

**Chapter 7: God's Covenants**

- 1) (7.1) Necessity of the Covenants → God's chosen means to relate to humanity
  - a) Mankind Cannot Reach Up To Reconcile to God or Save Ourselves → He Must Condescend
- 2) (7.2) Introduces Covenant of Works → Life on Condition of Perfect and Personal Obedience
  - a) Not Actually Named in Scripture → Elements of Covenant are Present → Still Under Grace
  - b) Adam & Eve Failed To Keep This Covenant → Jesus Only One To Perfectly Fulfill Cov of Works
  - c) All Humanity Remains Under This Covenant → In Adam & Under Obligation → Or In Christ
  - d) Expressed in NT → "Wages of sin is death"
- 3) (7.3) Covenant of Grace (Testament 7.4) → One Covenant Promising Life By Grace Thru Faith
- 4) (7.5) **Administered** Differently In OT & NT → Promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances → Salvation by Grace thru faith
  - a) "All foreshadowing Christ" → These are the Scriptures that speak of me (John 5:39, Luke 24:27)
  - b) Adam—Noah—Abraham—Moses—David—OT & NT == All Unfolding of 1 Covenant of Grace
- 5) Many people are not aware that there are 2 major and distinct ways of Reading and Understanding the Bible Story: Dispensationalism and Covenantalism. The hermeneutic (way of reading the Bible) that one embraces will affect a number of important doctrines including the rapture, the church, baptism and eschatology, as well as how one understands current events and Christian responsibility.
- 6) Dispensational Theology → Four Major Distinctives:
  - a) Seven distinct Covenant Dispensations which subdivide the Bible and God's work through history.
  - b) Literal Interpretation of Old Testament Prophecy
  - c) 2 Separate Peoples of God
  - d) Parenthetical Church and their Rapture out of history
- 7) Covenant Theology
  - a) Based on a belief in the Consistency and continuity of God's work in the Old and New Testaments. So that it views all of Scripture as the unfolding of one Covenant of Grace
  - b) This one covenant is expressed in two administrations (OT & NT)
  - c) One way of salvation: By grace through faith in God's Substitute.

- d) Believes that the OT should be interpreted through the lens of the NT, not the other way around. (accused of not being literal, but spiritual)
- 8) Thus, there is a unity and continuity between Israel of the Old Testament and the Church of the New Testament. There is one people of God consisting of both OT and NT believers. Israel is God's Church in the OT and the Church is God's Israel in the NT.
- 9) (7.6) Substance of Gospel exhibited in Preaching—Baptism—Lord's Supper
  - a) Simpler & Fewer Than OT → But Fuller and Spiritually Effective
  - b) One Covenant → Under Various "***Dispensations***"
- 1) cludes Faith == Complete Salvation