



The Basis for Understanding Biblical Covenants

Scripture Reading:

Galations 3:13-16, 27-29

REVIEW: What is a covenant?

- **A solemn promise (agreement) between two parties in order to end all strife (conflicts, controversies, uncertainties) that men may have.**
- **God doesn't have strife, conflict, controversy, or uncertainty.**
- **Not does God NEED a covenant to satisfy Himself**

REVIEW: Two types of covenants

Conditional

- **Both parties are responsible to fulfil certain agreed upon conditions**
 - **“I will, if you will”**
 - **This is the usual covenant between men**

Unconditional

- **Only one party (God) is obligated to fulfill the conditions of the covenant**

INTRODUCTION

Before we examine the various major covenants in Scripture, we need to be clear about what constitutes the basis for a proper understanding of these covenants

First Premise:

The Bible is 'God-Breathed' and is Absolutely Authoritative in Every Area and Subject of Which it Speaks

II Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Let Scripture speak for itself
(exegetis)

Don't read your thought and pre-suppositions into Scripture (eisegetis)

Second Premise: A Promise is Only a Covenant if GOD calls it a Covenant

- **Not all promises are covenants**
- **There are no “Grace”, “Redemption”, “Works”, “Edenic”, or “Adamic” covenants**
 - None of these are called covenants in Scripture, or have the characteristics of a covenant

Third Premise: Once a Covenant is Made, it Does Not Change

- **Galations 3:15** “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”
- **A covenant can't be added to, or subtracted from**

Fourth Premise: Similarity is Not Identity

- **Illustration of the “cookie-cutter” suburban neighborhood**
 - **Look for the differences!**
- **Illustration of the Second Coming and The Rapture**
 - **Look for the differences:**
 - **Affects all mankind vs church only**
 - **Post-Trib and Pre-Trib**
 - **Foretold in OT vs a mystery in the NT**
- **Illustration of the New Covenant with Israel and Judah vs the New Covenant with the Church**
 - **Jer 31, II Cor 3 - content, persons, and time of fulfillment are different!**

Fifth Premise: God Can Make More Than One Covenant with the Same Individual or Peoples

Two covenants with Noah

Four covenants with Abram/Abraham

Three covenants that affect the Church alone, out of all mankind

Sixth Premise: Each Covenant Must Be Interpreted Literally by Applying the Rules of Grammar and Historical Backdrop in Their Context

- Each covenant will be literally fulfilled to the historically-addressed participants according to the conditions. Or lack or conditions, or each covenant.

Seventh Premise: God's Covenants With a Particular People are NEVER Applied to Another People

- The Mosaic covenant does not apply to the Church
 - Acts 15:7-11, Rom 6:14
- The land promise of the first Abrahamic covenant does not apply to the Church

Eighth Premise: Today God Sees Three Races of People – the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church of God - I Cor 10:32

- Only two races existed in the OT: Jew and Gentile
- Today, the Church is a 3rd race
 - **1 Peter 2:9-10** "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

**Ninth Premise: There are Two New
Covenants in Scripture: One with Israel,
the Other with The Church**



CONCLUSION

Great care must be taken in handling God's authoritative revelation to believers, the BIBLE

- **II Timothy 2:15**

- “Be diligent (eager) to present yourself approved to God, a workman, unashamed...”