

COVENANT: God Pursues

If you are joining us for the first time we want to welcome you to Metro and this gathering that we call OPEN.

As a part of Open we have been going through a series we have titled “CREDO.” In this series we are working through the story line of the Bible in order to set forth and examine the MEGA themes of the Bible.

It is our desire that by the end of this series you will have a solid grasp of the Bible, Jesus, history, your life, our church.

It is not the kind of content that you have a 4¼ x 5½ piece of paper with five blanks to fill in. You are going to need to think through these studies with me these because they are huge themes and big concepts.

A bunch of you guys have been here from week one — and you have been stellar. For those of you that are joining us in this series I want to say thank you. I hope it is a benefit to you.

This evening we are going to look at the Doctrine of Covenant and we’re calling it “COVENANT: God Pursues”

This is a HUGE Biblical concept. We find the word COVENANT 293 times in ESV

SO let’s pray and dig in

Let’s start with a question

QUESTION #1 — Who has most painfully betrayed you? Perhaps a parent — a friend — a spouse — a partner. You loved this person and you believed they loved you. But their betrayal was so massive that even today — the pain is still there — when you recall this person’s voice, or touch, or face, or hands it sends shivers down your spine.

You were honest, and humble, and giving, and reliant towards them. In return, they were deceptive, and abusive, and selfish, and manipulative towards you. You gave — you cared for them — and they absolutely

betrayed you. I want to ask you for a moment to try recall the pain you felt – or you're feeling. At first there's shock and shame – then confusion, how could they? – That's followed by disappointment, anger, loneliness.

I want you to go there with me emotionally for a moment. Who is it that comes to mind? Who is that person you don't want to think about, the person that you don't want to remember who has absolutely betrayed you? **And how did you respond?** What did you feel? What did you say? What did you do?

I want you to go there emotionally with me because as we deal with this Doctrine of Covenant I think what can so often happen is that we absolutely neglect to look at things from God's perspective.

You and I we have betrayed him. We have spent hours together in the first 3 chapters of Genesis. You know the story. God made the heavens and the earth — then he carefully prepared the earth for you and I to live on. Then God made our first parents in His image and likeness. God blessed them — God spoke to them — that God honored them — that God gave them tremendous freedom. He cultivated a garden for them to live in. He said they could eat of any tree except one. They were naked without shame — he brought the man and the woman together — He created marriage so they could know love and intimacy and pleasure and joy.

THEN — our first parents — **in every sense — absolutely, utterly, completely betrayed God.** They **disrespected** him — **disregarded** him, — **disobeyed** him — **dishonored** him.

NOW — As sons and daughters of Adam we walk through life licking our wounds — the cause of which can be traced to the effects of man's betrayal original of God — and all the while we are oblivious to the way that each of us have betrayed God.

The betrayal that God has endured is **worse than** any betrayal that anyone will ever endure. Put yourself in the position of God. If you had done all of this for man and then were betrayed, sinned against, **how would you respond?**

What is amazing is how God responds.

Most of the time when you and I are betrayed and wounded our response is either **fight or flight**. We are going to get **revenge** or we are going to **remove** ourselves — **distance** ourselves from our betrayer so that we can't

be hurt again. **Amazingly** — God **draws near to deal with sin** — He loves and seeks to enter into relationship with us.

God's response to mankind's unspeakable betrayal is not fight or flight is described in the Bible by the word **COVENANT**.

That leads us to our next question

QUESTION #2 — What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement that sets out the terms of a relationship. From the beginning God created man for fellowship. God wants to know and enjoy man. God wants men and women to know and enjoy Him. Yet real fellowship doesn't just happen - and can't be sustained without a covenant. Terms are needed to govern, guide, and glue it together. Without a covenant, a relationship has no definition. It lacks substance, and meaning, and backbone. Covenant defines a relationship. It adds value and stability.

Again — If you just grab a concordance you will find the word COVENANT 293 times in ESV. This is a huge mega theme of the Bible.

There are covenants between human beings. There are covenants between people and God. Tonight we are only concerning ourselves with a covenant between God and us.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: When the Bible speaks of God being in covenant with us it reveals to us something of His nature and attributes.

