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THE EIGHT COVENANTS OF THE BIBLE

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Overview and Definitions

A. Covenant

1. Conditional Covenants
2. Unconditional Covenants

B. Dispensation

"A Dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God" C.I. Scofield

"A Dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God's purpose" C. Ryrie

"A Dispensation is a particular way of God's administering His rule over the world as He progressively works out His purpose for world history" Renald Showers

C. An Important Ruler:

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

"The Golden Rule of Interpretation" by Dr. David L. Cooper

D. Progressive Revelation. "God's message to man was not given in one single act, but was unfolded in a long series of successive acts through the hands of many men of varying backgrounds."

1. The UNITY found in progressive revelation.
2. The DIVERSITY found in progressive revelation.

I. THE EDENIC COVENANT

A. Scripture

B. Participants

C. Provisions

1. Be fruitful and multiply
2. Subdue the earth
3. Mankind given authority over living things
4. Vegetarian Diet
5. Responsibility to tend Garden of Eden
6. Don't eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil
7. Penalty for eating from The Tree

D. Current Status

II. THE ADAMIC COVENANT

A. Scripture

B. Participants

C. Provisions

1. Serpent
2. Satan
3. Women
4. Mankind

D. Current Status

III. THE NOAHIC COVENANT

A. Scripture

B. Participants

C. Provisions

1. Repopulate the earth

2. Fear of man by animals
3. The diet of man is now omnivorous without limitations
4. Man is forbidden to consume blood
5. Mankind is authorized to carry out Capital Punishment
6. God's promise that humanity would never be destroyed again by flood
7. The token of the covenant is the rainbow

D. Current Status

IV. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

A. Scripture

B. Participants

C. Provisions

1. A great nation would come from Abraham, the nation of Israel
2. Abraham was promised the Land
3. A multitude of other nations would come from Abraham
4. Abraham would be blessed and his name would be great
5. Those who bless Israel will be blessed
6. Those who curse Israel will be cursed
7. Through Abraham all families of the earth will be blessed
8. Abraham would have a son through his wife Sarah
9. The sign of this covenant would be circumcision
10. The Covenant Line would go through Isaac and Jacob

D. Grouping of Provisions

1. To Abraham
2. To the Nation of Israel

3. To the non-Jewish nations

E. Becomes a basis for other Covenants

1. Land Aspect / Land Covenant

2. Seed Aspect / Davidic Covenant

3. Blessing Aspect / New Covenant

F. Current Status

V. THE MOSAIC COVENANT / LAW

A. Scripture

B. Participants

C. Provisions

1. Purpose of the Covenant

2. Limitations of the Mosaic Covenant

a. Limited to Israel only

b. Limited to a certain time period

c. Limited in it's ability to cover sin

3. The abolishing & nullification of the Covenant

4. Objections to the 'end of the Law'. Some say:

a. The Law is in effect until the return of Messiah

b. Only the ceremonial Law has been done away with

c. The Hebrew Scriptures say that Mosaic Law observance is eternal

d. Without the Law, we can no longer be Jews

5. Our Freedom to "keep" portions of the Law as desired

D. Current Status

VI. THE LAND COVENANT

- A. Scripture
- B. Participants
- C. Provisions
- D. Current Status

VII. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- A. Scripture
- B. Participants
- C. Provisions
- D. Current Status

VIII. THE NEW COVENANT

- A. Scripture
- B. Participants
- C. Provisions

1. It is a completely new covenant, not a renewed covenant
2. Salvation of Israel
3. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
4. Blessing of safety and granting of material needs
5. Millennial Temple

D. The relationship of the Church to the New Covenant

1. The attempt by some in Christendom to shift all the New Covenant to the Church
2. The explanation by some that there are two New Covenants
3. Scriptural support that Gentile believers are “fellow partakers” of the New Covenant

E. Current Status

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APPENDIX - New Covenant

Overview of different views from "An Introduction to the New Covenant" Christopher Cone, Editor.

- Replacement/Covenant Theology: Replacement - The church is entirely fulfilling the New Covenant. National Israel has been superseded by the church, the true, or spiritual, Israel. The church's ministers, by fulfilling the Great Commission, function as ministers of the New Covenant.
- Dispensational View #1: Partial Fulfillment - The church, by fulfilling the Great Commission, is accomplishing a partial fulfillment of the New covenant, But complete fulfillment awaits the spiritual renewal of national Israel in the millennium.
- Dispensational View #2: Participation - The church, by fulfilling the Great Commission, does not partially fulfill the New Covenant, but does participate in some of the blessings of the New Covenant.
- Dispensational View #3: Two New Covenants _ The church has its own "New Covenant" with God that is distinct and separate from Israel's New Covenant of Jeremiah 31.
- Dispensational View #4: No Relationship - The church is not directly related to the New Covenant in any way. The church is related to the Mediator of the New Covenant and to the blood of that covenant, but is not a participant in the covenant itself.