



2017 Q3 Lesson 10: The Two Covenants

Getting Windows Ready - Don't Turn Off Your Computer

Getting Christians Ready - Don't Turn Off Your Mind

“The life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:20

“As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.” COL 333

Memory Verse: “But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.” Galatians 4:26 NIV

Things I do not like to think about:

- The Movie “Titanic”
- Friend watching the movie “A Cry in the Dark”
Story of the Chamberlains experience after a dingo stole their baby out of the camping tent
“Don't leave your baby”
- Certain Bible passages I do not like to read:
Genesis 3
2 Samuel 11 - David and Bathsheba
Genesis 16 - Abram, Sara & Hagar

Read Galatians 4:21 - 31 (the passage for this week) What prompted Paul to write the letter to the Galatian churches?

- The abandonment of the “gospel” by the Galatian believers
- Letter organization
Angst over believers choosing a different gospel
Paul's History
Persecutor of Christ
Conversion
Sequestration in Arabia to be taught by the Holy Spirit
Trip to Jerusalem to confer with Peter & James
Council in Jerusalem confirming his mission to the Gentiles
Opposition of Peter's hypocrisy
Restoration of unity with God is by trusting God and not by trying to do some specific task or “works”
The life I now live is by trusting Christ
Galatians 2:20
How did the Galatians first come to God: by trust. ----- Now what has



happened

This is just how it was with Abraham

Galatians 3:6 “Consider the experience of Abraham; as the scripture says, “He believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous.””

Christ redeemed us from the natural consequences of lawlessness

The law was given to identify sin and death

Prior to our trusting God, the law was a guardian and tutor to bring us to God
Those who trust God are truly Abraham’s descendants

Sonship by adoption vs foreigners

(last week) the appeal of a pastor with a desire for his children

This week an allegory of two covenants

SABBATH

The Two Covenants

First paragraph begins with a discussion of how people have misunderstood the two covenants we are talking about today: Sinai and Abraham

Second paragraph: “The legalism that Paul was confronting in Galatia was a perversion, not just of Christianity but of the Old Testament itself.”

SUNDAY

Covenant Basics

Covenant - definition

“Various agreements into which God has, from time to time, entered with men - Noah, Abraham, and Israel for example.

“New Covenant” - Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:8-13

Human covenant

Between equals

Imposed by superior on an inferior

How many covenants did God make with humans?

More than 12, depending on how strict you want to define covenant

Covenants as **promises** made in the vernacular / language of human contracts / promises.

How you read the covenants is largely understood by which lense you see God and His dealings with His creation.



(How you see God also has a great influence by which you view God: as benevolent, stern, judgmental, gracious, loving being.)

How you see God determines whether you need a potion (“Grace”) applied to you (with a paint brush or roller to cover or hide you) or you need a gracious being as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe who is reconciling you to Himself by His strength.

“When that day comes, you will ask him in my name; and I do not say that I will ask him on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you. He loves you because you love me and have believed that I came from God.” John 16:26, 27

Biblical covenants

KJV - 272 hits (Study Guide states nearly 300 uses of the Hebrew word)

first listed is with Noah - Genesis 6:18

Second is listed in Genesis 9:9

Made with Noah, all humans, animals and every living creature.

Promise that there would never be an all encompassing flood again.

Gave a token of the covenant: the rainbow

Noah did not have to do anything to make the covenant happen.

How did Noah keep the first two covenants?

The deliverance from the flood

The promise of no new flood

Bottom paragraph: Is a description of imposed vs design law paradigm. Which way would you have written this?

MONDAY

The Abrahamic Covenant

The first covenant God made with Abram was a promise of blessings if Abraham would leave and go

The second covenant . . . for all the land of Palestine to be given to Abram’s descendants (Gen 15:18)
It was sealed in a manner typical of contracts at that time in that region. Yet, it was more a promise on God’s part than an agreement on Abram’s part.

It was ten years later that Abram and Sarah hatched the plan for Hagar to have a son for the family: again typical for the customs of the day in that region.

Abram and Sarah were doing what was the common practice for lineage and inheritance in their day and age.



TUESDAY

Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar

Read the last sentence of the 3rd paragraph.

“Had Abraham trusted in what God had promised him instead of letting the circumstances overcome that trust, none of this would have happened, and a lot of grief would have been avoided.”

How do we know when to choose a solution or not?

Proverbs 3:5 , 6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.”

Why are certain people included in the Bible narrative? Why are certain people or people groups not included in the Bible narrative?

Do you ever feel like your life is meaningless in spite of faithful service to God?

Let’s talk briefly about people that could be spoken more about. People complain that certain peoples are not included in the Bible. China, Northern Europe, etc.

Many people are mentioned in the Bible and then we never hear about anything else they did. Sometimes even their names are not known.

1 Kings 19:18 “7000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

The “woman at the well”

Some we know their name and still don’t know much about them: **Keturah.**

In the last paragraph of Tuesday’s lesson it lists Hebrews 11:11, 12. Read this passage. . .

“It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father, even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have children. He trusted God to keep his promise. Though Abraham was practically dead, from this one man came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, as many as the numberless grains of sand on the seashore.”

