

# Easter Bible Conference

## 2 — The Covenants

April 7, 2024 11am

**INTRODUCTION** — The Covenants provide the means by which God is working and how he will ensure that his kingdom plan is fulfilled.

### I. THE DEFINITION OF COVENANT.

#### A. The Words For Covenant.

1. In the Old Testament: *Berith* "Covenant"<sup>1</sup> & *Carath* "to cut"<sup>2,3</sup> and the phrase "my covenant"<sup>4</sup>
2. In the New Testament: *diatheke*<sup>5</sup>

#### B. What Is Not A Covenant.

1. Not A Command — although it might involve commands.
2. Not A Promise — although it involves promises.

#### C. The Definition Of Covenant — A Legally Binding Promise That God Makes In The Form Of And With The Word Covenant.

### II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "THEOLOGICAL COVENANTS" AND "BIBLICAL COVENANTS."

- A. The Difference Is Profound — Theological Cov. are deductions, Biblical Cov. are direct statements.
- B. The Theological Covenants
- C. The Biblical Covenants

### III. THE PATTERN OF A COVENANT—THE SUZERAIN/VASSAL COVENANT.

#### A. The Parties: Suzerain — The Superior & Vassal — The inferior.

#### B. The Parts.

1. The Preamble — Identifies the parties involved.
2. The Prologue — Provides the historical context of the relationship between the two parties.
3. The Stipulations — Gives the terms for the Vassal; what they must do.
4. The Publication — The provision for the public proclamation of the covenant.
5. The Divine Witnesses — The invocation of a deity to ensure that the covenant is kept according to its terms.
6. Blessings & Curses — What the Suzerain promises to do, and the penalties for each party if they fail to keep the covenant.
7. Sacrificial Meal — The Conclusion of the covenant.

#### C. The Promise / Commitment — The Suzerain promises to bless the vassal according to the terms of the covenant; The Vassal promises to do what is necessary according to the terms of the covenant.

#### D. The Illustration of this covenant to Gen 15:7-21.

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<sup>1</sup> *Berith* "covenant" — Gen. 6:18; 9:9, 11-13, 15-17; 14:13; 15:18; 17:2, 4, 7, 9-11, 13-14, 19, 21; 21:27, 32; 26:28; 31:44; Ex. 2:24; 6:4-5; 19:5; 23:32; 24:7-8; 31:16; 34:10, 12, 15, 27-28; Lev. 2:13; 24:8; 26:9, 15, 25, 42, 44-45; Num. 10:33; 14:44; 18:19; 25:12-13; Deut. 4:13, 23, 31; 5:2-3; 7:2, 9, 12; 8:18; 9:9, 11, 15; 10:8; 17:2; 28:69; 29:8, 11, 13, 20, 24; 31:9, 16, 20, 25-26; 33:9; Josh. 3:3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17; 4:7, 9, 18; 6:6, 8; 7:11, 15; 8:33; 9:6-7, 11, 15-16; 23:16; 24:25; Judg. 2:1-2, 20; 8:33; 9:4, 46; 20:27; 1 Sam. 4:3-5; 11:1; 18:3; 20:8; 23:18; 2 Sam. 3:12-13, 21; 5:3; 15:24; 23:5; 1 Kings 3:15; 5:26; 6:19; 8:1, 6, 21, 23; 11:11; 15:19; 19:10, 14; 20:34; 2 Kings 11:4, 17; 13:23; 17:15, 35, 38; 18:12; 23:2-3, 21; Is. 24:5; 28:15, 18; 33:8; 42:6; 49:8; 54:10; 55:3; 56:4, 6; 59:21; 61:8; Jer. 3:16; 11:2-3, 6, 8, 10; 14:21; 22:9; 31:31-33; 32:40; 33:20-21, 25; 34:8, 10, 13, 15, 18; 50:5; Ezek. 16:8, 59-62; 17:13-16, 18-19; 20:37; 30:5; 34:25; 37:26; 44:7; Hos. 2:20; 6:7; 8:1; 10:4; 12:2; Amos 1:9; Obad. 1:7; Zech. 9:11; 11:10; Mal. 2:4-5, 8, 10, 14; 3:1; Psa. 25:10, 14; 44:18; 50:5, 16; 55:21; 74:20; 78:10, 37; 83:6; 89:4, 29, 35, 40; 103:18; 105:8, 10; 106:45; 111:5, 9; 132:12; Job 5:23; 31:1; 40:28; Prov. 2:17; Dan. 9:4, 27; 11:22, 28, 30, 32; Ezra 10:3; Neh. 1:5; 9:8, 32; 13:29; 1 Chr. 11:3; 15:25-26, 28-29; 16:6, 15, 17, 37; 17:1; 22:19; 28:2, 18; 2 Chr. 5:2, 7; 6:11, 14; 13:5; 15:12; 16:3; 21:7; 23:1, 3, 16; 29:10; 34:30-32

