



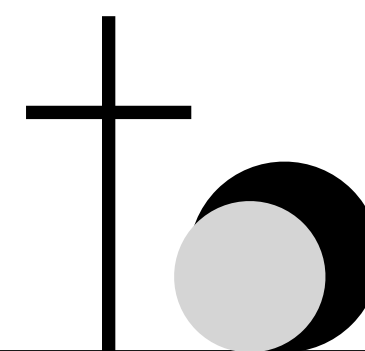
TOPIC NIGHT:
COVENANTS

**'On that day the Lord made a covenant
with Abram...'**

Genesis 15:18 - NIV 2011 (Anglicised)

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

CREATION



NEW CREATION

BECAUSE IT AFFECTS THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?
- Why can I eat bacon and wear mixed-fabric clothes?
- Why do people disagree on baptising babies vs believers?
- Why people differ on who takes the Lord's Supper?
- Why do some people say we have to keep the Sabbath and other's do not?
- Why are there different views on the land of Israel today

BECAUSE THE BIBLE EXPECTS YOU TO CARE

- Hebrews 8
- Acts 15
- Luke 22

BECAUSE GOD CARES

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'

Luke 22:20 - NIV 2011 (Anglicised)

HOW ARE COVENANTS USED IN THE BIBLE?

THE PLAN

With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

THE PROMISE

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

THE COVENANTS

Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say 'and to seeds', meaning many people, but 'and to your seed', meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: the law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Galatians 3:15-18 - NIV 2011 (Anglicised)

THE PLAN

COMES ABOUT BY

THE PROMISE

WHICH IS ESTABLISHED BY

THE COVENANTS

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

**A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew.
Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a
brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.**

**‘A covenant is a
chosen relationship
in which two parties make
binding promises
to each other.’**

Thomas Schreiner (Covenant and God’s purpose for the world)

a relationship

**a chosen
relationship**

**In which two parties
make binding
promises**

**WORKED EXAMPLE:
NOAH - GENESIS 9:8-17**

NOAH (GENESIS 9:8-17)

- 1. What is the relationship?**
- 2. What are the binding promises?**
- 3. How does this progress the storyline of the Bible?**

ABRAHAM (GENESIS 12, 15, 17)

- People (Offspring)
- Place (Land)
- Presence (Blessing)

SINAI (EXODUS 19-24)

- Separation

DAVID (2 SAMUEL 7; PSALM 89)

- King who reigns forever

THE NEW COVENANT (JEREMIAH 31-34; ISAIAH 54; EZEKIEL 33-39)

‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors 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,’ declares the Lord. ‘This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘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. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, “Know the Lord,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the Lord. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - NIV 2011 (Anglicised)



QUESTIONS

HOW ARE PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT COVENANTS SAVED?

BLESSING

Loving, fearing and trusting the LORD
Expressed in obedience to all the Law

SINAI

Turning from God to idols
Expressed in wicked behaviour

PROMISE

CURSE

HOW ARE PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT COVENANTS SAVED?

BLESSING

Faith in Christ; receiving the Spirit
United to Christ: sin-bearer and curse-bearer

THE NEW COVENANT

Rejecting or marginalising Christ
(e.g. relying on the Law instead of Jesus)

PROMISE

CURSE

QUESTIONS