First — These covenants reveal that God is gracious.

God owes us nothing. He could have responded to Adam and Eve's betrayal by simply saying — you sin, you die, you go to hell, the race is over, that's it. He could do the same with us. God is gracious! He owes us nothing — yet He pursues us for the purpose of relationship.

Second — These covenants reveal that God is sovereign.

God **initiated** the covenants — **initiated** relationship. We **respond**. We didn't ask him to pursue us. We didn't ask him to love us. We didn't ask him to care for us. He of this own accord, sovereignly initiated the covenant relationship.

Third — These covenants reveal that He is the Lord

He establishes the **terms** of the covenant and relationship. He gets to define the terms and the relationship because he is the Lord. He is God — He is the creator — and we are created. Time and again we read in the Old Testament — “Behold, I establish my covenant with you” — *I establish my covenant with you, I am the Lord, I define the terms of the relationship.*

Fourth — These covenants reveal that God is holy.

The literal language often times used in the Old Testament is a **cutting of a covenant**. In Old Testament cultures when covenants were established between individuals the parties of the covenant would take an animal — sacrifice it — split it in two — and lay the separate halves in a way to create a path between them. There would be blood everywhere. Then person entering into the covenant would walk between the two halves and in so doing declare that if he did not fulfill the obligations of this covenant he would accept the same fate as this animal — he should be put to death.

A covenant is “a bond in blood that is sovereignly administered” (O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, p. 4). When God enters into a covenantal relationship with humanity, God sovereignly institutes a life-and-death bond. Thus, a covenant is a life and death relationship with God on his terms.

Fifth — These covenants reveal that God is loving that he blesses us even though we don’t deserve it and he loves us even though we don’t deserve it and he wants our hearts in our lives and our minds to change.

Sixth — These covenants reveal that God is just — that in the covenant He deals with the problem of sin. In the covenant has **conditions**. And in that he is saying this is right — this is wrong — I will discipline you if you sin — I will also continue to pursue you so that you can learn to be obedient.

Seven — As the story of God’s pursuit of man develops throughout the Old Testament — as each successive covenant is established by God — we see the reality of **covenant love**. There is one particular term used to describe this covenant love.

QUOTE: Vine's Expository Dictionary, "The entire history of God's covenantal relationship with Israel can be summarized in terms of hesed."

Hesed is God's loving kindness—the consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, one-way love of God. It is often translated as covenant love, loving kindness, mercy, steadfast love, loyal love, devotion, commitment, or reliability. **Hesed** turns up regularly in the Old Testament, particularly in the Psalms. It is typically translated "love" and sometimes translated as "mercy" (Ps. 23:6). However, **hesed** has a much narrower definition than the English term "love" conveys. **In the Hebrew Scriptures, hesed refers to a sort of love that has been promised and is owed—that is, covenant love.**

And again God is doing this to his enemies.

God is doing this for those of us who have through sin betrayed him. God is responding to us in a way that I am assuming none of us have responded to our worst enemies.

So let's walk through these covenant

As we walk through the covenants in the Old Testament we don't want to miss how one builds on the next — and the one is still binding and then there are additional benefits of blessings and obligations that are added to the covenant.

Some call it the drama of redemption.

If you look at the story of the bible that there are key figures people who step out on to the stage of history Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David — and finally Jesus.

They come out to be participate in covenant with God as representatives of those who can also can be in covenant relationship with God. And one after the next we see through a very long period of history God's **hesed** covenant faithfulness to undeserving sinners.

So let's move to our next question

QUESTION #3 — What is the Adamic Covenant.

Let me preface this by saying that there is a debate as to whether or not Adam was in a covenant with God. In *Hosea 6:7* we are told that *we all*

through sin have broken our covenant with God as Adam did. We can reasonably conclude from the statement that Adam was in covenant. What is unquestionable is that Adam was in relationship with God — that God loved Adam — blessed Adam — had a relationship with Adam. Go with me to **Genesis Chapter 1** where we will see this very special relationship that Adam had with God.

