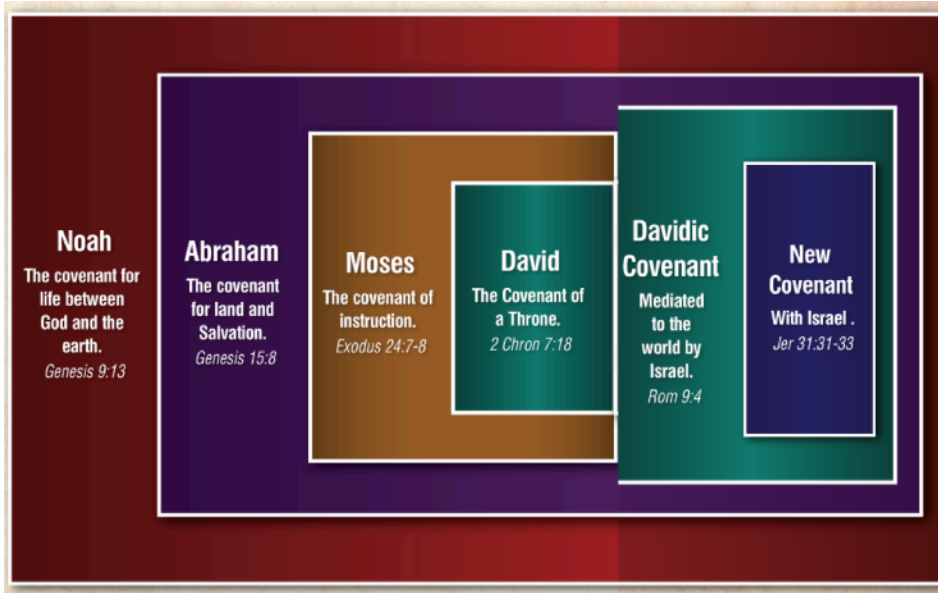


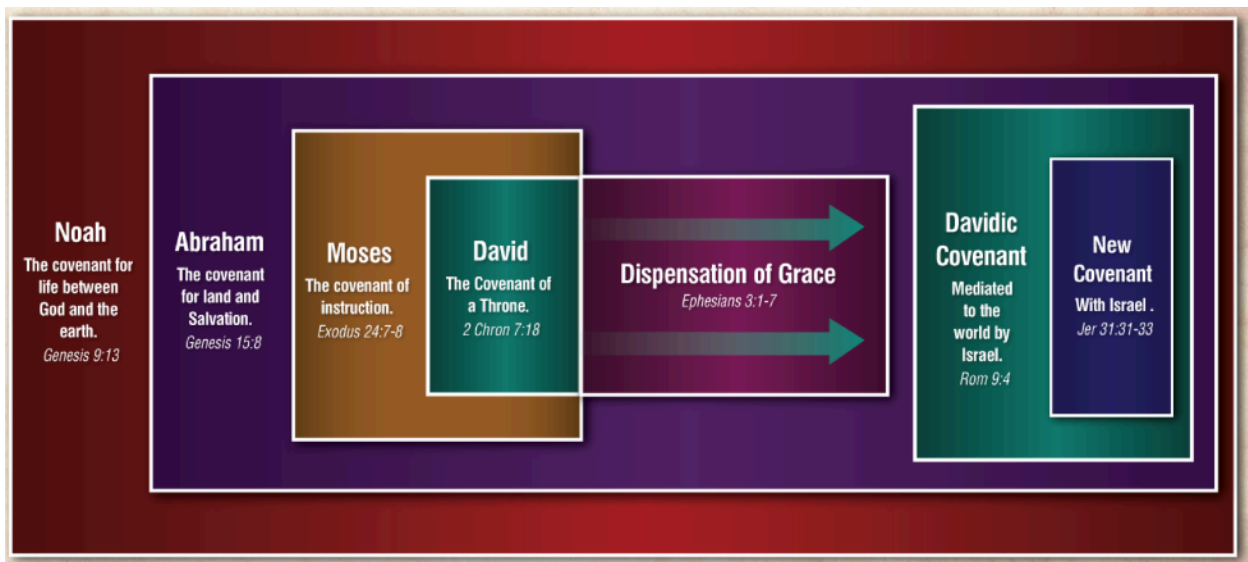
Biblical Covenants | Session 2



Another error we can make is taking the covenants (or promises) and mixing them in with the Church today. The reason this is a problem is because the covenants belong to the nation of Israel.

Along the way, God did something that was unseen by the Prophets or the Old Testament, and that is, He started what we call the **Dispensation of Grace**.

The Davidic Covenant is still underlying this dispensation, but we are not ultimately looking for the Kingdom to come, we are looking for the Rapture. We know the Kingdom will ultimately come, but we are not Kingdom era people, nor are we expecting the Kingdom. In fact, we are not completely focused on any of the covenants, rather we are rejoicing that outside of these covenants we are saved. We have an individual salvation, not a national salvation. When we mix our dispensation of grace into the Biblical covenants we end up with a life of shame, guilt, and self-doubt.



What about the New Covenant?

Theologians, pastors, and authors define the New Covenant in various ways, but what does the Scripture say? Let's examine the 'first use' of the term in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

1. Who is the New Covenant made with?
2. When will the New Covenant be given?
3. What will be put into the hearts of those to whom the New Covenant is given?
4. What are some of the characteristics of the New Covenant?

See also Isaiah 59:20-21; Jeremiah 32:37-40; Ezekiel 16:60-63; Ezekiel 37:21-28.

Taking all of the above and applying it to today, are we in the New Covenant?

Hebrews 8:6; 9:15

According to Hebrews there is a mediator between the Old Covenant and the New. If you have a mediator, you have not signed the deal yet, or made the agreement. Therefore, the proposition is that we, as the Body of Christ, are not under a covenant. If we are not a covenant people, then someone is: The nation of Israel.

We want to avoid the error of slipping into a mode where we claim we are the "people of the covenant" when it is not our covenant. We are the church people, we are under Christ. When we get our terminology right, our theology will often follow. If we are not a covenant people, then there is not a sign or a seal of a covenant for us. By knowing this we will avoid trying to fulfill spiritual obligations which are not ours.

We are Christians, and we are sealed in the Spirit, but that is different from having a *sign and seal* of the covenant. What about passages in Scripture like Luke 22:19,20, "*This cup is the New Testament (or Covenant) of my blood?*" I would propose this passage is not saying, *there is now a new Covenant*, but that there is a sign and a seal for the New Covenant, and that sign and seal is the blood that will be shed on the cross. The Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 15, God sealed the covenant to Abraham (which has not yet been delivered) in the blood of the animals (Genesis 15:10). So the covenant is sealed in the blood, but it is delivered later.

Finally, if we are not under a covenant, what covenant obligations *do we have?* None.