut 28:15-68)



Davidic Covenant



2 Sam 7:11-16

¹¹ "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.... ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

- God promised David (and Israel) an everlasting kingdom.
- The king of this everlasting kingdom will come from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David.



New Covenant



Jer 31:31-34

³¹ "The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,"

³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord', because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

New Covenant



**Culmination & fulfilment of ALL previous covenants;
Jesus Christ is the MEDIATOR (Heb 9:15)**

**For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.
(Heb 9:15)**



New Covenant

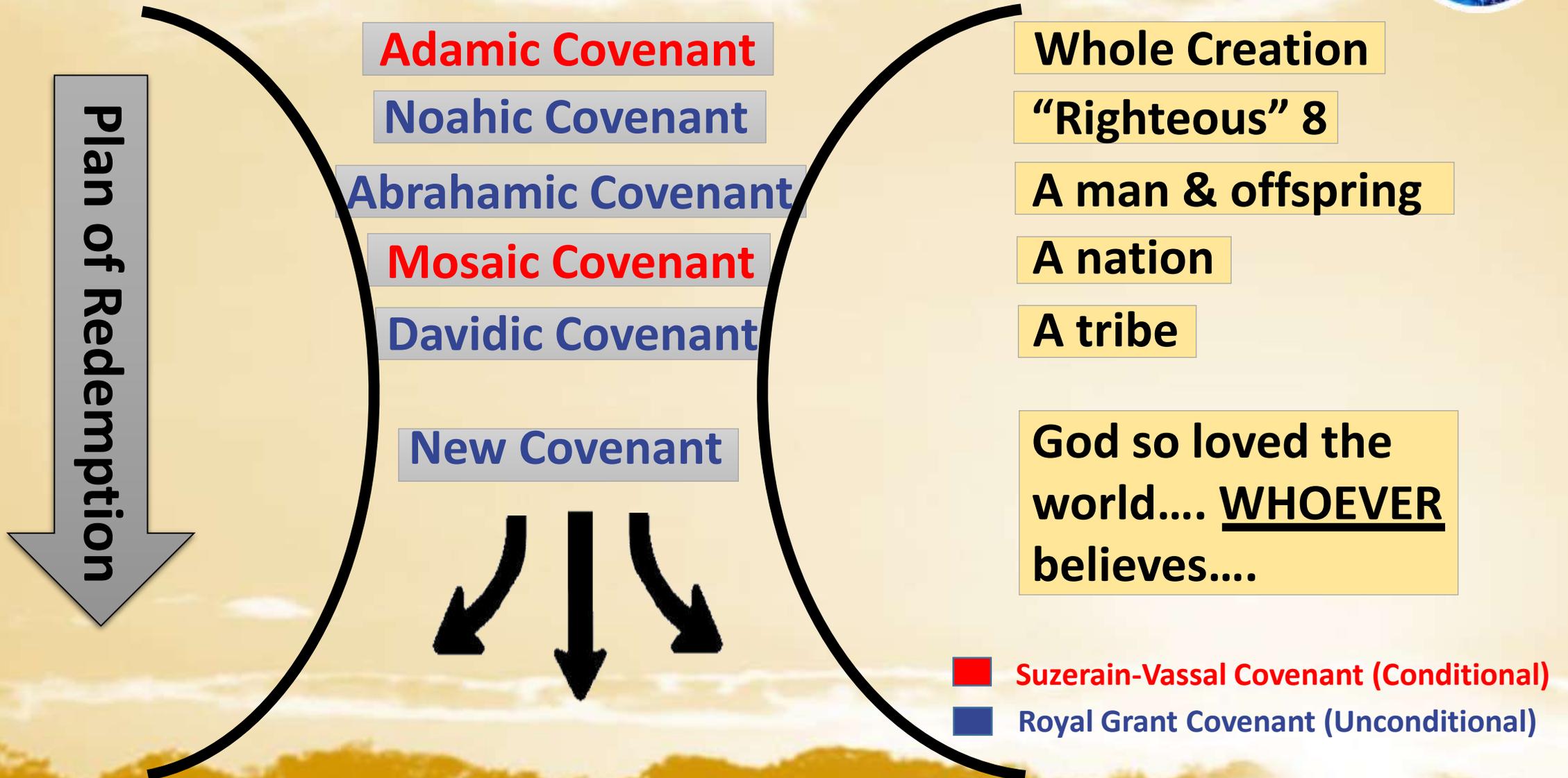


**Culmination & fulfilment of ALL previous covenants;
Jesus Christ is the MEDIATOR (Heb 9:15)**

- ✓ **Adamic Covenant – promised seed of the woman**
- ✓ **Noahic Covenant – salvation**
- ✓ **Abrahamic Covenant – all nations will be blessed**
- ✓ **Mosaic Covenant – perfect sacrifice**
- ✓ **Davidic Covenant – righteous King (Messiah)**



Covenant





- ❖ **The Bible is ONE BOOK**
- ❖ **Only ONE STORY LINE**
- ❖ **Bible Time Line & Covenant -- parallel**

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today
and forever. (Heb 13:8)**





- 1. God is our covenant keeping God.**
- 2. What if I blew it?**
- 3. Making sense of God's covenant...**



Our Covenant Keeping God



APPLICATION

1. God Himself initiates covenant.
2. God's choice – not on merit but on grace
 - Deut 7:7-9 – “... for you were the fewest of all peoples.”
 - 2 Sam 7:8-11 – “I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel...”
 - 1 Cor 1:26-30 – “Not many were wise, influential, of noble birth.....”



Our Covenant Keeping God



3. God's SOLEMN, BINDING AGREEMENT

- Num 23:19 – “God is not a man that He should lie...”
- 2 Cor 1:20 – “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ”

4. God is faithful even if we are faithless

- 2 Tim 2:13 – “He remains faithful even if we are faithless”
- Is 49:15 – “though your mother may forget you, I will not forget you”

APPLICATION



What If I Blew It?



APPLICATION

- ☹️ Not good enough.... Too far gone.... Fell into sin, again...
- 😊 1 Cor 1:26-30 – “Not many were wise, influential, of noble birth.....”
- 😊 1 Jn 1:8 – “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”
- 😊 1 Jn 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- 😊 Transforming power of the Holy Spirit



Making Sense of God's Covenant



Making sense of personal, national & global calamity?

- 💣 Sickesses – own or loved ones**
- 💣 Religious persecution & missing persons**
- 💣 Religious Extremism & Conversion**
- 💣 Australian Bushfire (Sep 2019 till now)**
- 💣 Volcano Eruption – Taal, Philippines, Jan 12, 2020**
- 💣 Wuhan Coronavirus – late December, escalating**

APPLICATION



Making Sense of God's Covenant



Making sense of personal, national & global calamity?

- ☹️ **Fallen world**
- ☹️ **God always has a reason and a purpose for any suffering that He allows**
- ☹️ **God allows suffering to perfect and change you**
- ☹️ **God allows suffering so you can be a testimony to others**
- ☹️ **God allows suffering to continue to fulfil a plan that is beyond your understanding**

APPLICATION





Jer 12:5

"If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses?

If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

- **Know God, Know His Word**
- **Be far-sighted**
- **Be in community (DG)**



**God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.**

**But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing kindness, undying love.**





**God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.**

**God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
Never a mountain, rocky and steep,
Never a river, turbid and deep.**





OUR COVENANT KEEPING GOD

- 1. God is our covenant keeping God.**
- 2. What if I blew it?**
- 3. Making sense of God's covenant...**