SIDE NOTE: We live in a day when so many people talk about community. Community is great. Really the Bible word for community is covenant which is more than just *I know you* or *we have a friendship*. Christians are in a very real way bound one to another in a very deep and enduring way.

Genesis 1:27 — here is the covenant that Adam had with God.

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. Here we see that God is a blessing God.

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.” ²⁹And 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. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Now we are getting ready for the very first Sabbath.

One last thing

Chapter 2:16-17

¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but 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.”

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: There are SIX consistent elements found in each of covenants we will cover.

1.) There is a mediator — the head of that covenant

In the Adamic covenant the mediator — the head that represents humanity — is Adam. He is standing there in our place as our father and our mediator and our representative.

2.) There are blessings

How did God bless Adam? Well it says that God *blessed* him. God gave him life — gave him the earth — gave him the garden — gave him food to eat — gave him a wife to love. God blessed them absolutely.

3.) Conditions/Consequences

What was the condition? Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What was the consequence? If you do you will die. Spiritual death, immediately — separation from God. Eventually physical — cessation of life.

4.) The sign of the covenant

What was the sign of the Adamic Covenant? The Sabbath — that he was to work for 6 days and he was to rest on the Sabbath following the creation pattern of God.

What is the metaphor here for covenant community? Marriage. Adam marries Eve. Marriage here is the metaphor for God's covenant community. It's the way that the man and the woman are in relationship together.

5.) There is a promise of Jesus.

Well ultimately they sin in **Genesis 3** in that sin they violate the covenant. **They betray God in every way.** They did so by believing the lies of a serpent Satan.

The promise is made in **Genesis 3:15** — that Jesus would come as the Dragon Slayer — that Satan would hurt him but Jesus would crush Satan.

That's the Adamic covenant.

Imagine at this point you are God. Do you bless anyone, do you pursue anyone, do you love anyone, do you try again?

God does. God is good, he keeps loving, he keeps pursuing, he keeps caring.

This leads us to our next question

QUESTION #4 — What is the Noahic covenant?

Turn to **Genesis 6**.

Adam and Eve sinned, they betrayed and rebelled, God blessed them and pursued them for covenant relationship. They had children, their children had children — generations ensued from his family. **How does the human race respond to God?** Do they see the goodness of God towards man following the fall and say *we should love him*? Here is how they respond.

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God's Covenant is met with betrayal on a GLOBAL SCALE!

Genesis 6:6-7 And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

God is in a relationship of pain. God is in a relationship where he continually is betrayed.

⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

God says, “I am going to flood the earth, I am going to kill everyone and everything, we are going to start over.”

Verse 8 is HUGE!

⁸ but Noah found **what** in the eyes of the Lord?

FAVOR — that’s the Hebrew word for grace — unmerited love, affection and devotion.

Genesis 6:9 “These are the generations of Noah, Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, Noah walked with God.”

MOST professing believers misunderstand the account of Noah. They usually think that God entered into covenant relationship with Noah because Noah was a good man — That God spared Noah and his family from the flood because he is a good guy and everybody else was a bad guy. Most who are familiar with the story of Noah and the flood assume think of the moral of the story as — *be a good guy, be holy, obey God, walk with him and then you don’t need to drown.*

It DOES say that Noah was a righteous man — that he walked with God. **But what does it say before that?** It says that he was saved by grace. That he found favor or grace in the eyes of the lord. Noah was not a great guy. Noah was a sinner just like everyone else just like you and just like me. God looked at the earth and said ***everyone is only doing evil all the time — everyone has betrayed me — no one deserves love — I will love this guy.***

WHY Noah? **Not because** Noah is good — but because God is. **Not because** Noah deserves it — but because he found favor or grace in the eyes of God. **This is a picture of election.** God looks at the earth and says *no one deserves anything — I will be good to this person even though they don’t deserve it.*

The point here is that we enter into covenant relationship with God by finding favor or grace in his eyes. If you are Christian there should be NO POINT for boasting. We are no better than anyone. We just found favor grace that’s all.

The flood then comes — everyone dies on the earth except for Noah and his family.

Go forward to **Genesis 9** —

Genesis 9:8-17 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you (**there is our word**) and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Again — there are 6 aspects to the Noahic covenant.

