

The Covenant of Grace

Oakwood Presbyterian Church

2016

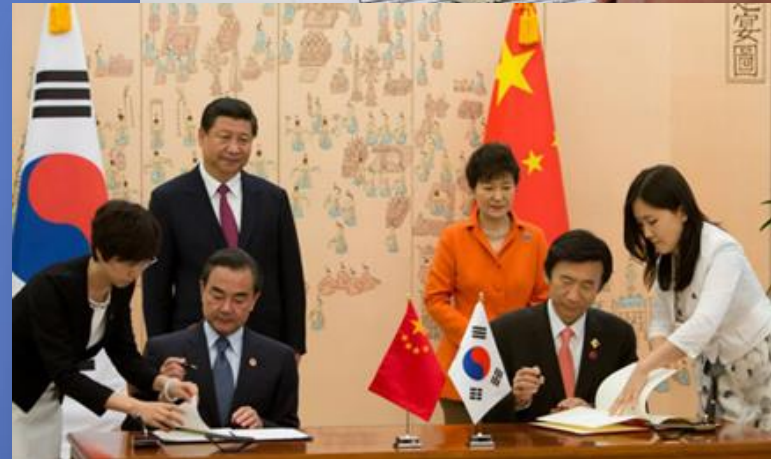


THE
Christ
OF THE
COVENANTS

O. PALMER
ROBERTSON



What Is a “Covenant”?



“A covenant is a formal agreement that creates a relationship with legal aspects.”

Michael G. Brown and Zach Keele, Sacred Bond

***“A covenant is a bond in blood
sovereignly administered.***

When God enters into a
covenantal relationship with
men, he sovereignly institutes
a life-and-death bond. A
covenant is a bond in blood, or
a bond of life and death,
sovereignly administered.”

*O. Palmer Robertson,
The Christ of the Covenants*



Covenants Within the Covenant

- Adamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Commencement”
- Noahic Covenant – “The Covenant of Preservation”
- Abrahamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Promise”
- Mosaic Covenant – “The Covenant of Law”
- Davidic Covenant – “The Covenant of the Kingdom”
- The New Covenant – “The Covenant of Consummation”



Jesus Christ

Jer 31:31-34

Luk 22:20

David

II Sam 7

Moses

Ex 20

Abraham

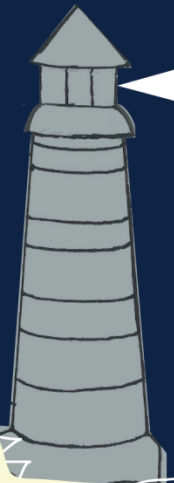
Gen 12

Noah

Gen 9

Adam

Gen 3:15



Covenant of Redemption?

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that you have given Me because you loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

John 17:24

“...[God] chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”

Ephesians 1:4

“The covenant of redemption... is an eternal pact between the persons of the Trinity. The Father elects a people in the Son as their mediator to be brought to saving faith through the Spirit... The joy of giving and receiving experienced by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit spills over, as it were, into the Creator-creature relationship.” Michael Horton, Introducing Covenant Theology

The Covenant of Works (Creation)



“By the very act of creating man in His own likeness and image, God established a unique relationship between Himself and creation. In addition to this sovereign creation-act, God spoke to man, thus determining the role of man in creation. Through this creating/speaking relationship, God established sovereignly a life-and-death bond.”

