



# Keeping God's Covenants Distinct: Which Covenants Belong to the NT Church?

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*Scripture Reading:*

**Hebrews 6:13-20**

# REVIEW (Where we have been)

- **We've observed the Scriptural distinctions between:**
  - Israel and the Church
  - Law and GRACE
  - The believer's three enemies and the NT provisions for victory for the GRACE believer over these three spiritual enemies
  - The three tenses of salvation for the GRACE believer

# INTRODUCTION

Now we are going to explore the distinctions of content and the recipients of God's COVENANTS that are revealed in Scripture

- The NT Church – “The Body of Christ” – has three distinct covenants of which it is the sole recipient.

# What is a Covenant?

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- A covenant is a solemn promise (or agreement) between two parties in order to end all strife (conflicts, uncertainties) that men may have
  - **From God's point of view, He doesn't have strife, conflicts, or uncertainties – Nor does He need a covenant to satisfy Himself!**
    - **Heb 6:16-18, Titus 1:2**



# What is a Covenant?

(continued)

Covenants involve responsibilities:

- **Conditional**
    - Both parties are responsible to keep certain agreed-upon conditions
  - **Unconditional**
    - Only one party (God) obligates Himself to keep certain stated conditions
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# Examples of Human and Divine Covenants

- A covenant between men
  - **Laban and Jacob** - Gen 31:20-22, 41-55
    - **Their personal conflict**
      - Laban's cheating of Jacob
      - Jacob's stealthy departure
    - **The proposed covenant** - Gen 31:43-52
    - **The covenant enacted by an oath** - Gen 31:53

# Examples of Human and Divine Covenants

- A covenant between God and man - Gen 15
  - **The Lord cut this covenant** - Gen 15:18, cf Jer 34:8,18
  - **Abram is saved by faith** - Gen 15:1-6
  - **Abram doubts God' promise of a land** - Gen 15:7-8
  - **God cuts and unconditional covenant with Abram** (while Abram was having a nightmare!) - Gen 15:9-18
  - **Abram's seed will possess this promised land** - Gen 15:18-21

# CONCLUSION

All unconditional covenants that God makes with a man (or men) is for man's enhanced certainty of God's immutable and determined will

- **Heb 6:17-18**

- “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, <sup>18</sup> that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before”