Who is the mediator of this covenant? Who stands between God and humanity as the representative or the head? It's Noah. He is the man that God has shown favor to.

How does God bless him? Well he gives him children and he makes a promise I will never flood the earth again. There will not be a global flood that kills everyone. There may be occasional natural or God ordained disasters but there will not be a global flood where everyone will die.

Well what is the condition of the covenant? Well God tells him *no murder* — respect human life. That God's people are to honor the sanctity of human life.

What is the sign of the covenant? Let me add this thought regarding this aspect of the covenant — The sign of the covenant is **internal** and **external**.

What's the internal sign of the covenant? How do we know that Noah is in covenant relationship with God? Well internally he has faith. He trusts God. So how do you know? It had NEVER rained before and yet he invests spends years of labor and massive resources — and while he undertakes this massive undertaking everybody mocked him. He was like a man building a boat in the middle of Saudi Arabia and when asked why saying *It's going to rain*. That's a guy with a lot of faith. He trusts God. God said *it's going to rain a lot you better build a boat* — he trusted God and built the boat. His internal sign is faith — that's the sign that God sees.

What's the external sign of the covenant? The rainbow. It's God way of saying when you see a rainbow be reminded I am not going to destroy the earth no matter how bad it's raining. Alright that's the sign of the covenant.

What is the covenant community? Well it's Noah and his family.

What is the promise of the coming of Jesus?

Just as Noah and his family found favor and grace on the eyes of the Lord and were saved from judgment and death — Jesus will give us favor and grace from in the eyes of the Lord and that he will save us from judgment and death.

The Adamic covenant

The Noahic covenant

Following God's promise to never again destroy the world by a flood you would think that the descendants of Noah would responds by loving and worshipping the true and living God.

There arose a man named Nimrod who makes war against God and a worldwide revolt. God had told the flood's survivors to spread out and reproduce. Nimrod gathers the tribes together in the plains of Shinar, near the city of Babel. Genesis 11:3 tells us Nimrod builds a

tower to the sky that he coats with pitch – a waterproofing material. Nimrod does NOT believe the promise of God at all — and in his rebellion against God safeguards against God being a liar and flooding the earth again. Nimrod convinced mankind that God is a liar. He can't be trusted. God is the bad guy, and he's the good guy. **IN SHORT** — man failed to embrace the covenant God offered.

CRUCIAL : Did God give up His pursuit? Amazingly — NO! . Satan chose a man, Nimrod – a place, Babel – and a means, fear.

God in His relentless pursuit of sinful man counters Satan's plan with His covenant plans and purposes. He chooses a man — Abraham; a place — Canaan; and a means — faith – by which He would provide salvation to all generations.

QUESTION # 4 — What is the Abrahamic covenant.

Turn to Genesis 12

As we look at this covenant we want to remember that the first thing we learned about Noah is that he wasn't a great guy. We see it later well one of the first things he does after the flood gets drunk, passes out naked in his motel 6 room like a redneck after a Lynard Skinner concert. He is not the best guy. He is a sinner saved by grace.

When we first meet Abraham we find that he was not a great guy either. He was from a region that was godless — his dad was godless — initially he doesn't know or worship the true and living God of the Bible initially. He comes from an area called the Ur of the Chaldees. This is the birth place of every false religious system of the world. It is the same region where they came together to build a godless society that functioned without God — the centerpiece of which was the Tower of Babel. He is from the same area. Abraham would become the progenitor of the Jews — but initially, he was a Gentile. He was just a regular old pagan worshipping false gods.

That's how he started — Until Genesis 12

Genesis 12:1 ¹Now the Lord said to Abram

NOTICE — God is the initiator — God is pursuing a pagan idolator.

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And 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. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God is going to do this out of a barren old man and an elderly barren wife who are way beyond child bearing years.

You have to trust Me here — Leave everything you know — go to a place you’ve never been or seen — but I will show you. And on top of that — Trust me — you are going to have a baby and from that baby will come a nation. I will bless you — make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse — and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. **NOTE WELL:** You are a nobody — I am going to make you a somebody. You are going to be the head of a brand nation that will be a blessing to the nation’s of the earth.”

