



Abraham—Lesson 4

You Have God's Word on It

Biblical Character Sketches

biblical covenants
Genesis 15 & 17



**WALKING IN THEIR
SANDALS**

Exploring today's lesson

- *Covenant* is one of the most significant concepts in the Bible.
- Even the name of the Bible is rooted in the covenant concept (Old & New **Testaments**).
- The Bible contains **5** covenants.



A Discussion Point

Since covenants are a foundational concept of the Bible, why don't we adhere to Covenant Theology instead of Dispensationalism?

Outlining today's lesson

I. **Defining** a biblical covenant.

II. **Examining** a biblical covenant

III. **Identifying** the biblical covenants

IV. **Considering** the extra-biblical covenants of Covenant Theology

I. Defining a biblical covenant

- The Hebrew and Greek words both refer to a **binding** solemnized agreement.
- 2 types of OT covenants
 - **Bilateral conditional** between equal parties
 - **Unilateral unconditional** between non-equals
- More than a promise or agreement
- The 5 biblical covenants follow the 2 secular

I. Defining a biblical covenant

II. Examining a biblical covenant

- The sacrifice – **cutting**
- The Abrahamic Covenant was **progressively** revealed.
 - **Chapter 12**: great nation, blessing, great name, bless the earth
 - **Chapter 15**: son through Sarah, innumerable posterity, boundaries of promised land, prediction of bondage
 - **Chapter 17**: father of many nations, names changed, father of kings, everlasting duration,

I. Defining a biblical covenant

II. Examining a biblical covenant

III. Identifying the biblical covenants

- **Noahic**, unconditional, no more universal floods, ceaseless seasons (Gen. 9; Jer. 33:20)
- **Abrahamic**, unconditional, 4 fold promise
- **Mosaic** (Israel), conditional-keep law, blessing in the land, given at Sinai
- **Davidic**, unconditional, royal seed through David's line, Messianic line
- **New** (Messianic), unconditional, new heart, *gospel based on finished work of Christ*

- I. Defining a biblical covenant
- II. Examining a biblical covenant
- III. Identifying the biblical covenants
- IV. Considering the extra-biblical covenants of Covenant Theology

- Why not adhere to Covenant Theology?
 - Bible covenants \neq CT's covenants
 - CT's covenants are **not** found in Scripture.
 - The Bible's covenants have a **dispensational** progression toward a literal, prophetic consummation to God's glory.

- I. Defining a biblical covenant
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- IV. Considering the extra-biblical covenants of Covenant Theology

- The covenants of Covenant Theology
 - The covenant of **Works**
 - The covenant of **Grace**
 - The covenant of **Redemption**

THE THEOLOGICAL COVENANTS

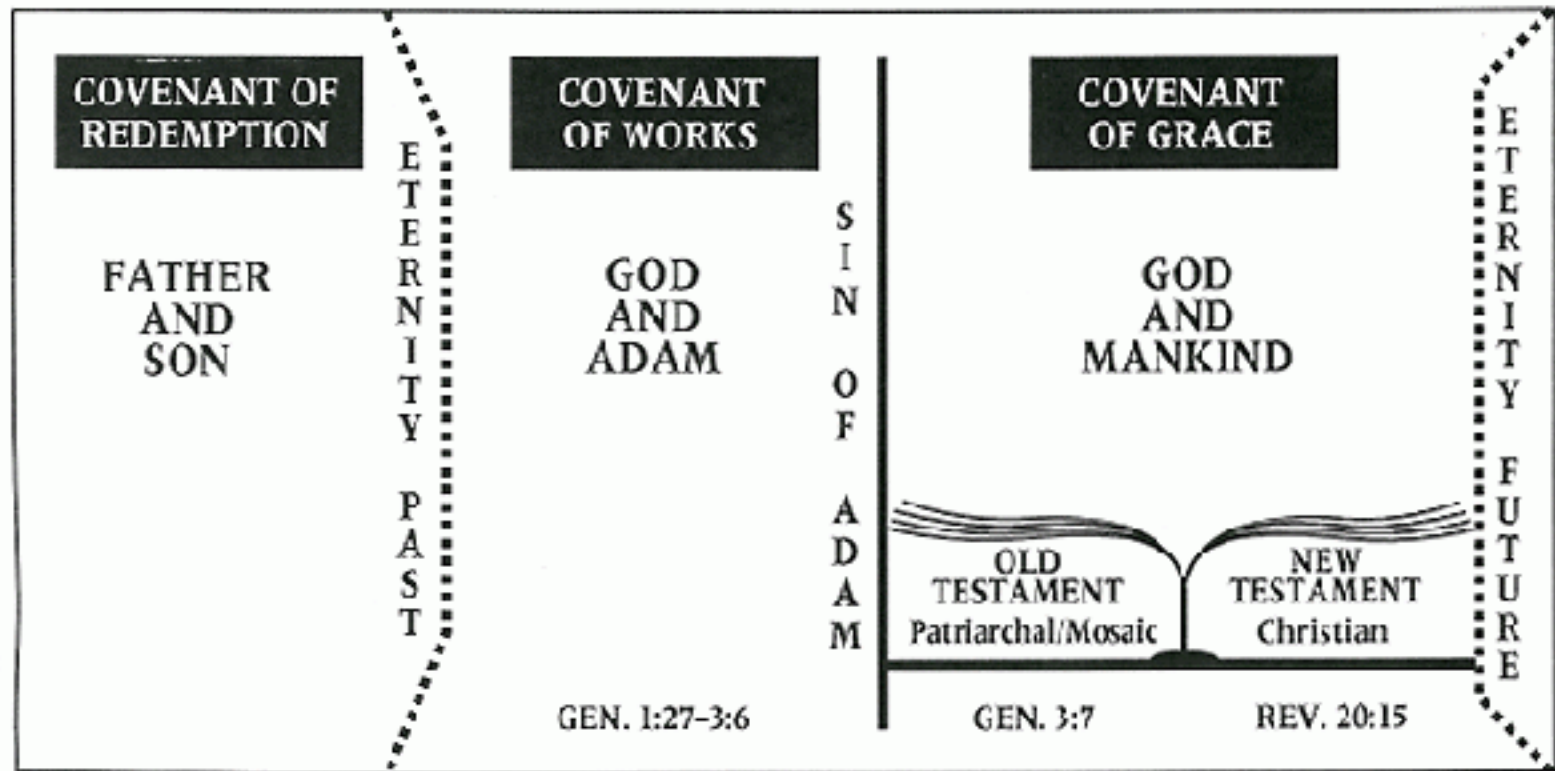


chart from Charles Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*

Final Thoughts

- Bible covenants demonstrate progressive revelation and naturally lead to a dispensational interpretation of the Bible.



A Discussion Point

**Is it just an argument
over semantics?**

Final Thoughts – not simply semantics

- Very different answers to key questions
 - Is the Bible to be taken literally or figuratively?
 - Is there a future for the physical seed of Abraham, the Jews, or are all the promises to be fulfilled in a spiritual sense by the church?
 - Is God's ultimate purpose to redeem man or to glorify Himself?
 - Is baptism a source of grace or is it simply a testimony ordinance?

Final Thoughts – not simply semantics

- Very different answers to key questions
- Covenant Theology lacks adequate explanations or denies important NT dispensational distinctions.
 - Priesthood of the believer
 - Primacy of the local church
 - Indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - Ordinance of baptism
 - Separation of church and state



Abraham—Lesson 4 (END)

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