

Covenant Theology
“Rediscovering the Missing Jewel”

I. Introduction.

A. Why is this topic important?

1. Pastor Don’s tall order.
2. The word appears frequently throughout the Scripture.
3. Paul’s usage in regard to Abraham and Israel.
4. Noah and David.
5. A vital aspect of Scripture.
 - a. “It is more accurate to state that Covenant is the very fabric of Scripture,”
Brown & Keele, *Sacred Bond*, p. 11.

B. What is a Covenant?

1. Common to everyday life.
 - a. It is a formal agreement that creates a relationship with legal aspects.
2. Any type of agreement between t_____ or m_____ parties.
 - a. May be simple but also formal with
 1. D_____
 2. C_____
 - b. Example

3. Consider God's initial directive to man.

a. Genesis 2:15

1. "Cultivate" and "Keep" -- A better translation would be to S_____ and O_____.
2. The same verb is used later in Genesis 3:24.

“²⁴ So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”

C. What are the building blocks of a Covenant?

1. A promise
2. Implies positive or negative consequences
3. Determined by cultural and relational context.

D. Where is the term covenant in Genesis 2-3?

1. Watch for O_____ / R_____ pattern.

E. Covenants of the Ancient Near East.

1. Israel's setting in its region of the world.
 - a. The "word" of a person was all important in the ancient world. This is quite a contrast to modern culture.
2. The role of deities.
3. Ancient Near East covenants (Hittites as an example)
 - a. First part

b. Second part

c. Third part

d. Fourth part

e. Fifth part

4. Ancient Covenants of Israel.

a. Ceremonies

b. Hebrew idiom

c. O. Palmer Robertson's definition: "A b_____ in b_____, or a bond of life and d_____ s_____ a_____."

5. Examples in the history of Israel.

a. Joshua and the Gibeonites –

b. Israel and Assyria –

c. Laws and agreements –

d. Contracts in business –

e. Commitments between friends –

f. Agreements between masters and servants –

g. Laban and Jacob –

II. Biblical Covenants – Brown & Keele

A. Summary definition.

1. A Covenant is...

2. Key points

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

B. We will be concerned with Biblical covenants which contain three key points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Synonyms for “Covenant” used in Scripture.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

6. Typical wording –

III. Conclusion

A. “Covenant” is basic to the Christian life.

B. Intrinsic to Reformed Theology because it is intrinsic to our assurance of salvation.

1. Francis Turretin, 1623-1687.