Go forward to Genesis 17

Here is Abraham and the covenant of circumcision. When Abraham was 99 years old, he is not a likely candidate to be making babies and founding nations. The Lord appeared to Abraham

Genesis 17:1 ¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant — there is our word again between me and you

and may multiply you greatly.” — give you kids and grand kids and great grand kids.

³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸**And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your**

sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

QUOTE: Brian Maclaren — The need to confront the terrible, deadly, distorted, yet popular theologies associated with Christian Zionism and deterministic dispensationalism. These systems of belief — so common among my fellow evangelical Christians — too often lead people to act as if Jewish people have God-given rights but Palestinians do not. They use a discredited hermeneutic (way of interpreting the Bible) to imply that God shows favoritism — **HELLO** — **nothing to interpret here** — **just READ the promise!** — that God is concerned for justice for one group of people and not for others. **HOW does God promising the land to Abraham and his descendants = injustice.** They create bigotry and prejudice against Muslims in general ... and in particular against Palestinians, many of whom are Muslim but many of whom are Christian too. These doctrinal formulations often use a bogus end-of-the-world scenario to create a kind of death-wish for World War III, which — unless it is confronted more robustly by the rest of us — could too easily create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

CRUCIAL: Turn to Daniel 9:24 — “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

God has determined a **TIMELINE** that is exclusive to His dealings — **NOT** with the Palestinians or Arabs (Christian or Muslim) — but with Daniel’s people and the city of Jerusalem.

Maclaren clearly falls into the category of those spoken about by Peter in **2 Peter 3:15-16** just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Genesis 17:9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall

be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Go forward last one Chapter 22.

God does bless and does give him a son named Isaac. Abraham and Sarah have a boy named Isaac his name means laughter. Because when they were told they were going to be making babies they laughed. They love Isaac he is their only son — the promised son through whom is to come the nation and the blessing to the nations of the earth. But in **Genesis 22** God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son on Mount Moriah (The highest point of Moriah is in the city of Jerusalem

The Bible says New Testament that he had such a great faith that he knew that even if Isaac died God would resurrect him from death.

By **Genesis 22** Isaac is young and healthy man — just like Jesus was. He is the beloved only son as Jesus was. He is the first born son as Jesus was. He carries the wood for his own slaughter on his back as Jesus did. They go to a place where Jesus was ultimately crucified. Isaac willingly like Jesus lays down his life at the hand of his father.

And just as his dad Abraham has the knife in his hand and he is ready to slaughter his son God speaks from heaven and says — *“You have trusted me, no need to slaughter your son. One day it will be provided. Jesus is coming and he will fulfill this anticipation, expectation for shadowing of the son who carries his own wood to his place of slaughter to die and love.”*

Genesis 22:15 ¹⁵And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven

The phrase THE angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus (Theophany)

¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Let’s summarize the six aspects of this covenant

1.) Who is the mediator, who is between humanity and God?

Well it’s Abraham.

2.) What is the blessing?

The **Abrahamic Covenant** consists of a three-fold blessing **that shapes the rest of history and the Bible.**

God promises land, nation, and blessing.

God gives Abraham a chunk of land – not just Israel, but most of the Middle East

Vast descendents that will form the Hebrew nation

And through Abraham’s distant heir, Jesus, all the nations will be blessed.

QUOTE: Sandy Adams — Here’s a shorthand version of God promise - *sod, seed, salvation.*

3.) What are the conditions?

Well you are supposed to obey me. He showed that in the willingness to sacrifice his son.

4.) What is the sign of the covenant?

The internal sign — it’s faith — you trusted the Lord. Abraham **BELIEVED** the Lord and the Lord accounted to him as righteousness.

The external sign of the covenant for Abraham — Circumcision of the male son on the 8th day.

5.) What is the covenant community?

Well it's the family and it's also the nation that would come from the family.

6.) What the promise of Jesus?

You go to **Galatians 3** — and there the apostle Paul says

Gal. 3:16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Because through Abraham would come **one man** who would be the blessing to the nations of the earth. Who is that? Jesus, Jesus.