O. Palmer Robertson

The Creation Ordinances

- **The Sabbath**

“So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” Genesis 2:3

- **Work**

“And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28

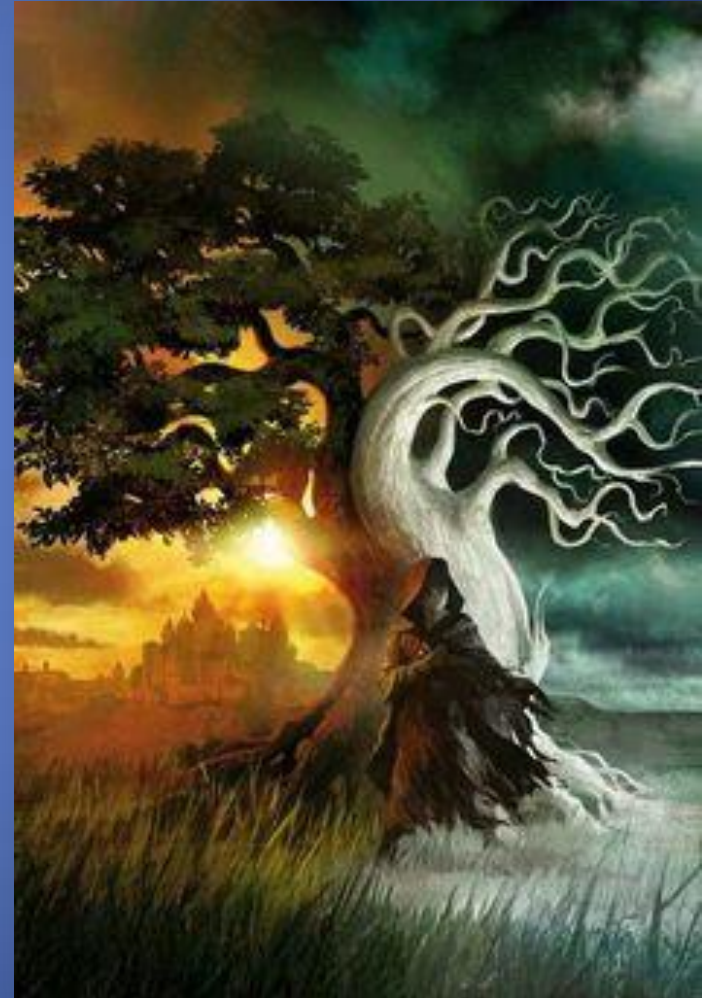
- **Marriage**

“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him’... Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:18,24

The Test of Eden

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Genesis 2:16



The Focal Point of Covenant-Keeping

“If the covenant of creation is thought not to exceed Adam’s probation-test, a curious brand of Christianity ultimately emerges... a brand of Christianity greatly at odds with that in which the probation-test is understood as the focal point of a total life-embracing covenantal relationship. The difference between the two views is the difference between ‘fundamentalism’ narrowly conceived and the broader covenantal theology of Scripture.”

O. Palmer Robertson





“Man had been given the privilege of eating from every tree of the garden. As God’s vice-regent, all was his. Yet now, one marked exception is introduced. One tree stands in the midst of the garden as symbolic reminder that man is not God... He is creature; God is creator.”

O. Palmer Robertson

The Standard for Acceptance



“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”

