

What Is Reformed Theology?
“Covenant Theology” – Part II

I. Introduction.

A. Why is Covenant Theology important?

1. The word “covenant” frequently used throughout the Scripture.
 - a. Most of the book of Genesis (Chapters 12-50) is about God’s covenant with Abraham and his descendants.
 - b. Successive covenants are built upon the promise given to Adam in Gen. 3:15.
 - c. New covenant
 1. Prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:26-27
 2. Fulfilled in Christ.
2. Paul contrasts God’s covenant with Abraham and his covenant with Israel.
 - a. Galatians Chapters 3-4.
 - b. II Corinthians 3

B. What is a Covenant?

1. Definition
2. An agreement between two or more parties.
 - a. It has _____ and _____

c. Consider God's initial directive to man.

1. Genesis 2:15

a. Cultivate and keep or Serve and obey.

1. Exodus 8:1, 20; 9:13; Ex. 17:9; 28:19;

2. Deuteronomy 10:12-13

b. Genesis 3:24

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

a. Watch for obedience/reward pattern in Scripture.

C. 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.