This is why the New Testament starts with genealogies in Luke and Matthew. They trace His lineage back to Abraham. Jesus is the fulfillment of this Covenant.

We have covered the Adamic; the Noahic and the Abrahamic Covenant.

What is the next book of your Bible? **Exodus**. We are going to look at another man named Moses. **That leads us to the next question**

QUESTION #6 — What is the Mosaic Covenant?

AGAIN — From one generation to the next — over the course of many years — God keeps pursuing, keeps loving, keeps blessing, keeps speaking.

AGAIN — Moses was no great guy — he was a murderer saved by grace.

Exodus 3:1 ¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And **the angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he said, “Do not come

near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

God hearkens all the way back to the Abrahamic Covenant

⁶And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
⁷Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters

This is many years later, The descendants of Abraham’s went down to Egypt numbering 70 souls (along with the family of Joseph) now they are a nation of a few million some 400 years later. Only they are slaves at this point, God’s people are mistreated.

⁷ . . . I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Exodus 6:7-8 — we will read one more section then we will go to **Chapter 19**

⁷I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.”

There’s that pesky “favoritism of God” that so bothers Maclaren and his ilk.

Exodus 19

At this point God crushed Pharaoh — liberated the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — and parted the Red Sea. They are free and at the base of Mount Sinai where God is going to give them the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

1.) Who’s the mediator?

Moses — He stands as the representative and head between God and the people

2.) What is the blessing? Well they were redeemed out from under bondage to Pharaoh so that they would be free to worship Him. That’s the blessing, slaves get freed.

3.) What is the condition of the Covenant?

God gives His Law through Moses. We get the first five books of the Old Testament, it’s called the Pentateuch (= book in five parts). There are over 600 laws in the Pentateuch. So they are in Covenant with God — God gives them laws for their well being.

4.) What is the sign of the covenant?

What is the **internal sign** of the covenant? Again — it’s faith. Trust in God — leaving Egypt — obeying the law — trusting God’s provision and leading.

What’s the **external sign** of the covenant?

The Passover.

God had sent successive plagues and judgments upon Egypt because they refused to release the descendants of Abraham from bondage and slavery so that they might be free to worship Him. The last plague is found in

Exodus 11-12

Exodus 11:4-6 “Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. ⁶There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

The was only **ONE WAY** to avoid that plague —

Exodus 12:3-4; 5; 7; 13 ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.... ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old.... ⁷"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.... ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

There was tremendous faith involved for them — and ALL OF THIS is pointing to Jesus — who would shed his blood in our place for our sins.

1 Corinthians 5:7 For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

When John the Baptist sees Jesus he points at Him and says — *behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*

All of that is connected to the Mosaic Covenant which is connected to and builds upon the Abrahamic Covenant! Without God's unique and selective covenant with Abraham and his descendants the cross of Jesus is without origin and meaning.

Passover leads all the way up to the **new covenant** with Jesus and Communion. At the Last Supper Jesus was celebrating Passover that's the sign, the external sign, that we belong to God and we are covenant people.

5.) What is the Covenant Community?

It's a holy nation — and a kingdom of priests — all belonging to God to serve him and do ministry.

6.) What is the promise of Jesus?

Well the Passover shows Jesus coming to die in our place, for our sins, to cover us by his blood from wrath, judgment, and death. Because of the shed blood of Jesus God would literally **pass over** us.

It is Jesus who liberates us from bondage to our Pharaohs — satan, sin and death. Jesus is the one who provides for us a new life and a new way of life as worshipers. All of these foreshadow the coming of Jesus

Adamic Covenant — Noahic Covenant — Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant

That leads us to leads to our next question.

QUESTION #7 — What is the Davidic Covenant?

2 Samuel 7

NOTE: In this passage you will not hear the word covenant. We do find it used in relation to David in **Psalm 89:3**

- ³ You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
⁴ ‘I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’”

2 Samuel 7:8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David,
‘Thus says the Lord of hosts — that’s the God who rules over all the angels
and demons

⁸...I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep,

Again we see this recurring theme regarding the mediator of these Covenants — David — was a nobody! He was the runt of the litter. His Dad — a man named Jesse — never even thought to call David into the house when the prophet Samuel came to anoint a king from among Jesse’s sons.

