

Covenant ~ Adam – Part 2

September 21, 2014

HOCL

Rob Smith

Message

We are in week #2 of our series titled, “Covenant” where we are taking a look at 8 specific Covenants that God made with his people and with us throughout scripture.

Two weeks ago we looked at God’s very first covenant that he made in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve and let me just give you a quick review of what we discovered from that first Covenant.

- Man is to Replenish the earth - have kids
- Man is to subdue the earth – to manage it and to use it wisely
- Man is to RULE over all living things – all living things are NOT to rule over us! (ex. the cat or the dog in your house!)
- Man is restricted to a vegetarian diet –this will change when we get to the covenant God made with Noah
- Man must WORK! -If you are able to work, God requires it!
- Man is forbidden to eat from the tree of knowledge – this was a test of obedience for Adam and Eve
- There will be a penalty of death (a spiritual death) for disobedience. When you and I are disobedient to a known law of God, that is sin. And the bible tells us that sin is what separates us spiritually from God!

Turn with me if you would to Genesis 3:14-19 and if you don’t have a bible with you today, I would encourage you to use one found next to where you are seated in your row

Here’s what it says, (and it’s a slightly different translation than what some of you have) Read Scripture:

“And Jehovah God said unto the serpent, Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life: and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply your pain and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you. And unto Adam he said, Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil shall you eat of it all the days of your life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you return unto the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are, and unto dust shall you return.”

Today I want us to do 2 things in our study here in the Adamic Covenant.

First, I want us to discover what the Adamic Covenant is.

And Second, I want us to look at the participants in the Covenant to discover more of their role and significance.

What is the Adamic Covenant?

Systematic theology has traditionally divided God's plan of redemption into two main covenants: **Edenic Covenant**, or the covenant of works, which is **the covenant God made to man BEFORE the Fall of Adam** that we looked at two week's ago. And then we have the Adamic Covenant or the covenant of redemption that **God made to man AFTER the Fall of Adam that we'll be looking at here today**. When God created Adam, He entered into a covenant with Adam where Adam was required to obey God in order to secure God's blessing. When Adam failed this covenant as a result of his works, he brought sin and the curse into this world. This sin and curse spread to all humanity because all humanity is descended from Adam and we bear the responsibility both for Adam's first sin (which is called, Original Sin) and for our own sins (which are personal sins), as well (Rom. 5:12).

But, because God loves us, He showed mercy to His chosen people and purposed to save them through a covenant of redemption/grace. And it's through the administration of the covenant of grace, where God fulfills the covenant of works for us and grants us the favor that we could never earn ourselves. This covenant of grace is unfolded through a succession of smaller "subcovenants" that we will be looking at over the coming weeks and we will see it when we talk about Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and, finally, Christ.

And the covenant of works (that we studied two weeks ago) is still in effect today even though we cannot perform its requirements to the degree that God originally intended. And so with this, and the fact that the covenant of grace has many "sub-covenants," we know that God's revelation to us is progressive because they build upon each other). God does not tell us everything at once, but He unfolds His plan for us over time.

Now, just a thought here for us to make sure we view these covenants properly. God's successive covenants are not corrective for His earlier covenants. He didn't say, "oops". He didn't make a mistake. Each covenant that he made was full and complete and each successive covenant simply explained and added to those earlier revelations.

And it was this Adamic Covenant which became the basis for what some theologians call, "the Dispensation of Conscience" and it simply meant that it was here where Adam and Eve knew the difference between good and evil. This covenant was also an unconditional covenant (we talked about this in our first message, and an unconditional covenant is where God says, "hey listen, because I'm speaking this covenant into existence, it's going to happen, not because of anything you do or don't do, but simply because I said it", and this covenant is very much in effect today.

And so what happened was that after Adam broke God's initial covenant and fell, God made a specific covenant with Him and it related to what conditions would be like for man and how He would restore creation. This part of the covenant, specifically Genesis 3:15, is typically referred to as the protoevangelium or the "first gospel."

