

Heritage OPC: Sunday School

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 20. *What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth^a; putting the creatures under his dominion^b, and ordaining marriage for his help;^c affording him communion with himself;^d instituting the Sabbath;^e entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect and perpetual obedience,^f of which the tree of life was a pledge;^g and forbidding to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.^h

a. Gen 2:8, 15-16

c. Gen 2:18, See Matt 19:3-9, Eph 5:31

e. Gen 2:3, Compared with Ex 20:11

g. Gen 2:9, Gen 3:22-24

b. Gen 1:28

d. Gen 1:26-29, Gen 3:8

f. Gen 2:16-17, Gal 3:12, Rom 10:15

h. Gen 2:17, Compared with Jam 2:10

Define Covenant

1. "A covenant is a bond in blood sovereignly administered" – O Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*
2. A covenant is:
 - a. a bond – an oath bound commitment
 - b. a bond in blood
 - c. sovereignly administered
3. Other helpful definitions:
 - a. a covenant is "a unique or special kind of relationship
 - b. a covenant does not create a unique relationship between God and his people, rather it SECURES and STRUCTURES those unique relationships
 - c. A covenant is a sign or visible representation of a specific relationship
 - d. A covenant refers to the written revelation associated with a specific biblical covenant

Covenant Names

1. Covenant of Nature
2. Covenant of Life
3. Covenant of Works
4. Covenant with Adam

Covenant of Works

1. Larger Considerations
 - a. Elements of a covenant are present – Gen: 1, 2
 - b. The presence of blessing – Gen: 1, 2
 - c. "The covenant of grace that Christ fulfills is executing the original covenant that man failed to fulfill." – Dr. Ligon Duncan
 - d. Witness of the Adam/Christ parallel

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- e. Testimony of Scripture – Hosea 6:7
- 2. Elements of the Covenant
 - a. Parties of the covenant – Gen 1:26
 - b. Promises or blessings of the covenant – Gen 12:1-3, Gen 1:28
 - c. Conditions of the covenant – Gen 2:16-17
 - d. Penalty of the covenant – Gen 2:17, Gen 3:22-24