Romans 2:6-8

Israel Fails the Test



“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

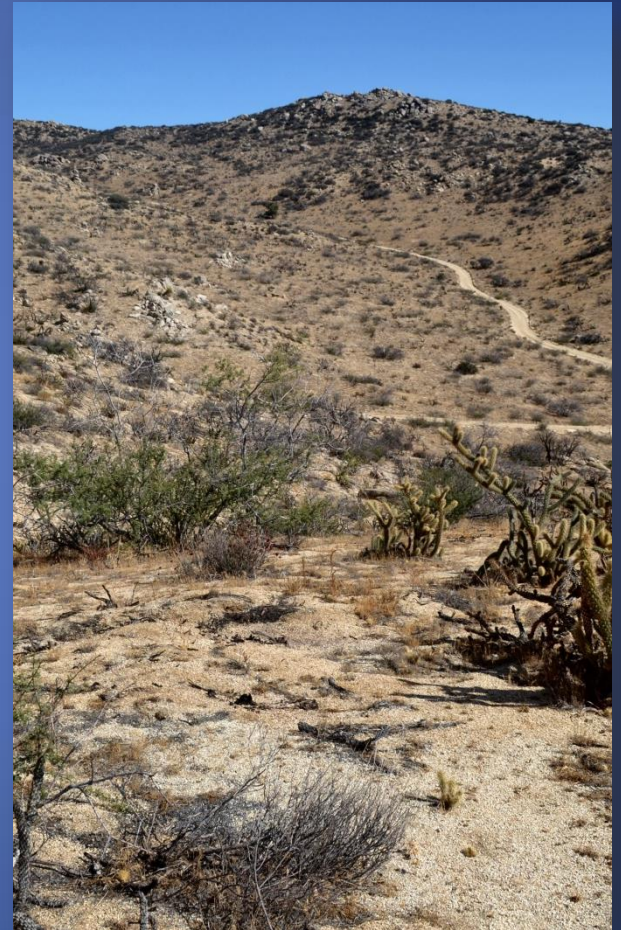
The Second Adam

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’”

Matthew 4:1-3

“And going a little farther [Christ] fell on His face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”

Matthew 26:39



The Adamic Covenant



“ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’”

Genesis 3:9-12

The Blessings and The Curses

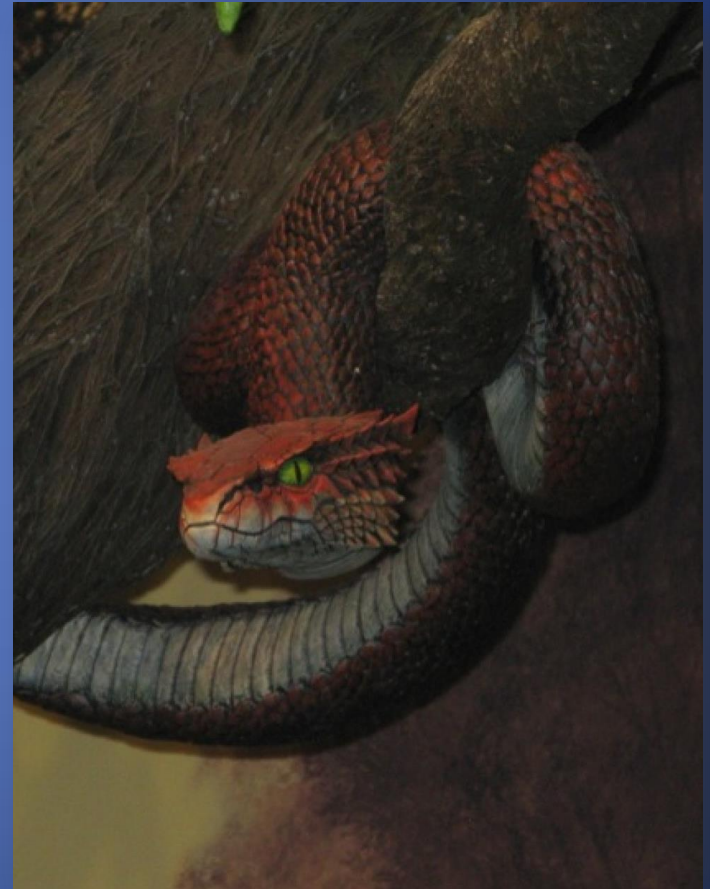
To the Serpent:

- **Humiliation:** “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.”

Genesis 3:14

- **Ultimate Defeat:** “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Genesis 3:15



The War of All History

“Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave.” And they did so, and brought those five kings out to him from the cave... Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, ‘Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.’ Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, ‘Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.’”

Joshua 10:22-25

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

Romans 16:20



Victory in the New Covenant



“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.” Colossians 2:14,15

Blessings in the Curse

To the Woman: “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 3:16

- “...sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

Genesis 4:7

To the Man: “...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:17-19



Paradise Restored

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship him. They will see His face...”

Revelation 22:1-4