What do you know about Abraham’s vitality? How many sons did Abraham have?

8: Ishmael, Isaac, plus the six sons of Keturah (Genesis 25:1)

One of the sons was Midian. Who were the Midianites? Do you know any stories of the Midianites?



Who was Joseph sold to when he was sent to Egypt as a slave? Where did Moses flee to when he was escaping from the consequences of Pharaoh?

Who was Moses' father-in-law?

Jethro

The priest of Midian (Exodus 3:1)

Where did Midian live?

Who solicited Balaam to curse Israel? (Numbers 22:7)

Who were the ones who led the Children of Israel into immoral behavior on the very threshold of Canaan? (Numbers 25)

Who did Gideon defeat?

Why were they warring against Israel?

What is the life-cycle and trajectory of Midian?

- one of the sons of Abraham
- this family and subsequently his family grew up in a God-fearing and worshiping family was circumcised with all of the other members of the family and staff
- Had a priest who was a worshiper of the true God
- became further and further away from the true God to the point they were worshiping immorally and induced the Children of Israel to do the same (the whole story of Peor)
- Eventually became blood enemies of their cousins and warred with them and subdued them, stealing their food / crops to the point of starvation (where / why was Gideon when the angel of the Lord appeared to him)

There has been a great deal of criticism of the path that God guided the Children of Israel in the Old Testament

- The purging of the land from idolatry
- The separation from intermarriage with Gentile neighbors
- The strange ceremonial laws
- circumcision of the males
- To what purpose were all these "laws" made?
 - Natural law
 - there were some health benefits to some of the restrictions
 - Preservation of the progenitors of the Anointed One to come.
 - Encourage faithfulness to righteousness

What was the purpose for the Children of Israel to be a separate people? Why is their story told and not someone else? Are they more important in God's eyes than other national groups?

- They were the keepers of His law and commands
- They were the progenitors of the Promised Anointed One



- They were to tell others of God
- They are only important when they are fulfilling the purpose for which they were designed.
 - When they obstruct God's message either by lifestyle or other choices, they cease to be important in the narrative.

Why have we not read more about Abraham's other children? Because they have little to say about the central message of God's character, love and redemption portrayed in the remainder of scripture.

- The Bible has a "Grand central theme"
- God has used people from all walks of life to help tell His story
 - Amos: Fig grower / fig picker / shepherd (farm laborer, in current terms he was a migrant worker)
 - Jeremiah: Royal family member
 - Disciples
 - We know a lot about some
 - Peter
 - James
 - John
 - Judas
 - A little about three
 - Andrew
 - Thomas
 - Matthew
 - ...
 - Names only
 - Thaddeus
 - Simon the Zealot
 - Song: "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight. . ."
- "Gross darkness"
 - Isaiah 60:2 - 3
 - Acts 28:26 - 27
 - What were they in the dark about?
 - What was the purpose of Christ?
 - Read John 17:1 - 8

After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. For you gave him authority over all people, so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have shown your glory on earth; **I have finished the work you gave me to do.** Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the



world was made.

"I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your word, and now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. I gave them the message that you gave me, and they received it; they know that it is true that I came from you, and they believe that you sent me.

WEDNESDAY

Hagar and Mount Sinai

Exodus 6:2 - 8, 19:3 - 6; Deut 32:10 - 12

God appeared to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob as God Almighty (El Shadday)

God appeared to Moses & the Children of Israel as God of existence and creation. (Yahveh, Jehovah)

Exodus 19:5 - 6 "Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Exodus 19:8 "All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!"

God is giving promises and assurances of who He is and how He will take care of them. They are assuring Him that they will do whatever He says, and they mean well.

Compare with Peter's denial of Christ.

- Matthew 26:31 - 35
- Mark 14:27 - 31
- Luke 22:61
- John 13:36 - 38

This covenant is not a contract you must fulfill, but a promise that is yours to "keep." Compare this with the memories of the miracles and surroundings of Christ's birth that Mary "treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Psalms 1:2 "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night."

Psalms 119

"No one who believes in Jesus Christ is under bondage to the law of God; for His law is a law



of life, not of death, to those who obey its precepts. All who comprehend the spirituality of the law, all who realize its power as a detector of sin, are in just as helpless a condition as is Satan himself, unless they accept the atonement provided for them in the remedial sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who is our atonement - at-one-ment with God.” 6BC 1077.5

“Through faith in Christ obedience to every principle of the law is made possible.” 6BC 1077.6

KJV translation and the word “peculiar”

- Deuteronomy 14:2; Exodus 19:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9
- See *The King James Word Book* pp 254, 255

THURSDAY

Ishmael and Isaac Today

Read the first two paragraphs. What do you think?

The highlighted question at the end of the page: “... ask yourself this hard question: might you be guilty of persecuting others for *their* faith?”

FRIDAY

Further Thought

God Made Manifest in Christ. ST, January 20, 1890 par. 9

What is an allegory?

How is the works based religion of the “Judaizers” any different from the SDA theology of Sabbath keeping?