

Eternity

Destiny

Understanding

Covenant

Application

Teach

Engage



# First Covenant

**Cultural Mandate** - Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it (make it work)

**The Covenant of Works** - God's **People**, In **Paradise**, With God **Present**

- Covenant Broken – People, Paradise, Presence, Life and Death
- Consequences of the Curse – Guilt, Grime and the Grave.
- Constant Conflict - Genesis 3:15
- Promise of Hope - Genesis 3:15 (grace began here)

## Progressive Problem

- Genesis 6:1-6 Increasing Corruption on Earth
  - vs. 7-8 I will blot out man!
- Genesis 6:8 One man found favor – Noah

## Next - God's Covenant with Noah

- Genesis 9:8-17 God initiated, and covenant established.
- **Provision** - Genesis 8:21-22 – God promises to Noah that He will continue to provide for the world , even when it fills up with sinners again!
- **“The Covenant of Common Grace”**.
  - Common Grace is the name given to all good gifts God gives to all humanity.
- “Common Grace” needs to be differentiated between “Saving Grace”.

# Abrahamic Covenant

- Genesis 12:1-9
- God promises Abram: a people, a place, and His own presence as blessings.

## Covenant Conditions

- Genesis 17:1-8
  - God declares the covenant again: People, a place, His Blessing.
  - Significance of change of name:
- Abraham's part: Genesis 17:9-14
  - Circumcision suddenly becomes a big deal!
  - It is the difference between your in and your out!
- **Galatians 3:6-7** In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." 7 The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. NLT
- Ephesians 2:8-10
  - **Faith is just about receiving someone else's work.**

# Moses and Covenant Obedience

Four hundred years have passed since we left Abraham marveling at God's covenant promises.

Remember what God spoke to Abraham: Genesis 15:13-16

**Exodus 1:6-10** God's plan for humanity, first expressed to Adam in the command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, was beginning to be fulfilled through the people of Israel.

## Update to the Covenant of Grace made with Abraham

- **Exodus 23:20-31**

- First, God will give them a paradise, vs. 31
- Second, His people, vs. 26-30
- Finally, God will be present with them, (initially this will be an angel bearing God's name, vs 20-21)

# Covenants involved both Blessings and Curses

- Blessings and Curses are spelled out in vivid detail in **Leviticus 26** and **Deuteronomy 28**.

## Grace or Works?

- Purpose of the Law
  - **Romans 7:7-13** - “In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin.”
  - **Galatians 3:17-22**
    - vs. 19 Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins.
    - vs. 21 Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. 22 But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, NLT

Simply stated in Galatians 3 and Romans 7, God’s law reveals our sin and our total inability in and of ourselves to even come close to fulfilling the law.

## Faith and Action (Obedience)

- Exodus 23:20-21

Some New Testament scriptures:

- Matthew 12:33-37
- James 2:21-24
- Romans 2:5-9

## The Importance and Reason for Obedience

- Image Bearers
- 4 main reasons:
  - it honors the God who has rescued us.
  - Psalms 19:8 - it also brings great joy to us
  - Exodus 19:3-6 - Obedient Israel would be a “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation.”
  - Israel’s obedience was also a witness.

- Abraham was told that his descendants would be a blessing to the nations.
- Peter picks up on this aspect of the covenant with Moses and applies it to Christians:
  - 1 Peter 2:9-12 But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 At one time you were not a people, but now you are God's people. In the past you had never received mercy, but now you have received God's mercy.
    - We are to stand out from the world through our behavior, as those who have been set free not from Egypt, but from the “darkness” of not knowing God.
  - 11 Dear friends, you are like foreigners and strangers in this world. I beg you to avoid the evil things your bodies want to do that fight against your soul. 12 People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again. NCV
- Genesis 12:3 – Not everyone is going to be in the Abraham Fan Club!
- Luke 6:12



