

# **What is Covenant Theology?**

January 16, 2022

**Harvest Fellowship PCA**

# **An Overview**

## **Introductory Material**

- Elements from the Westminster Confession of Faith # 7 (7.1-3)
- Covenant History – A thumbnail view
- Basic Features of a Biblical Covenant
- Covenants Diagram: Unveiling One Story

## **Covenant of WORKS**

### **Covenant of CREATION**

#### **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

#### **Two ASPECTS – General & Focal**

#### **Three Ordinances**

- **SUMMARY**
- References

**FOCUS of discussion is on WCF 7.1 – 3 (out of 6)**

**1. The distance between God and the creature is so great that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant. <sup>a</sup>**

**a. 1 Samuel 2:25; Job 9:32-33; 22:2-3; 35:7-8; Psalm 100:2-3; 113:5-6; Isaiah 40:13-17; Luke 17:10; Acts 17:24-25.**



## Select verses from WCF 7.1

Job 9:32-33 22:2-3 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together.

<sup>33</sup> There is no arbiter between us,  
who might lay his hand on us both.

Job 9:32-33

“Can a man be profitable to God?

Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself.

<sup>3</sup> Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless.

Job 35 – 7 – 8

<sup>7</sup> If you are righteous, what do you give to him?

Or what does he receive from your hand?

<sup>8</sup> Your wickedness concerns a man like yourself,  
and your righteousness a son of man.

I Samuel 2: 25

<sup>25</sup> If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

Acts 17 :24 – 25

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

## FOCUS of discussion is on WCF 7.1 – 3 (out of 6)

**2. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works,<sup>a</sup> wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity,<sup>b</sup> upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.<sup>c</sup>**

**a. Galatians 3:12. • b. Romans 5:12-20; 10:5. • c. Genesis 2:17; Gal 3:10.**

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

Romans 5:12-20; 10:5

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.**

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

Romans 5:12-20; 10:5

**<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,**



**FOCUS of discussion is on WCF 7.1 – 3 (out of 6)**

**3. Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second,<sup>a</sup> commonly called the covenant of grace: wherein he freely (30) offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him that they may be saved,<sup>b</sup> and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto (31) life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe**

• **a.** Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 42:6; Romans 3:20-21; 8:3; Galatians 3:21. • **b.** Mark 16:15-16; John 3:16; Romans 10:6, 9; Galatians 3:11. • **c.** Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 6:44-45.

# Covenant History- A Thumbnail View

## The Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther (1483-1546): Law-gospel dichotomy.

Huldreich Zwingli (1484-1531): Contrasted federal headship of Adam and Christ (**Rom. 5:12-21**).

Heinrich Bullinger (1504-75): Advanced Zwingli's covenant theology; **emphasized Gen. 17** as the covenant of our salvation( **i.e. the sign of circumcision**).

John Calvin (1509-64): Trinity, not covenant, key to his theology; **saw covenant as the key to salvation history; emphasized God's sovereignty in covenant theology.**

Caspar Olevianus (1536-87): Applied covenant outside of redemption; **introduced idea of covenant of works and external administration of the covenant (i.e. God's initiative and work).**

## Dutch and Puritan Theology

Emphasized bi-covenantal system (works and grace) and federal representation.

Robert Rollock (1555-99): Doctrine of covenant of works.

Jamess Ussher, William Perkins, William Ames (late 16th & early 17th c.): Bi-covenantal sytsem made explicit (Irish Articles, 1615).

**Johannes Cocceius (1603-69): Fully developed covenant theology (The Doctrine of the Covenant and Testament of God, 1648).**

**Westminster Confession of Faith (1642-47): Covenant theology as overarching framework.**

**Covenant thinking permeating society**

**Reference: Compiled by Rev Richard Phlliips ; Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC**



# Basic Features of a Biblical Covenant

- **Preamble**

“These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness...” (Deuteronomy. 1:1).

- **Historical Prologue**

“The Lord your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven... Then we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrifying wilderness... Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God... Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness...” (Deut. 1-3).

- **Conditions/ Obligations**

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you” (Dt. 4:1).

- **Sanctions /Curses**

“Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them” (Dt. 27:26).

- **Promises/Blessings**

“If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth... Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field...” (Deut. 28:1-3).

