

Biblical Theology: The Story of Scripture

Class 4: Kingdom through Covenant

In *Gospel and Kingdom*, Graeme Goldsworthy tells the story of the whole Bible simply as: **God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule.**

I. RETRACING THE STORY—KINGDOM THROUGH COVENANT

From the beginning of Scripture to the end, God establishes his kingdom through covenants. These covenants give structure to the whole Bible.

A) Creation and the Adamic Covenant - Genesis 1:1, 26-28

What is a covenant?

- “A solemn commitment, guaranteeing promises or obligations undertaken by one or both parties, sealed with an oath” (*Paul Williamson*).
- “A bond in blood, or a bond of life and death, sovereignly administered” (*O. Palmer Robertson*).
- Essentially it formalizes [or, constitutionalizes] a relationship

Gen. 5:1-3 “book of generations [genese-os] of Adam...” – but Gen. 3 – Adam & Eve rebelled (“The Fall”)

B) Noahic Covenant - Genesis 9:1-17

Noah, a new Adam. Covenant sign: *rainbow*.

All humanity remains accountable: “Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’” and “he will judge the peoples with equity” (Ps. 96:10).

C) Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 15; 17

Abraham, a new Adam. Covenant sign: *circumcision*.

Common Covenants → Special Covenants
Adamic, Noahic Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New

III. SYSTEMATIZING IT ALL

- 1) God rules all things and will call all humanity to judgment. Therefore...
- 2) There is no such thing as spiritual neutrality, whether in public or private. There is only one standard of righteousness and justice—a biblical one.
- 3) God’s special people exist to model what is required of all humanity: a true politics. This in turn should lead to discussions about...
- 4) The witness of the church, and how its evangelism is tied to its deeds. Which in turn is tied to...
- 5) The role of God’s law in the life of God’s people.
- 6) The institutional nature of the people of the new covenant, and how they should be marked off by the signs of the covenant: Lord’s Supper and Baptism.
- 7) The church as the regenerate people of the kingdom.
- 8) The church’s mission and whether we can say the kingdom extends further than the regenerating work of the New Covenant.



Goal: Better understand Scripture and be shaped by its story.

Schedule:

The Stories to be Told: Biblical Theology Displayed

4. Kingdom Through Covenant	Oct. 3
5. Eden to New Jerusalem	Oct. 10
6. People of God	Oct. 17
7. Sacrifice	Oct. 24
8. Mission	Oct. 31

Based on a core seminar from Capitol Hill Baptist Church (DC).

Resources for Further Study:

- *Gospel and Kingdom* by Graeme Goldsworthy (Paternoster)
- *Gods Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts (IVP)
- *God’s Kingdom Through God’s Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology* by Peter J. Gentry & Stephen J. Wellum (Crossway)

God's Kingdom Through Scripture

- And God *blessed* them. And God said to them, “*Be fruitful and multiply...*”(Gen. 1:28)
- And God *blessed* Noah and his sons and said to them, “*Be fruitful and multiply...* (9:1, 7)
- [God promises Abraham] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will *bless* you and make your name great, so that you will be a *blessing*. I will *bless* those who *bless* you...(12:2-3)
- I may make my covenant between me and you, and may *multiply* you greatly...I will make you exceedingly *fruitful*...And I will give to you and to your offspring after you...all the land of Canaan...(17:2, 6, 8)

What's the relationship? (C)_____ → (S)_____

See Exodus 1:7

D) Mosaic & Davidic Covenants - Exod..4:22-23, 19:5-6, 24:7-8

What's the relationship between the Abrahamic and the Mosaic/Davidic?

Mosaic, Davidic covenants _____ the Abrahamic promise.

Israel is called a “son.” (a corporate Adam):

Covenant sign: circumcision.

David is promised his heir would be God's “son.” - **2 Sam. 7, Ps. 2:7-8**

David and his offspring were to be a kind of new Adam, a special son of God, representing and imaging their heavenly father to the people of God's kingdom.

But...they rebelled.

E) New Covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27

What's the relationship between Mosaic (old) and New covenant (new)?

NOT corporate to individual. NOT obedience required to no-obedience-required

1) (Old) People's obedience depends on _____ →

(New) People's obedience depends on _____

2) (Old) God _____ → (New) God _____

F) Fulfillment in Jesus: Who Is Jesus?

Matthew 1:1: “The book of the genealogy (Greek: *biblos geneose-os*) of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Who is Jesus? The new _____.

The son of _____ . The son of _____.

Now look to Matt. 2:14-15. He is the new _____.

Turn to Matt. 5:17. Jesus fulfills the _____ and the _____.

Church

Jesus covenants with us: Matthew 26:26-29.

NT believers are: Abraham's children who share his faith (Rom. 4:16), children of promise like Isaac (Gal. 4:28), no longer alienated from the commonwealth of Israel (Eph. 2:12), the real circumcision (Phil. 3:3), and ultimately (the Church) is the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16) Also: 1 Peter 2:9.

We are the Adams, sons, the new Israel, Abrahamic children of promise.

II. PATTERNS IN THE STORYLINE

- 1) Begin with the grammatical-historical method and sensitivity to genre.
- 2) The story is propelled forward by the development of various themes.
- 3) The story structured by covenants.
- 4) The story is also held together typology: you get a type of something, and then you get it again, and then you get it again.
- 5) The is propelled forward by the dynamic of promise and fulfillment.
- 6) The story involves both continuity and discontinuity.
- 7) The story focuses on Christ.

God's Kingdom Through Scripture

The kingdom of God	<i>The pattern of the kingdom</i>	<i>The perished kingdom</i>	<i>The promised kingdom</i>	<i>The priestly kingdom</i>	<i>The partial kingdom</i>	<i>The prophesied kingdom</i>	<i>The present kingdom</i>	<i>The proclaimed kingdom</i>	<i>The perfected kingdom</i>
God's people...	Adam and Eve	No one	Abraham's descendants	Aaron in Tabernacle, and Israel camped around	The 12 Tribes of Israel	The new community Remnant of Israel plus many from the nations	Jesus Christ: new Adam; new Israel	The Church: Jews and Gentiles are all one in Jesus Christ	A great multitude from every nation, tribe and people & language
In God's place...	God's fellowship in Eden	Driven from God's presence in Eden	Canaan	Tabernacle, and especially the ark of the covenant	Land of Canaan, with capital Jerusalem & Temple in Zion	The new creation	Jesus Christ: true Tabernacle; true Temple	Church and Individual believer indwelt by the Holy Spirit	The holy city, new Jerusalem
Enjoying God's rule and blessing	God's Word; creation blessings expressed in perfect relationships	Relationships all broken; creation blessing lost; humanity dies	Blessing to Israel and the nations	Aaron bestowing blessing on Israel	Under the rule of David and his descendants	Relationship perfectly restored under the new covenant	Jesus Christ: the Word incarnate, from whose fullness we have received grace upon grace	The Church is the community in which God's rule and blessing are known	The river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb; & on either side of the river, the tree of life