<sup>2</sup> *Carath* "to cut" — Gen. 9:11; 15:18; 17:14; 21:27, 32; 26:28; 31:44; 41:36; Ex. 4:25; 8:5; 12:15, 19; 23:32; 24:8; 30:33, 38; 31:14; 34:10, 12-13, 15, 27; Lev. 7:20-21, 25, 27; 17:4, 9-10, 14; 18:29; 19:8; 20:3, 5-6, 17-18; 22:3, 24; 23:29; 26:22, 30; Num. 4:18; 9:13; 11:33; 13:23-24; 15:30-31; 19:13, 20; Deut. 4:23; 5:2-3; 7:2; 9:9; 12:29; 19:1, 5; 20:19-20; 23:2; 28:69; 29:11, 13, 24; 31:16; Josh. 3:13, 16; 4:7; 9:9; 9:6-7, 11, 15-16, 23; 11:21; 23:4; 24:25; Judg. 2:2; 4:24; 6:25-26, 28, 30; 9:48-49; 1 Sam. 2:33; 5:4; 11:1-2; 17:51; 18:3; 20:15-16; 22:8; 23:18; 24:5-6, 12, 22; 28:9; 31:9; 2 Sam. 3:12-13, 21, 29; 5:3; 7:9; 10:4; 20:22; 1 Kings 2:4; 5:20, 26; 8:9, 21, 25; 9:5, 7; 11:16; 14:10, 14; 15:13; 18:4-5; 20:34; 21:21; 2 Kings 9:8; 11:4, 17; 17:15, 35, 38; 18:4; 19:23; 23:3, 14; Is. 9:13; 10:7; 11:13; 14:8, 22; 18:5; 22:25; 28:15; 29:20; 37:24; 44:14; 48:9, 19; 55:3, 13; 56:5; 57:8; 61:8; Jer. 6:6; 7:28; 9:20; 10:3; 11:10, 19; 22:7; 31:31-33; 32:40; 33:17-18; 34:8, 13, 15, 18; 35:19; 44:7-8, 11; 46:23; 47:4; 48:2; 50:16; 51:62; Ezek. 14:8, 13, 17, 19, 21; 16:4; 17:13, 17; 21:8-9; 25:7, 13, 16; 29:8; 30:15; 31:12; 34:25; 35:7; 37:26; Hos. 2:20; 8:4; 10:4; 12:2; Joel 1:5, 9, 16; Amos 1:5, 8; 2:3; Obad. 1:9-10, 14; Mic. 5:8-12; Nah. 1:14-2:1; 2:14; 3:15; Zeph. 1:3-4, 11; 3:6-7; Hag. 2:5; Zech. 9:6, 10; 11:10; 13:2, 8; 14:2; Mal. 2:12; Psa. 12:4; 34:17; 37:9, 22, 28, 34, 38; 50:5; 83:6; 89:4; 101:8; 105:9; 109:13, 15; Job 14:7; 31:1; 40:28; Prov. 2:22; 10:31; 23:18; 24:14; Ruth 4:10; Dan. 9:26; Ezra 10:3; Neh. 9:8; 10:1; 1 Chr. 11:3; 16:16; 17:8; 19:4; 2 Chr. 2:7, 9, 15; 5:10; 6:11, 16; 7:18; 15:16; 21:7; 22:7; 23:3, 16; 29:10; 34:31

