

The Promise Keeper: God of the Covenants

Lesson 1: The Covenant of Redemption

1. What is Covenant Theology?
 - a. The idea that biblical revelation is “progressive, not augmentative”- God does not change a previous revelation to fit a new one, but adds more detail to make a sharper image.
 - i. Example would be the removal of cataracts in those whose eyesight has faded, or scratching off the back of a gift card to see how much it is worth!
2. Examples of Covenants
 - a. Democratic Republic of the United States- Agreement between the people and their elected rulers. The people vow to elect their leaders to places of authority and the officials vow to represent the interest of their people when creating legislation.
 - b. Industrial Covenant- Agreement between a worker (or labor union) and their employer to provide certain benefits for an agreed upon wage and duration of servitude.
 - c. Commercial Covenant- Credit card users vow to pay back their borrowed amount over a set period of time.
 - d. Marriage Covenant- Two single people vow to commit their whole lives to one another, under the principles set forth for Christian marriage expressed in the Bible.
3. What is the Covenant of Scripture?- It is a **Divine Covenant**
 - a. What is a Divine Covenant?
 - i. It is a covenant made between two unequal parties (God and Man)
 1. Remember this one: **Suzerain – Vassal Covenant**
 - a. Review- “When various tribal states would go to war, the victorious king would reign as Suzerain (dominant state) and the defeated King would be His vassal” (Overview of Covenant Theology).
 - b. Jesus is King of Righteousness in the order of Melchizedek (Gen. 14, Ps. 110:4, and Heb. 7: 13-17)
 - i. The inferior (Abraham) paid a tithe to the superior (Melchizedek) and received a blessing. So to did Christ perfectly present God’s necessary sacrifice, and receive the blessing of eternal life- now given to all who believe in Him
 - ii. Foundation of the Divine Covenant is the relationship between Promise and Fulfillment
 - iii. We exist as God’s people only because God does not break his promise to Himself.
 - iv. Faith is what connects us to God’s covenantal promises.

- v. It is only by grace that we are given faith
- 4. Where was the first covenant?
 - a. God's covenant in the Trinity= Covenant of Redemption
 - i. God of the Old and New Testament are the same; we do not have one god of Wrath (old testament) and one god of Mercy (new testament).
 - 1. The sacrificial system in the Old Testament set up the required work of Christ in the New Testament
 - a. Heb. 10:1-10
 - b. Unified Mission from the foundation of the World!
 - i. Economy of Redemption-
 - 1. Father sends Son into the World
 - 2. Son's **willing** obedience accomplishes redemption for His people
 - 3. Holy Spirit reveals the accomplished work of the Son to God's people.
 - c. This covenant was not Plan B
 - i. Luke 22:29, John 10: 27-30, John 17: 2-12, Acts 13: 48, 2 Tim. 1:9
 - d. Discussion Questions:
 - i. Explain how the covenant of redemption relates to the salvation of sinners in time.
 - ii. Are there any portions of Scripture that come to mind when discussing God's definite plan for his work of redemption?
 - iii. In what sense is Jesus the Son subordinate to God the Father?
- 5. Perfect Active and Passive Obedience of Christ
 - a. Active Obedience- "Second Adam", perfectly fulfills the requirements of God's law for humanity.
 - i. Matt. 3: 13-17
 - b. Passive Obedience- Jesus' submission to the Father's will (receive the curse of the Old Covenant)
 - i. Matt. 26: 39, Luke 22: 42
 - c. Discussion Questions
 - i. Is the covenant of redemption inconsistent with the idea that we have the free will to choose according to our desires? Explain your answer.
 - ii. In the covenant of redemption, did the Father agree to call out classes (i.e., a certain group of people) or individuals into the service of the Son?
 - iii. Can you define or describe any faulty views that you may have heard or read on this subject? How would you respond to the person who argues that the idea of this covenant is pure speculation?