

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church November 6, 2016

The Covenants – What is a Covenant? (Review)

- The normal Greek word for covenant is *synthēkē* and refers to a contract or agreement made between two equal parties.
- The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) and the New Testament authors use the Greek word *diathēkē* for covenants between God and humans. *Diathēkē* is a covenant in which only one party lays down the provisions of the covenant. *Diathēkē* was often used to refer to a person's last will and testament for specifying the distribution of their wealth following their death.
- There are Four basic covenants in Scripture:
 1. The Covenant of Redemption (within the Trinity before the Creation)
 2. The Covenant of Works (between God and Adam and Eve)
 3. The Covenant of Grace (between God and Adam and Eve's descendants: Noah, Abraham, Moses and David)
 4. The New Covenant (of Grace)

The Covenants – What is a Covenant?

- **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)

1. God the Father initiated the plan of salvation.

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

1. God the Father initiated the plan of salvation.

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption (Review)

1. In addition God the Father agreed to give the Son a people to redeem for his own possession.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, **to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.** And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. **“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me,** and they have kept your word. (John 17:1-6)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

1. In addition God the Father agreed to give the Son a people to redeem for his own possession.

And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and **had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls**—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” (cited from *Genesis 25:23*) As it is written, **“Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”** (cited from *Malachi 1:2-3*) What shall we say then? **Is there injustice on God's part?** By no means! For he says to Moses, **“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”** (cited from *Exodus 33:19*) **So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. (cited from *Exodus 9:16*) (Romans 9:10-18)