



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -  
GRAND THEMES 2 - COVENANT

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

# WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the  
whole Bible.



COVENANT



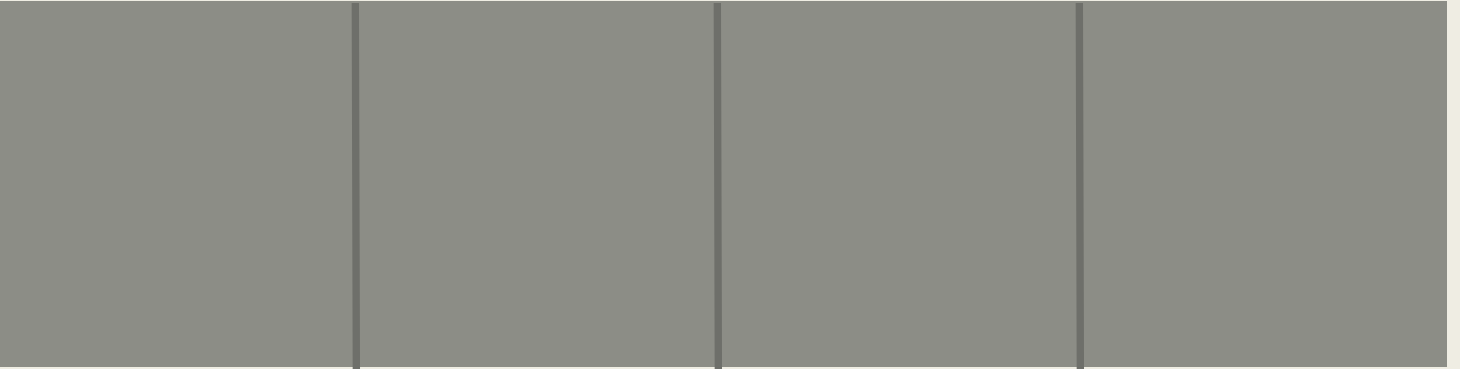
# Theme gallery



TEMPLE



COVENANT





# What is a Covenant?



- **Oath-bound promise** whereby one party solemnly pledges to bless or serve another party in some specified way.
- Sometimes the keeping of the promise depends upon the meeting of certain **conditions** by the party to whom the promise is made.
- On other occasions the promise is made **unilaterally** and unconditionally.
- The covenant concept is a **central, unifying theme of Scripture**, establishing and defining God's relationship to man in all ages.
- Breaking a covenant is a **big deal**.
- [Holman Bible Dictionary]

# Covenants can have...

- Terms and Conditions
- A sign
- Blessings and curses
- Rituals such as killing and dividing of animals





# Covenant with Noah (Noahic)

- **Gen 9:9-17** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now **establish my covenant** with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my **covenant** with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be flood to destroy the earth. ”



# Covenant with Noah (Noahic)

- **Gen 9:12-15** And God said, “This is the sign of the **covenant** I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a **covenant** for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the **covenant** between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my **covenant** between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.





# Covenant with Noah (Noahic)

- “Covenant” – 8 times, ... *driving it home*
- Between God and Noah’s descendants, and the living creatures.
- Promise not to destroy the earth again.
- Sign: Bow.
- Term: Forever.
- Unconditional covenant. All from God’s side.



# Noahic covenant Questions

- What does the rainbow remind us of?
- What will you think about next time you see a rainbow?



# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- (Gen. 12:1-3) The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household ***to the land*** I will show you. “I ***will make you into a great nation***, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; ***and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.***



# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- (**Gen. 15:1-6**) After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars —if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ***Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.***



# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)



- The Blood path – animals cut in two forming a pathway
- Example: (Jer 34:18-20) Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will ***treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces***. The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them. Their dead bodies will become ***food for the birds*** and the wild animals.
- Normally, the lesser party would go through first (Eg bridegroom v father of the bride)
- Saying : ***If I don't live up to our bargain, do to me what has been done to these animals.***
- Cutting a covenant => ***cutting a deal***
- <http://makingtalmidim.blogspot.com/2013/06/walking-bloodpath.html>

# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- (Gen. 15) But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.
- Abram knew what to do....



# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- (Gen 15:17-18) When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land...
- Who went first?
- God goes twice – smoking pot and fire.
- What is that saying?
- God is saying “Abraham, if you fall short, I will pay with my blood...”





# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- **(Gen. 17)** Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be **circumcised**. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring





# Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

This covenant flows into many things we come across later:

- Promised land
- Election / a people of God
- Faith and righteousness.
- Circumcision
- All peoples on earth blessed..



# Reflection

- How do you relate to Abraham from what you know of his life?
- Did not perfectly trust God (Eg. Egypt/Hagar) but he was able to learn to do so.
- What would you say are the relative contributions of Abraham and God to the covenant outcomes?

# Video

- <https://youtu.be/6v4jKkFj3TI?si=eLDRFy3pQIQKLuxU>
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