

COVENANT: THE MAP OF GOD'S WORD
Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Vandalia, OH
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3. THE COVENANT MAP OF REDEMPITIVE HISTORY: THE ERA OF ANTICIPATION

A. Abraham: Covenant of Promise (Genesis 12-17)

1. Promises of the Covenant: The Lord Separates a People, to Bless All Peoples (Gen. 12)
2. Cutting of the Covenant: The Lord Lays His Life on the Line (Gen. 15; see Jeremiah 34:18-20)

Christ the Lord incurs the curse not because he broke his covenant commitment (Deuteronomy 21:23), but in order to keep his covenant commitment—and bless Abraham's offspring from all nations (Galatians 3:13-14)

3. Sign of the Covenant: Cutting of Circumcision (Gen. 17; Deuteronomy 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; see 4:9-12)
 - Someone may be **biologically related** to Abraham, belonging to the covenant family, and yet not benefit from the covenant blessings.
 - One may be **biologically unrelated** to Abraham at all, and still belong to the covenant community (and receive covenant blessing by faith). Abraham's household is a **preview of God's promise** to bless the Gentiles through Abraham.
 - Covenant blessing always comes by faith, not ancestry (John 8:39-44; Galatians 3:27-29).

B. Moses: Covenant of Commandments (Exodus 24; Deuteronomy 1-6; 27-28)

1. The Abrahamic Genesis of Israel's Exodus: God "Remembers" His Covenant, Frees His People and Leads Them Home (Exodus 2:23-25; 6:7-8)
2. Inauguration of the Covenant of Commandments (Exodus 24)
 - a) WORDS (Exodus 24:7): book of the covenant and people's pledge of allegiance
 - b) BLOOD (Exodus 24:5-8): on altar and on people
 - c) DINNER (Exodus 24:9-11): goal is covenant community, to glorify and enjoy him
3. Core of the Covenant: The Shema' and the Ten Words (Deut. 5-6)
 - a) The Covenant = Ten Words (Deuteronomy 5:6-21; see Exodus 34:28; Deut. 4:13; 10:4)
 - The Lord's initiative— "I brought you out of slavery"

- Exclusive loyalty— “No other gods in my presence”
 - Obligations: commands to servant, promises from the Lord
 - Consequences: blessing and curse (see Deuteronomy 27-28, below)
- b) The Shema’: Our Unique Lord and the exclusive loyalty due him (Deuteronomy 6)
- The Lord’s self-identification as “one” and as covenantally committed to Israel (“our God”) (6:4; see 10:18-19)
 - Love with all that we are (6:5)
 - Comprehensive covenantal nurture of ourselves and our children (6:6-9)
 - Dangers of forgetfulness (6:10-19)
 - The Commands *mean* Grace, to those who obey by faith (6:20-25; compare Exodus 12:24-27)
4. Consequences of the Covenant and the Promise of a New Covenant (Deut. 27-30)
5. Glimmers of grace: sanctuary and sacrifices
- C. David: Covenant of Kingship (2 Samuel 7, 23; Psalm 89)
1. The Lord’s promise to build David a “house” (dynasty), an eternal throne and kingdom (2 Samuel 7:8-16)
 2. David’s Last Words (divine oracle): an ideal ruler, a perpetual house, everlasting covenant (2 Samuel 23:3-5; Psalm 89:3-4; 28-33) ...but neither David (remember Bathsheba and Uriah) nor his successors to the throne are that perfect King
 3. The delinquency and discipline of David’s royal descendants—a crisis for the faithful: “How long, O Lord?” (Psalm 89:38-46)

Take-Aways

1. The “loose ends” of the Old Testament “era of anticipation,” the tension between God’s rock-solid covenant faithfulness as Lord and the failures of his human servants leaves us longing for:
 - An offspring of Abraham, who will bring blessing to all nations
 - A faithful Israel, who will do all that the Lord commands with his whole heart
 - A king who rules justly, in the fear of God, whose subjects thrive under his dominion.
2. Flawed but relatively faithful servants (Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Hezekiah, Daniel, etc.) sow God’s grace working by faith in anticipation of redemption’s accomplishment.
3. Their successes foreshadow the flawless covenant-keeping of the final Servant of the Lord.
4. Stay tuned.... the covenant map of the Bible is about to bring us to our destination!