The Adamic Covenant begins with Adam and Eve's awareness of their sin and their shame...it's an awakening of moral responsibility and covers the period of time until the coming of the Kingdom when "creation itself"

shall “be delivered” (Rom 8:21). Similar to the previous covenant, it took place in the Garden of Eden or the ‘Mountain of God’ (Ez 28:16), but instead of blessings of God, the Adamic Covenant is characterized by various curses that were the result of Adam and Even’s disobedience!

So let’s take a look at the Participants in the Covenant and then we will also see the curses that God spoke of and who they were attributed to.

- 1. The first participant that we find in this covenant is God - (Genesis 3) – He was the primary speaker and director of the events that would take place as a result of the Edenic Covenant being broken.**
 - a. And with this 2nd Covenant he makes with Adam, He ultimately desires reconciliation and a plan for the redemption for all mankind. That’s why he made this covenant....not just for Adam and Eve, but for you and I as well!
 - b. This is His initial agreement with us and it defines God’s relationship to us from the moment of disobedience until our present fallen state of existence!
 - c. This is God’s most concise summary of His redemptive plan. It was designed to deal with the problem that the sin in the garden created and the consequences that would come because of disobedience! Now, let me pause right here and say this....and I cannot say it enough!! When we choose to be disobedient to God’s plan and what He has shared with us in scripture, there will be consequences that we will have to endure. Some might take place immediately, others might take place down the road, some might impact our personal lives, and still others might impact the lives of those around us! Friends, listen! Don’t be disobedient to God’s plan that is laid out for us, in it’s perfection, throughout scripture!!
 - d. By God’s word, this covenant is God’s answer to the crisis of the fall and His initial prophecy of how He intends to deal with it.
 - e. The immediate negative effects of the covenant were a loss of communion and the experience of death entering the human race. The fact that God immediately responded with a solution to the crisis of the covenant shows how deeply important communion with man is to Him and how unnatural death is for mankind. The conclusion is that God intends to address the loss of fellowship and the issue of death.
 - f. God took on all the responsibility of fulfilling the covenant. There is no condition that’s given to man for the fulfillment of the promise made. It is clear that God Himself will orchestrate and empower the resolution of the covenant promised in Genesis 3:15. No human strength will help Him. This points both to the supernatural nature of His covenant solution and the inability of man to contribute anything to his salvation.
 - g. This is how God defined himself and played a role in this covenant!

The second participant we find is the

2. Serpent - Genesis 3:14

God made three provisions concerning the serpent.

First: the serpent is cursed above all other creatures of the animal kingdom. All creatures now fall under a curse, but there is a special curse on this one member of the animal kingdom. Normally, an animal is not held morally responsible for its actions. However, if it causes any harm to man, then it is held responsible (Gen. 9:5). Animals were created for the benefit of man, and when this principle

is violated, it then suffers from the judgment of God.

Second: the serpent is to crawl on its belly. This shows that originally the serpent moved in an erect position. This led to the debate whether or not the serpent originally had legs, but that question is irrelevant to the issue. The only point is that in place of moving erectly, the serpent now crawls on its belly.

Third: dust shall be the serpent's food. Bible critics have had a field day with this pointing it out as an error of the Bible since reptiles do not eat dust. However, this was simply a Hebrew idiom meaning to be especially cursed (Mic. 7:17). The curse will continue to be there even in the Messianic Kingdom (Is. 65:25).

Throughout history, we are told that the serpent lured Eve and deceived her into eating the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Paul the Apostle said, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor" (1 Timothy 2:11-14 ESV). Clearly Eve was deceived and Adam choose to participate in her transgression because of his love for her. The serpent never deceived Adam.

The serpent which was used of Satan was cursed for his actions.

OK, I think we should pause here to consider this...this just might be a dinner table discussion this afternoon.....When we are disobedient to the will of God, we subject ourselves to the leadership of Satan and like the serpent, will be used by him and will have to deal with the curses that are brought on because of our actions. And those curses could show up physically, or financially, spiritually, relationally, or emotionally. And we might even see how our actions of disobedience can have an impact on the generations to come and this in scripture is called a "generational curse".

And I say this only to encourage us to make sure that we are living in full OBEDIENCE to God because if we don't, there will be curses that come about because of our disobedience.