- **Signs and Tokens**

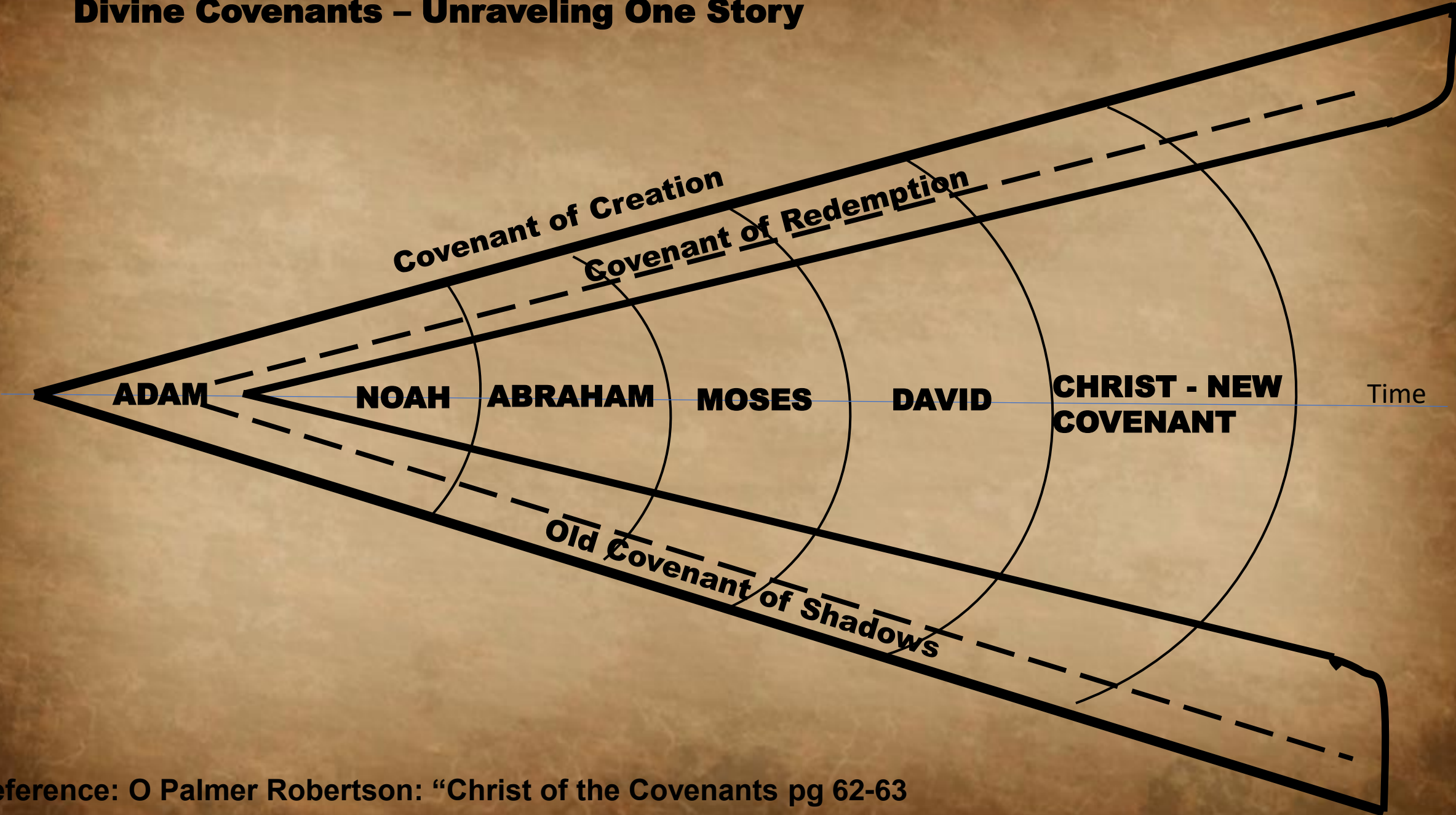
“At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor...” (Deut. 15:1-2). “Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover to the Lord your God” (Deut. 16:1).

- **Provisions**

“Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord... And Moses commanded them, “At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing” (Deut. 31:9-11).



