

TOPIC NIGHT: COVENANTS

'On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram...' - Genesis 15:18

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Because it affects the Christian life

Because the Bible expects you to care

Because God cares

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. - Ephesians 1:9-10

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.' - Genesis 12:1-3

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

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

"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)

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)

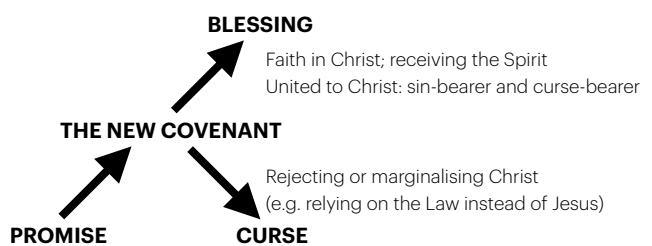
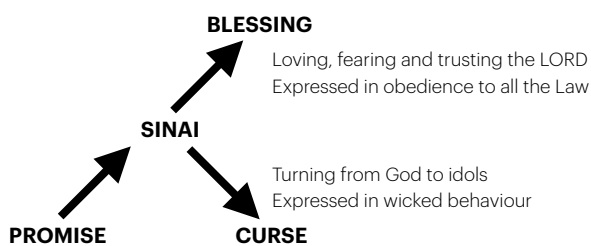
Sinai (Exodus 19-24)

David (2 Samuel 7/Psalm 89)

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31-34, Isaiah 54, Ezekiel 33-39)

QUESTIONS

How are people in different covenants saved?



RESOURCES I HAVE FOUND USEFUL...

- **Covenant and God's purpose for the world (Thomas R. Schreiner)**
An easy to read (just over 100 pages) introduction to the topic.
- **Christ from beginning to end (Trent Hunter and Stephen Wellum)**
A helpful book for seeing how the whole of the Bible fits together.
- **Sealed with an Oath (Paul R. Williamson)**
Tries to think hard about the word 'covenant' and how it is used Biblically.
- **God's kingdom through God's covenants (Peter Gentry and Stephen Wellum)**
A more detailed version of 'Christ from beginning to end' with more explanation on the specific covenants.