3. Now, this leads us to the 3rd participant in this covenant and it is Satan - Genesis 3:15

Here in our passage, God shares Four provisions that are given in relationship to Satan.

First: there would be perpetual (continual, everlasting, uninterrupted) hatred between Satan and the woman

Second: this hatred was to culminate between Satan's seed, the Antichrist, and the woman's Seed, the Messiah. (The messiah is born to a woman)

Now, the next 2 provisions go together...

Third: the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's Seed - Satan is the enemy of God, and in his rebellion he will try to deceive as many people as possible. He is the deceiver of the nations and the accuser of the children of God. Yet if the promise of Christ in [Genesis 3:15](#) is reduced to mere poetry or metaphor, then we lose the foundation for believing that Satan is literally our enemy.

Fourth: this first prophecy of the Lord's victory over Satan goes on to say that the woman's Seed will crush Satan's head; this occurred initially with the Resurrection (Heb. 2:14-15). But the final crushing of Satan was will come when Satan is cast into the Lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

The idea that the Seed would bruise the serpent's head is the most important part of the promise. This bruising was more than just a simple pool of blood trapped underneath the skin. [1 John 3:8](#) states that Christ came into the world to destroy the devil's work. The bruising of the serpent's head is symbolic of Christ's victory over Satan.

As the serpent's head is crushed, he can only strike at the heel of Christ. The striking of the heel may represent the tempting of Christ, and in a very real sense, it was fulfilled on the Cross. Jesus was arrested, unjustly tried, tortured, and crucified. Perhaps Satan thought he had defeated Christ, but, ironically, this strike at Christ's heel would result in the death blow to his head—Satan's fate was sealed.

Christ defeated Satan and He is our Lord!!

The fourth participant in this covenant is

4. The Woman - Genesis 3:16

Eve and all women were made subject to three provisions.

First: the woman was to give birth in pain. Before the Fall, she would have been able to conceive and give birth without pain, but this was no longer true. However, once birth takes place, there is joy (Jn. 16:21).

Second: the wife was to be in subjection to the husband. This was already true before the Fall, but the new element was that she would now have a desire to rebel against that subjection and choose to try to rule him – this is how marital strife often takes place.....there's a power struggle, and a quest for control....even if it's done innocently this is why friction can take place in the spousal relationship.

Now, let me just make a comment here before we too quickly move on from this thought.

And my only comment is for the guys. To have your wife subjected to our leadership in the home does not give us the right to rule over her in a domineering and chauvinistic way. Often times the domineering and chauvinistic attitude and practices comes through a lack of respect and love that is opposite of what God truly wants from us.

Alright the 5th and final participant in this covenant is

5. The Man - Genesis 3:17-19

Adam and the entire human race were subjected to four provisions in Genesis 3:17-19.

First: since Adam stands as the representative head of the human race, the judgment on Adam is the judgment on the whole human race. It is Adam, not Eve, who is held responsible for the human condition.

Second: the earth was cursed. Working was not something new with the Adamic Covenant, it had already been provided for in the Edenic Covenant. The difference was in the earth's response. Under the Edenic Covenant, the earth was to respond readily to man's working and tilling. But now the earth would not respond so easily; there would be *thorns, thistles, and weeds*.

Third: man's work was to be characterized by hard labor. Working conditions under the Edenic Covenant were easy, simple, and enjoyable. Now, *sweat* was to characterize the work of man and labor was to be hard and toilsome.

Fourth: physical death was introduced. Under the Edenic Covenant man died spiritually, but here under the Adamic Covenant man would ultimately die physically (Rom. 5:12-21).

CONCLUSION

Although the disobedience had brought a curse upon themselves and all future generation, God promised adam and eve, and you and I, a redeemer! John 3:16 – For God so LOVED the World that he gave to us his one and only son and whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life!

Where are you today? If God promised you a million bucks would you do what you needed to do in order to receive it? The answer for most of us is yes! But how much better is the reality that He promised to us a redeemer that we might be restored and reconciled with him and have the opportunity to live with him eternally if we invite Him into our life.

Prayer