**Divine Covenants – Unraveling One Story**



## Divine Covenants – Unraveling One Story

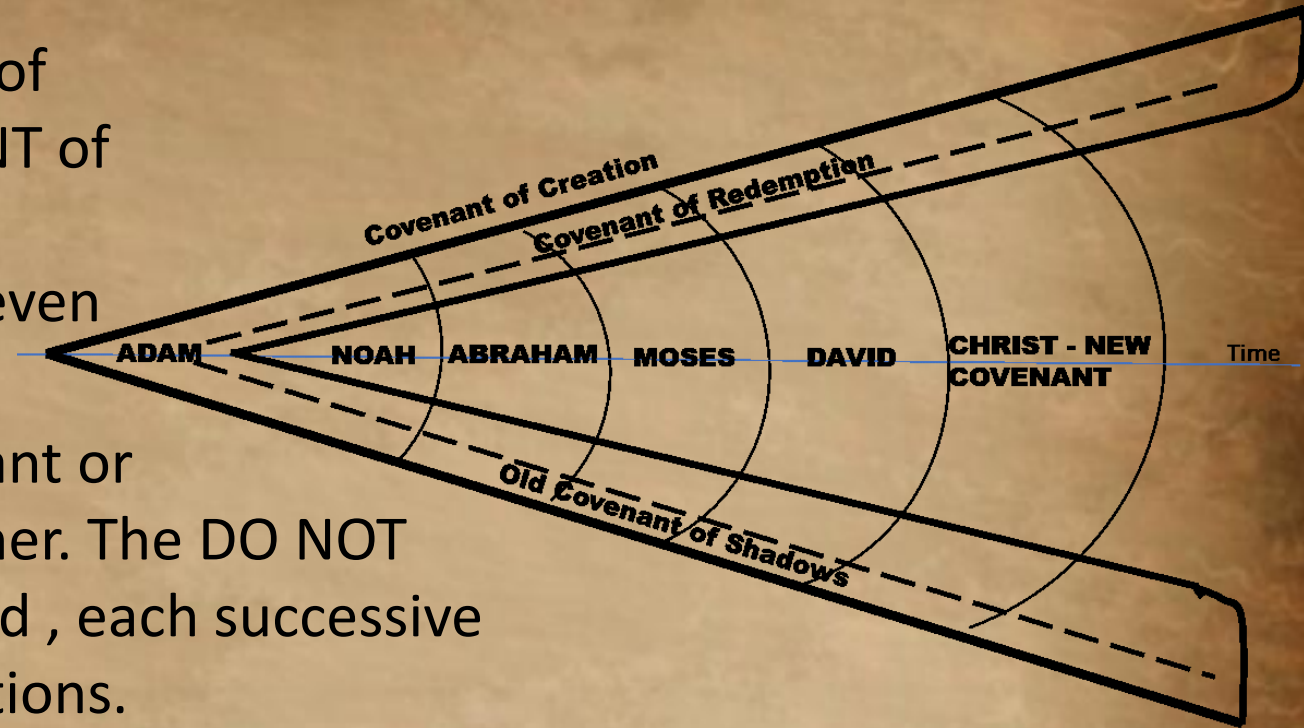
1. The ultimate purpose of the COVENANT of CREATION finds realization in the COVENANT of REDEMPTION. By Redemption, the original purpose of the Creation are achieved – or even exceeded.

2. The various administrations of the covenant of Redemption relate organically to one another. They DO NOT replace one another chronologically. Instead, each successive covenant EXPANDS on previous administrations.

(i.e. What was revealed to us from that particular administration of the covenant?)

3. Each of the shadowy, prophetic administrations of the covenant of Redemption (dotted lines) finds its fulfillment in Christ, the personal embodiment of the new covenant. In Him is found the fulfillment of all God's purposes.

