

COVENANTS OF GOD

When the eternal God chose to enter into a special relationship with man, He chose to use the method of a covenant. It is not an overstatement to note that an understanding of these covenants, how they work and what they mean, should be the absolute priority of every member of the human race.

- These are covenants to which God committed Himself to do certain things in relation to man.
- These are covenants which directly impact the life of every man on earth.
- These are covenants in place and operative whether or not men are aware of them.
- These are covenants which, if embraced, bring joy, peace, blessing, and eternal life with God.
- These are covenants which, if rejected bring sadness, turmoil, cursing, and eternal separation from God.

Seven specific covenants are revealed in Bible Scripture. These seven covenants fall into three categories; conditional, unconditional, and general. One of the covenants made with Israel, The Mosaic Covenant, is conditional in nature. This covenant will bring either blessing or cursing depending upon Israel's obedience or disobedience. Three of the covenants made with Israel, are unconditional and are made with no strings attached. God will fulfill the Abrahamic, Palestinian, and Davidic Covenants regardless of Israel's obedience or disobedience. Three of the covenants, Adamic, Noahic, and New are made between God and mankind in general and are not limited to the nation Israel.

Each of these covenants is listed below in biblical order with a brief description.

1. Adamic Covenant. One part of this covenant is found in Genesis 1:26-30 and 2:16-17 and is general in nature. It outlined man's responsibility toward creation and God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Another part of the covenant included the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God's provision for that sin and for man's redemption Genesis 3:15.
2. Noahic Covenant. This general covenant was made between God and Noah following the departure of Noah, his family and animals from the ark. It is found in Genesis 9:11. "I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." The covenant included a sign of God's faithfulness to keep it – the rainbow.
3. Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18). In this covenant, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great (Genesis 12:2), that Abraham would have numerous physical descendants (Genesis 13:16), and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations (Genesis 17:4-5). God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. In fact, the geographical boundaries of the Abrahamic Covenant are laid out on more than one occasion in the book of Genesis (12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21). Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the

world will be blessed through the physical line of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). This is a reference to Jesus the Messiah, who would come from the line of Abraham.

4. Palestinian Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). The Palestinian Covenant, or Land Covenant, amplifies the land aspect that was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant. According to the terms of this covenant, if the people disobeyed, God would cause them to be scattered around the world (Deuteronomy 30:3-4), but He would eventually restore the nation (verse 5). When the nation is restored, then they will obey Him perfectly (verse 8), and God will cause them to prosper (verse 9).
5. Mosaic Covenant (Deuteronomy 11; et al.). The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God's direct blessing for obedience or God's direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel. Part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the rest of the Law, which contained over 600 commands—roughly 300 positive and 300 negative. The history books of the Old Testament (Joshua–Esther) detail how Israel succeeded at obeying the Law or how Israel failed miserably at obeying the Law. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 details the blessing/cursing involvements.
6. Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-16). The Davidic Covenant amplifies the “seed” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises to David in this passage are significant. God promised that David's lineage would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away permanently (verse 16). Obviously, the Davidic throne has not been in place at all times. There will be a time, however, when someone from the line of David will again sit on the throne and rule as king. This future king is Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).
7. New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The New Covenant is a covenant made first with the nation of Israel and, ultimately, with all mankind. In the New Covenant, God promises to forgive sin, and there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17) and create a new covenant between God and His people. This covenant is unique in that it was instituted by the Son of God himself at the Last Supper and before he became the Passover Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Now that we are under the New Covenant, both Jews and Gentiles can be free from the penalty of the Law. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In addition to the above covenants, God has made a promise to you and me. It is recorded in John 3:16. It says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Will you believe God? Whatever your name is, He is saying to you today, “Believe Me and I will save you if you will trust my Son Jesus Christ as your Savior.” That is God’s covenant with me and you.