

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church December 4, 2016

The Covenants – What is a Covenant? (Review)

And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”** (Mark 7:6-7)

The Covenants – What is a Covenant? (Review)

- **Alternative Organizational View of the Covenants**

1. **The Covenant of Redemption (*synthēkē*)**

2. **The Old (*diathēkē*) Covenant (Testament)**

- **Works**

- **Grace**

- **Noah**

- **Abraham**

- **Moses**

- **David**

3. **The New (*God does the work*) Covenant (Testament)**

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption (Review)

God the Father:

- **initiated the plan of salvation**
- **agreed to give the Son a people to redeem for his own possession**
- **sent the Son to be believer's representative**
- **prepared a body for God the Son to dwell in**
- **accepted Jesus as a representative for all true believers**
- **gave Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth**

God the Son:

- **accomplished the redemption of all true believers**
- **would come into the world as a man and live as a man under the Mosaic Law.**
- **would be perfectly obedient to all the commands of the Father**
- **would redeem everyone the Father had given him**

God the Holy Spirit:

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

3. God the Holy Spirit applied redemption to the personal lives of true believers.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it**, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

3. In addition God the Holy Spirit agreed to fill and empower Jesus to carry out his work on earth.

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;**
(Matthew 3:16)

And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** in the wilderness (Luke 4:1)

And **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. (Luke 4:14)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (Luke 4:18)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

3. In addition God the Holy Spirit agreed to apply the benefits of Christ's redemptive work to all believers after Jesus returned to heaven.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he **will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.** (John 14:26)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

3. In addition God the Holy Spirit agreed to apply the benefits of Christ's redemptive work to all believers after Jesus returned to heaven.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (Acts 2:17)

Note: **last days** is from Hosea 3:5 and Micah 4:1; main quote is from Joel 2:28-32 **“And it shall come to pass afterward,** that I will pour out my Spirit ...

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:33)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption (Review)

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The Covenants – The Covenant of Works

- **The word covenant is not used in Genesis but:**
 1. **But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. (Hosea 6:7)**
 2. **Romans 5: 12-21 sees Christ and Adam as heads of a people they represent.**

The Covenants – The Covenant of Works

- **Legally binding provisions are given and the two parties are present as God gives commands to Adam and Eve.**

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

(Genesis 1:28-29)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Works

- **Legally binding provisions are given and the two parties are present as God also gave a direct command to Adam.**

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

- **Punishment is also promised if the command is disobeyed and by implication blessing for obedience that is opposite of death.**
- **Death should be understood as every kind, physical, spiritual and eternal separation from God.**

Note: that spiritual death was immediate but physical death was carried out slowly as their bodies aged.

The Covenants – The Covenant of Works

- **God did not make a covenant with any other aspect of creation and did not need to make a covenant with Adam and Eve.**
- **As in all covenants between God and humans, there is no negotiating over the provisions.**
- **God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden for two reasons:**
 1. **So that they could not eat from the tree of life and avoid the consequence of dying by living forever. Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” (Genesis 3:22)**
 2. **If they lived forever they would be eternally in bondage to sin and without hope of redemption.**

The Covenants – The Covenant of Works

- **In some ways the Covenant of Works is still in effect.**
 1. **If anyone could perfectly obey all of God's laws they would have eternal life.**
 2. **The punishment (death) for breaking the covenant is still in effect.**
- **In some ways the Covenant of works is not in effect today.**
 1. **There is no tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**
 2. **Since every person has inherited a sinful nature it is not possible for anyone to obey the Covenant of Works.**
 3. **Christ has fulfilled the Covenant of Works once for all so Christians are freed from the Covenant of Works and credited with the benefits of Christ's obedience.**