**Reference: O Palmer Robertson: "Christ of the Covenants pg 62-63**





# Covenant of Works

- Recall:
  - Covenant of Redemption – Eternal pact between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
  - **Covenant of Creation (a pact made between God and Humanity)**
  - Covenant of Grace (a pact made with the believers in Christ)
- What is the Covenant of Creation?
  - It is another name for the Covenant of Works, that God initiated including the creation of man.
  - It is a covenant between GOD and his viceroy (or Regent) ; Adam
    - Other labels: Covenant of Nature, of Law, and of **WORKS**
    - **Therefore Covenant of Creation ~ Covenant of Works**
  - **“This pact presupposes a righteous and holy human servant entirely capable of fulfilling the stipulations of God’s law.”**

Definitions: ( from Wikipedia)

viceroy - A viceroy is an official who runs a polity in the name of and as the representative of the monarch of the territory. It is a form of a Royal appointment ( with power), rather than a noble rank

Horton, Michael; “Introducing Covenant Theology” pg 83 - 104

# Covenant of Works

## The Creation of Man and Woman

### Genesis 2 : 4 – 9

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—

<sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**



# Covenant of Works

- This Covenant of Creation ( or Works) is “ God’s pact with Adam in his integrity as the **head of the whole human race** , by which **God requiring of man the perfect obedience of the law of works** promised him **if obedient eternal life in heaven**, it threatened him **if he transgressed with eternal death**; and on his part **man promised perfect obedience to God’s requirements...**”.  
(citation from Heppe “ Reformed Dogmatics” pg 283)
- **Key ideas:**
  - Adam is representee head of Humanity
  - Covenant is conditional; it has reward and repercussions
  - Covenant has elements of life and death
  - Conditions imposed on Adam is only one requirement – OBEDIENCE to God’s Law
- **Seven Points or Ideas to know**
  1. **Covenant God made with Adam in his “integrity”:**
    1. **Adam was neither sinful nor confirmed in his righteousness**
    2. **Adam had the capacity to follow his lords pattern of working and resting, subduing and reigning in Eden.**
    3. **Created FOR OBEDIENCE , he was entirely capable of maintaining himself in a state of integrity**

# Covenant of Works

- Seven Points or Ideas to know

**2. Law goes and in hand in Scripture.** TO Obey God is to love him, and if he wants to know how to love God, the answer is clearly given in the law

- to Adam – the command to refrain from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- to mankind – the Decalogue (i.e. Ten commandments – highlighted in Exodus 20)

**3. WCF Shorter Catechism # 1**

**Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?**

**A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31.** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. **Revelation 4:11.** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**Psalms 73: 25 - 26**

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength<sup>[b]</sup> of my heart and my portion forever.



# **Covenant of Works**

- Seven Points or Ideas to know

## **4. Doctrine of Works ( of CREATION) is defined in the Westminster Shorter Catechism # 9**

**Q. 9. What is the work of creation?**

**A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.**

### **Genesis 1:1**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>4</sup>

### **Genesis 1:31**

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

### **Hebrews 11:3**

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

# **Covenant of Works**

- **Seven Points or Ideas to know**

**5. Adam; “is created in a state of integrity with the ability to render God complete obedience , thus qualifying as a suitable human partner.**

- God...commands such complete obedience , and he promises, upon that condition the RIGHT (not the gift) to eat from the Tree of Life.

- While creation itself is a gift, the entrance into God’s Sabbath rest was held out as the promise for loyal obedience in the period of testing.”

**Implication – Adam in his righteous ( or state of Integrity) had the ability to**

- a. Obey God fully, without the taint of sin**

- b. Obey God joyfully and enter the Sabbath rest after working in the Garden after his labor. (Genesis 2:15, 19, 20).**



# **Covenant of Works**

- **Seven Points or Ideas to know**

**6. Adam; “is clearly not seen not simply as an individual, but as a public representative. Not only was he in covenant with God, but ALL of humanity is represented by virtue of participating federally in Adam. “**