<sup>3</sup> *Berith* & *Carath* in same verse — Gen. 9:11; 15:18; 21:17, 32; 26:28; 31:44; Ex. 23:32; 24:8; Deut. 4:23; 9:9; 29:1, 12, 25; 31:16; Josh. 4:7; 9:6, 7, 11, 15; 24:25; 1 Sam. 18:3; 1 Kings 8:21; 20:34; 2 Kings 17:15, 38; Is. 61:8; Jer. 11:10; 31:32, 33; 34:18; Hos. 12:1; Psa. 83:5; Job 31:1; 2 Chr. 6:11; 21:7

<sup>4</sup> "My covenant" בְּרִיתִי *b.riythiy / berithy*. Appears 52 times in the OT; 2 x's in NT; 54 x's total: Gen 6:18; 9:9, 11, 15; 17:2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 21; Ex 6:4, 5; 19:5; Lev. 26:9, 15, 42, 44; Num. 25:12; Deut. 31:16, 20; Josh. 7:11; Judg. 2:1, 20; 1 Kings 11:11; Psa. 50:16; 89:28, 34; 132:12; Is. 54:10; 56:4, 6; 59:21; Jer. 11:10; 31:32; 33:20, 21, 25; 34:18; Ezek. 16:60, 61, 62; 17:19; 44:7; Hos. 8:1; Mal. 2:4, 5; Rom. 11:27; Heb. 8:9.

<sup>5</sup> *Diatheke* — Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 1:72; 22:20; Acts 3:25; 7:8; Rom. 9:4; 11:27; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6, 14; Gal. 3:15, 17; 4:24; Eph. 2:12; Heb. 7:22; 8:6, 8-10; 9:4, 15-17, 20; 10:16, 29; 12:24; 13:20; Rev. 11:19

#### IV. THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS

The Noaic — The Abrahamic — The Land (Palestinian) — The Mosaic — The Davidic — The New Covenants.

#### V. THE NATIONAL ETHNIC MESSIANIC KINGDOM COVENANTS TO THE JEWS.

Those Biblical Covenants whose fulfillment is directly related to: Israel as a Nation, The Jews as a unique ethnic people, The Messiah, and the Kingdom of God.

##### A. The Abrahamic Covenant — The covenant that God made with Abraham. (Gen 12:1-3 w/ 17)

*Gen. 12:1-3 "1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that **I will** show you. 2 **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 **I will** bless those who bless you, And **I will** curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

*Gen. 17:1-8 "1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And **I will make My covenant between Me and you**, and will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ... 7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. 8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

##### B. The Land (Palestinian) Covenant — The covenant God made with Abraham to give him and his descendants after him the Promised Land, the Land of Israel. (Gen 15:18)

*Gen. 15:18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: ¶ **"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—***

##### C. The Davidic Covenant — The covenant that God made with King David in that He would establish David's Dynasty, and that there would always be a descendent of David on the throne of Israel. (2Sam 7:12-16 w/ Ps 89:3-4)

*2Sam 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, **I will set up your seed after you**, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 ..., and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever**. 14 ... 15 **But My mercy shall not depart from him**, ... 16 **And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**" ' ' "*

*Psa. 89:3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to **My servant David**: 4 "Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations." ' ' "*

##### D. The New Covenant — The covenant that God made with the nation of Israel involving their spiritual transformation. (Jer 31; Ezk 36)

*Jer. 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, **when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—** 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, ... 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people**. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**" 35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): 36 "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever." 37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.*

#### VI. THE NATURE OF THE NATIONAL ETHNIC MESSIANIC KINGDOM COVENANTS TO ISRAEL.

##### A. They Are Unconditional.

##### B. They Are Unchanging. Gal 3:15-18

##### C. They Are Unending Covenants — "Everlasting."<sup>6</sup> (Gen 17:7, 19)

*7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for **an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

*19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for **an everlasting covenant**, and with his descendants after him.*

<sup>6</sup> Gen. 9:16; 17:7; 13; 19; Lev. 24:8; Num. 25:13; 2Sam. 23:5; 1Chr. 16:17; Psa. 105:10; Is. 24:5; 55:3; 61:8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 16:60; 37:26; Heb. 13:20