DON’T MISS THIS — God picks for covenant people who are sinners and nobodies **because** it’s all of grace.

⁸ ...I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

QUOTE: One guy put it like this — *Nice upgrade — from shepherd to king — that’s grace — grace is always cuts to the front of the line.*

all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel.

And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name — **that's the temple** — , and I will establish the throne of his kingdom — **for how long** — forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son — **he is talking about Solomon here**. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure — **for how long** — forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁸Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? — **What's the answer? By grace he was in covenant with God.** — ¹⁹And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!

The Davidic Covenant!

1.) Who is the mediator, who is the head, who comes as our representative between us and God?

David.

2.) What's the blessing?

An everlasting throne
And everlasting kingdom,
An everlasting king *to sit on that throne, and rule over that kingdom.*

3.) What are the conditions?

If you sin — there are consequences. Concerning Solomon God says— if he commits iniquity I will discipline him though I will remain steadfast in my love, I will still love and bless him but there will be consequences.

BY THE WAY — That is true for those in covenant with God through faith in Christ. God's steadfast love never ceases but if you sin there are consequences, you get disciplined.

4.) What is the sign of the Covenant?

Internally — Again it's faith.

What's the external sign?

THE TEMPLE — They trusted God's presence with them and obeyed God by building the temple he would command through Solomon. There God manifested His glory in tangible way in the Holy of holies.

THE THRONE — There would be a king who would rule over his people.

5.) What is the Covenant Community?

It's a kingdom. God's people Israel.

6.) What is the promise of Jesus

God's presence in the temple is a foreshadowing of Jesus who would come Tabernacle among us.

Jesus is the king of kings. There is the throne of David that would be established — and in His Second Coming Jesus will sit upon the throne of David. From Jerusalem He will rule the earth in righteousness for 1,000 years — and then He will usher in a New heaven and a New earth over which He will reign forever.

For the LAST of these covenants lets turn to [Jeremiah 31](#)

QUESTION #8 — What is the new covenant?

This brings us full circle to the front end of our study!

God has been betrayed throughout human history. Yet He pursued Adam — He pursued Abraham — He pursued Noah — He pursued Moses — He pursued David. Each of those men represented people that God wanted to be relate to in loving Covenant Community.

In **Jeremiah 31:31-33** God speaks of a NEW COVENANT.

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, — **That’s northern and southern kingdom** — ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, — **that’s the Mosaic Covenant** — my covenant that they broke, — **God’s people disobeyed Him, wandered for forty years in unbelief and didn’t get to enter into the land of promise, the next generation with Joshua and Caleb gets to occupy the promised land** — though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. — **The Old Covenant or Mosaic Covenant was written on stone tablets. In contrast God promised to write the New Covenant on men’s hearts. Here’s the ultimate covenant... Rather than provide us some external standard, that can be lost, or neglected, or misinterpreted – God embeds or implants godly desires within our nature. He “writes it on our hearts.”**— And I will — **covenant promise** — be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

God says *I have been **HESED** — loving — patient — steadfast — with people who continue to sin against me, betray me, and violate me. But I will be their God and I will love them and I will bless them and I will be good to them and I will do this in spite of them.*

That’s the new covenant. This **NEW COVENANT** is the fulfillment of God previous covenant relationship with man.

Last section of scripture — Matthew 26.

By the way — We’ve just covered most of your Bible

Matthew 26:26-29 Now as they were eating,

Jesus and his disciples are eating the passover meal, the sign of the Mosaic Covenant. This is RADICAL — **Luke 22:15 KJV** And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

Jesus took bread, and after blessing it

Here God incarnate (next months subject) is doing the same thing we found Him doing in the opening pages of Genesis — He starts blessing

broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

RADICAL — This breaks with thousands of years of Jewish tradition. Every year at Passover, the head of the family would have certain words to say taken directly out of Exodus. Here Jesus breaks from tradition, and says this is my body. **What he is saying is that the Mosaic covenant is now fulfilled in Him.**

²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

God became a man to die in the place of sinners like you and me. He did this to save us, He did this to forgive and love us, He did this so we might be in covenant with Him

²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

That’s the referring to the Davidic Covenant.

