

The Covenants

(Part 1)



55) What is the Edenic covenant?

- A. It was the covenant of creation. God established it with man in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world. It revealed God's original purpose for man on earth.

56) What are the words of the Edenic covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found in Genesis 1-2.
1. Man was made in God's image and likeness.
 - a. This indicated that man was a creation apart from the animals.
 - b. More was also to be required of man.
 2. Fruitfulness and an increase in numbers.
 - a. Man was called to populate the earth with those that would know God.
 3. A call to subdue the earth.
 - a. Enemies are to be subdued. This was an indication that man was to battle Satan.
 4. A call to rule over the earth.
 - a. God gave man authority to rule Eden (and Satan) if he would exercise it.
 5. Permission to eat fruit and grains.
 - a. God provided for man's physical needs. Note: meats were not permissible food in Eden.

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." [29] Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

GEN 1:26-29 NIV

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6. A call to work the soil.
 - a. God created work and responsibility for man.

"and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ... [15] The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

GEN 2:5, 15 NIV

7. God made only one restriction -
 - a. God established a condition for covenant blessing; obedience.

"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

GEN 2:17 NIV

57) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Edenic covenant?

- A. To fulfill certain terms of the covenant, "be fruitful and increase in number," Adam had to give of himself, of his own body, to see Eve. He sacrificed part of himself so she could be created. God himself was the mediator of that sacrifice.

"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' [19] Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. [20] So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. [21] So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. [22] Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. [23] The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' [24] For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. [25] The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

GEN 2:18-25 NIV

58) What is the seal of the Edenic covenant?

- A. The visible sign of the covenant was the tree of life at the center of the garden. It symbolized the everlasting life God wanted to give to Adam and his descendants. When Adam broke the covenant, it was the one thing God purposely withheld from him.

"And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground -trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

GEN 2:9 NIV

"And the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.' [23] So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to

work the ground from which he had been taken. [24] After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

GEN 3:22-24 NIV

59) Was the Edenic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. No. Adam was warned that if he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thereby violating the covenant, he would surely die.

60) Did Adam keep the Edenic Covenant?

- A. No. Adam broke the covenant by eating from The Tree Of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. God did not abandon Adam to his own sinful fate but made another covenant with him. This began a cycle of man's failure and God's redemption.

61) What is the cycle of failure and redemption?

- A. When God makes a covenant with man, He sets the terms that He expects man to obey. This requirement to obey effectively places man on probation.
B. Man fails to keep the covenant.
C. God judges man's sin.
D. God gives man another chance by making another redemptive covenant with him.

62) What is the background for the Adamic Covenant?

- A. Adam sinned and broke his covenantal relationship with God. His character was corrupted, he surrendered his dominion of the earth to Satan and left his offspring under the control of sin and death.

"The devil led him (Jesus) up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. [6] And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. [7] So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

LUKE 4:5-7 NIV

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned -"

ROM 5:12 NIV

63) What is the Adamic covenant?

- A. It is the covenant God made with man after he sinned.
B. It is the first redemptive covenant. In it, God expresses His purpose in redeeming man and judging Satan.

64) What are the words of the Adamic covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found in Genesis 3:14-24.
1. God promised the Seed of woman (Jesus) would crush the head of Satan while suffering only a bruised heel.

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2. Judgement for the sin of the Fall was pronounced:
- Against the serpent for being a tool of Satan.
 - Against Satan - he would be crushed.
 - Against Eve - she would endure increased pain in childbirth, and be ruled over by her husband.
 - Against Adam - he would have to toil and sweat to make a living from the land.
 - Against the earth - thorns and thistles were introduced among the food.
 - Adam and Eve were banished from Eden so they would not eat of the Tree of Life and live eternally in a sinful state.

"So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. [15] And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." [16] To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." [17] To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. [18] It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." [20] Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. [21] The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. [22] And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." [23] So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. [24] After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

GEN 3:14-24 NIV

65) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Adamic covenant?

- Animals were slain by God to cover Adam and Eve's sin. They tried to cover their sin with leaves but it was not an adequate covering. God had to shed the blood of animals to properly cover them.
 - This is the first introduction of a sacrifice offered on behalf of man.
- God Himself acted as the mediator of this covenant.

66) What is the seal of the Adamic covenant?

- The seal or remembrance of this covenant were the clothes of animal skins. A constant reminder that sin caused death.

67) Was the Adamic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- No. God emphasized judgement on sin while covering their nakedness with the skins of sacrificed animals. The promise of redemption was introduced which would ultimately come through the "seed" of the woman.

68) What is the background for the Noahic Covenant?

- A. Man's sin did not end in the garden. Man continued to increase in sin. Cain murdered his brother Abel. The family of Cain increased in wickedness until God judged their sin by destroying the earth in a flood.
- B. The only ones spared were Noah, a righteous man, his family, and representative groups of all animal life.

69) What is the Noahic covenant?

- A. This covenant was made with Noah, his family, and all mankind. It restated the promises of the Edenic covenant and promised never to destroy the earth by flood again.

70) What are the words of the Noahic covenant?

- A. The words of the covenant are found in Genesis 8:21-22 & 9:1-17
 - 1. God blessed Noah and his sons.
 - 2. God restated the terms of the Edenic Covenant.
 - a. Fruitfulness and an increase in numbers.
 - b. A call to rule over the creatures of the earth.
 - (1) This time it would be through fear and dread of man.
 - 3. Permission to eat meat was given for the first time reflecting one of the effects sin made in the earth.
 - 4. God would not extend the curse on the earth.
 - 5. God would never again destroy all living creatures.
 - 6. God established the four seasons.
 - a. Previously it had never even rained on the earth. See GEN 2:3-5, 7:4
 - 7. God promised never to judge the world with a universal flood.
 - 8. Man was allowed to eat meat but forbidden to eat blood.
 - 9. Murder was forbidden.
 - 10. If a man murdered, his life was to be taken.
 - a. This indicated the value God placed on human life made in His image.
 - b. This is the first indication of a governmental structure.

"The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. [22] "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

GEN 8:21-22 NIV

"Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. [2] The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. [3] Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. [4] "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. [5] And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. [6] "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for

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in the image of God has God made man. [7] As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." [8] Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: [9] "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you [10] 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. [11] I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." [12] 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: [13] I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. [14] Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, [15] 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. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." [17] So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

GEN 9:1-17 NIV

71) What is the blood (sacrifice) of the Noahic covenant?

- A. God instructed Noah to take additional clean animals with him on the ark. When they came to rest on dry land, Noah offered those animals in sacrifice to God.
- B. Noah functioned as priest for his house.

"Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, [3] and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth."

GEN 7:2-3 NIV

"Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it."

GEN 8:20 NIV

72) What is the seal of the Noahic covenant?

- A. The rainbow was the symbol of God's promise to never again destroy the earth with a universal flood.

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. [14] Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, [15] 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. [16] Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

GEN 9:13-16 NIV

73) Was the Noahic covenant an unconditional covenant?

- A. Yes. No matter how sinful man might grow, God pledged that His promise not to flood the earth would be to all future generations, an everlasting covenant.

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 6

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) List five points made in the words of the Edenic Covenant.

- 2) What is the visible sign of the Edenic Covenant?

- 3) Why did God want to prevent fallen man from eating of the tree of life under the Adamic Covenant?

- 4) What is the Noahic Covenant?

- 5) What was the seal of the Noahic covenant?