**- “If Adam was our covenant head, then this arrangement can only be characterized as a COVENANT.”**

**- In this context, “ all of CREATION was judged in Adam”.**

## **Genesis 3: 17 – 18**

**<sup>17</sup>“And to Adam he said,  
Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field**

## **Romans 8:19 - 22**

**<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope**

**<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

**<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.**

# **Covenant of Works**

- **Seven Points or Ideas to know**

**7. The “literary elements of covenant making seem to be present in the Genesis narrative.” These are:**

- 1) Historical Prologue: Genesis 1 -2**
- 2) Stipulations: Genesis 2:16-17 ( prohibition of eating from one particular tree)**
- 3) Sanctions: Genesis 2: 17b ( on that day you eat of it you eat of it, you will die)**
  - an argument ensues between Ee and the Serpent ( Genesis 3: 1 – 5)**
- 4) Sanctions carried out in the form of a Judgement (Genesis 3: 18 – 19)**
- 5) “It is only after this fateful decision that a new and unexpected basis is set forth for human destiny” (Genesis 3: 21 – 24)**
  - BLOOD is shed so the skins can be used to cover Adam and Eve before Him**  
**(This blood is used to cover the sin which caused the death of an animal and subsequent death curse that befalls all human kind)**



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

- When “God created man in His likeness and image, Gd established a unique relationship between himself and creation. In addition to creation, God spoke to man, thus precisely determining the role of man in creation ”
- “Through this creation/ speaking relationship, God established sovereignly a life and death bond. It is called the Covenant of Creation.”
- “This Creation bond between GOD and ADAM has two aspects:
  - General
  - Focal”
- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT
  - Three inherent ordinances
    - 1) Sabbath
    - 2) Marriage
    - 3) Labor

# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **I SABBATH**

#### **Genesis 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the **seventh day and made it holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Details:

**1) God labored in HIS CREATION work for six days. On the seventh, he RESTED.**

**2) God sanctified that day ( 3a) , setting an example for man to do the same.**

**- Man was to respect that day, since that day was “for his good”**

**Jesus declared that too (Mark 1:27)**

**- Since it was for the good of man and whole creation, God instituted the Sabbath.**



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **I Sabbath**

##### **Genesis 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the **seventh day and made it holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Details:

#### **3) The Sabbath is also “written in stone” in the Decalogue # 4**

**ie The Fourth Commandment (Exodus 20: 8 – 11)**

**- Applies to man , his servants, animals and visitors( sojourners) in his household:**

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **I Sabbath**

##### **Genesis 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the **seventh day and made it holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Details:

#### **4) The Sabbath Rest had larger meanings in honoring God. Some of them are:**

- When Joshua received the leadership from God to lead the Israelites into Canaan, the idea of “REST” was given to Joshua to bring the people from the wanderings from the desert and the multiple conquests of enemies to secure the land of promise. Moses anticipated tht “rest “ too (Deuteronomy 12: 9,10).
- Every Seven years the land of Israel was to celebrate a Sabbath to the Lord (Leviticus 25: 1 – 7).
- The LAND of Israel accumulated Sabbaths, during the 70 year captivity of Israelites in the first Exile because of their sin. (Leviticus 26: 33 – 35), II Chronicles 36:21...” <sup>21</sup> to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years”).



# Covenant of Creation

## Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )

### - The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT

#### I Sabbath

#### Genesis 2:3

<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the **seventh day and made it holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Details:

#### 5) The Sabbath – teaches Creation and Redemption

- The Christian also pursues that “REST”, as they “enter into the resurrection state with Christ , they shall know the consummal Sabbath of the new creation”.
- Hebrews 4: 6,7,8 9,10

...<sup>6</sup> Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

- “Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.

<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

<sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

# Covenant of Creation

## Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )

### - The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT

#### I Marriage

##### Genesis 2:18, 21 - 24

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **II MARRIAGE**

##### **1) “Woman was created by God to be a helper”**

**I Corinthians 11:8-9** - <sup>8</sup> For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. <sup>9</sup> Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

##### **2) “But Woman is CO-EQUAL in bearing the Image of God”**

**Genesis 1:27..”** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”.

##### **3) “In HEAVEN, men neither marry nor given in marriage.”**

**Matthew 22:30**

##### **4) “For the present, she shares the role with man to subdue the earth for the glory of God.”**

##### **5)” She joins with him u hi task of forming a culture glorifying to God the Creator.”**

##### **6) “Once the consummate state is realized, the woman’s role as helper to the man comes to an end.” (Robertson, pg 77).**

# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **III LABOR**

- 1) “God’s ordinance of Labor with the creation order can be seen in the immediate connection to the Sabbath Principle” (Robertson pg 79)**
  - 2) “Meaningful rest can be experienced by the creation only of meaningful labor. One day’s rest in seven clearly implies six days of labor”.**
  - 3) “By God’s own pattern of creation, and by his blessing the creation in terms of this pattern, man’s order for labor is established.”**
  - 4) “Made in God’s image, man has a unique responsibility to ‘subdue the earth and rule over every living creature” (Genesis 1: 27, 28)**
- ...” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**
  - <sup>28</sup> 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.”**



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

### **- The COVENANT of CREATION- the GENERAL ASPECT**

#### **III LABOR**

**5) “The Creational Ordinance of labor can be found in the legislation of the NEW COVENANT ( in Christ).**

**II Thessalonians 3: 10 – 12**

**“<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work [\[!\]](#)peacefully and eat their own bread.”**

# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

- The COVENANT of CREATION- the FOCAL ASPECT (Robertson (pg 81)

### **- THE PROBATION**

#### **- THE PROHIBITION (Genesis 2: 16 – 17)**

<sup>16</sup> The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not [\[o\]](#)eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”

#### **1) The FOCAL Point**

- “In addition to the provisions of the covenant of Creation ( The GENERAL ASPECT), ....

...Adam had a more specific responsibility to what GOD specifically commanded him to do (or not do).

- IT WAS a TEST

- RECALL – God gave dominion to Adam as his viceroy to subdue the earth; and partake of the resources for food, EXCEPT from the Tree of the knowledge of GOOD and EVIL.

- IF ADAM SUCCEEDED - in submitting to God at this point his blessing under the larger provisions of the covenant of creation were assured.



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

- The COVENANT of CREATION- the FOCAL ASPECT (Robertson (pg 81)

- **THE PROBATION**

- **THE PROHIBITION (Genesis 2: 16 – 17)**

<sup>16</sup> The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not [\[o\]](#)eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”

## **2) The FOCAL Point**

- The TEST was the TEST of OBEDIENCE – Absolute or RADICAL obedience because GOD gave the command.

- Radical Obedience ..provides the key to blessing under the covenant of CREATION (WORKS).

- IF he passes the TEST, he shall “experience the consummate blessing of the covenant. Life in perpetuity is his.

# Covenant of Creation

## Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )

- The COVENANT of CREATION- the FOCAL ASPECT (Robertson (pg 81)

- THE PROBATION

- 3) ADAM failed the Test –

- a. He disobeyed, and brought death to himself, his wife, all men and creation itself.

- b. Romans 5:12-14

- <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not counted against *anyone* when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the violation *committed* by Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.



# **Covenant of Creation**

## **Covenant with Adam (Part 1 )**

- The COVENANT of CREATION- the FOCAL ASPECT (Robertson (pg 81)

### **- THE PROBATION**

**3) Jesus, the SECOND ADAM, abided by this Radical Obedience from the Father.**

#### **Romans 5:18 – 19**

<sup>18</sup> So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

#### **4) The Tree of Life**

- a. The text implies that Adam and Eve did not eat of the tree of life as a consequence of the Fall. This is one reason that they were exiled off the East Gate. "Apparently it had the power to sustain particular condition". If he had passed the test, the tree would have enabled him to live a sustained life of covenant with God.**
- b. The TREE of LIFE appears once more in Scripture. It is in Revelation 22:2. This tree has the characteristic of yielding 12 different types of fruit according to each month of the year!!**

# Covenant with Adam (Part 1 ) SUMMARY

- **Biblical Reference (Genesis 2 & 3)**

“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’” (Gen. 2:16-17).

- **Parties:**

God and Adam (and FUTURE OFFSPRING...all the way down to me..)

- **Type:**

Suzerain- Vassal

- **Conditions and Obligations**

“DO NOT eat of the Tree of Knowledge of GOOD and EVIL”

- **Sanctions and Curses**

“YOU shall surely DIE”

- **Promise and Blessing**

ETERNAL LIFE

- **WHAT does it mean to ME?**

I have inherited through ADAM, my Federal Head, the Original sin, imputation of Adam’s guilt



# References

(used in this lesson)

- O. Palmer Robertson, The Christ of the Covenants
- Michael S. Horton, God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology
- Understanding Covenant Theology; by Rev. Richard D Phillips, Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC
- Bible Gateway website
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# Questions