1.) Who is the mediator of the new covenant?

Jesus Christ

He is our representative — He goes in place of us all.

2.) What is the blessing of the new covenant?

Salvation — forgiveness of sin — indwelling power of God, the Holy Spirit — reconciled relationship to God — imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ — all spiritual blessings in heavenly places — eternal life that begins with

a having transformed life on earth the blessings were almost too many to note.

3.) What are the conditions of the new covenant?

Repentance from sin and faith or trust in Jesus.

4.) What is the sign of the covenant?

The Internal Sign — it's faith.

I love Jesus, I belong to Jesus, I trust Jesus.

I know that Jesus died on the cross in my place for my sins and that my covenant relationship with God is only made possible through Jesus.

The external Sign — Baptism and Communion.

Baptism — Signifying that my life is identified with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The old life lived after the flesh is buried with Christ and I now walk in the newness of life.

Communion — At the last supper Jesus established what we call the Lord's Table or communion. At Metro you are not supposed to partake of communion unless you are in covenant with God through faith in Christ. It is the visible way by which I show that I am in covenant with God through Jesus Christ. His body was broken — His blood was shed for my sins so that I could be a member of God's new covenant people.

You should never partake unless you are a Christian in covenant with God — otherwise Paul says we bring judgment on ourselves.

5.) What is the covenant community? The NEW COVENANT radically transforms relationships.

First, it transforms the way we see marriage. Do you know that marriage is a covenant? Twice in the Old Testament the marriage is a covenant. Christians are to approach marriage as a covenantal union not a contractual convenience.

Secondly, this transforms our view of parenting. No matter what my kids do — I am their dad. If they should wander when they grow up I need pursue them. It doesn't mean that I accept their sin. I need to deal with them as God deals with my sin. But it means that my children are always

my children and my love to them is not conditional. I will be their dad and they will be my kids just like God says I will be your God and you will be my people.

Third — It affects the way we should view our relationship to church.

I don't come just to take, to take goods and services and doctrines and information, I come to be part of a covenant people, I come to live out my covenant obligations to God and one another and I am willing to sign on the dotted line and say I am willing to be part of the covenant people.

There should be a covenant to love Jesus to do good for this church financially, prayerfully, serving. Because of our covenant relationship with Jesus we should commit to do covenant good for the whole community — not just what best serves me or what is convenient for me.

CLOSING

God has pursued rebellious, stiff necked, hard-hearted, self righteous, unfaithful mankind — and we are numbered among that mess.

We are betrayers like Adam, we are undeserving sinners like Noah who have found grace, we are godless idolaters like Abraham, we are murderers at least in our hearts like Moses, we are physical and spiritual adulterers like David and God you have invited us in the covenant relationship, unbelievable.

And Jesus is the One who has fulfilled all of the covenants and expands them into the new covenant so that God could your God and my God and that we could be His people!

THE ONLY RIGHT RESPONSE to the covenant love of God is repentance from sin and faith in Jesus.

Saying from your heart — *God all of my sin, my betrayal is treasonous and Jesus I trust you to take away my sin to make me a new person to give me a covenant relationship with God and to connect me to His covenant people.*

Do you know Jesus? Do you love Jesus? Do you belong to Jesus?
Have you confessed your sins to Jesus? Are you in covenant with Jesus?

Jesus is a better head than Adam — in that he did not sin and he regained all that Adam lost.

Jesus is a better Noah — Because he brings judgment on sin, salvation by grace and a whole new world.

Jesus is a better Abraham — Because He is the blessed seed of Abraham who is the blessing to the nations of the earth.

Jesus is a better deliverer than Moses — Because He has conquered our Pharaoh of Satan — liberated us to worship Him and He fulfilled the law in our place. The Law came by Moses but grtace and truth came by Jesus.

Jesus is a better king than David — Because He is seated at the right hand of God the Father far above all principalities and powers and he is coming again to establish his eternal kingdom.