

COVENANT: THE MAP<sup>1</sup> OF GOD'S WORD  
Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
Vandalia, OH  
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**1. THE COVENANT MAP OF THE BIBLE**

Introduction: Two Tales of Travel

Charles Spurgeon, "Christ Precious to Believers" (March 13, 1859)

Luke 24:13-49

- A. Our Destination = Covenant Communion: What the Bible Is All About (Psalm 73:25-28; Ephesians 1:7-10; Revelation 22:1-5)
- B. The Map of the Bible: Old and New Testaments = Old and New Covenants (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:19-20; Hebrews 8:6-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-18)

"testament" < *testamentum* < *diathēkē* < *b<sup>e</sup>rith*

- C. Components of Biblical Covenants (Exodus 20)

*The Lord's covenant with his human servants is a bond of interpersonal commitment involving exclusive loyalty, sovereignly instituted by the Lord, expressed through mutual obligations and enforced by life-or-death consequences.<sup>2</sup>*

- The Lord's initiative Exodus 20:2
  - Exclusive loyalty Exodus 20:3
  - Obligations
    - Commands to servants Exodus 20:4-17
    - Promises from the Lord Exodus 20:4-5
  - Consequences
    - Blessings Exodus 20:12
    - Curses Exodus 20:5, 7
- D. Christ the Mediator, Covenant Lord and Covenant Servant (1 Timothy 2:3–6; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6; 12:24; see 1:1-4; 4:14-16)

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<sup>1</sup> The "journey/travel" metaphor for studying Scripture is from Dennis E. Johnson, *Walking with Jesus through his Word: Discovering Christ in All the Scriptures* (P&R, 2015) and its abridgment, *Journeys with Jesus: Every Path in the Bible Leads us to Christ* (P&R, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> *Walking with Jesus*, p. 91. Adapted from O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (P & R, 1980)

### Take-Aways

1. Read your Bible ***personally, relationally***. It's all about our Creator's covenant commitment to us, and our appropriate response of whole-hearted commitment to him.
  - Biblical doctrine is, at its core, an unveiling of the triune God, and specifically of Christ who announced: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
  - Commands are not merely summons to keep rules. Obedience is interpersonal love and loyalty made visible in action.
2. As you read your Bible, be on the lookout for ***Christ, the only mediator***, who secures your place in God's covenant love.