

The 7 Covenants of God

The Bible speaks of seven different covenants, four of which (Abrahamic, Palestinian, Mosaic, Davidic) God made with the nation of Israel, and are unconditional in nature. That is, regardless of Israel's obedience or disobedience, God still will fulfill these covenants with the nation of Israel. One of the covenants, the Mosaic Covenant, is conditional in nature. That is, this covenant will bring either blessing or cursing depending on Israel's obedience or disobedience. Three of the covenants (Adamic, Noahic, New) are made between God and Mankind in general, and are not limited to the nation of Israel.

1) The **Adamic Covenant** can be thought of in two parts: the Edenic Covenant (innocence) and the Adamic Covenant (grace) (Genesis 3:16-19). The Edenic Covenant is found in Genesis 1:26-30; 2:16-17. The Edenic Covenant outlined Mankind's responsibility toward Creation and God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Adamic Covenant included the curses pronounced against Mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God's provision for that sin (Genesis 3:15).

2) The **Noahic Covenant** was an unconditional covenant between God and Noah (specifically) and Humanity (generally). After the Flood, God promised Humanity that He would never again destroy all life on Earth with the Flood (see Genesis chapter 9). God gave the rainbow as the sign of the covenant, a promise that the entire Earth would never again flood, and a reminder that God can and will judge sin (2 Peter 2:5).

3) **Abrahamic Covenant** (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18). In this covenant, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great (Genesis 12:2), that Abraham would have numerous physical descendants (Genesis 13:16), and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations (Genesis 17:4-5). God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. In fact, the geographical boundaries of the Abrahamic Covenant are laid out on more than one occasion in the book of Genesis (12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21). Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the world will be blessed through the physical line of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). This is a reference to the Messiah, who would come from the line of Abraham.

4) **Palestinian Covenant** (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). The Palestinian Covenant amplifies the land aspect which was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant. In this covenant, God, because of the people's disobedience, would cause them to be scattered around the world (Deuteronomy 30:3-4), and He would eventually restore the nation together (verse 5). When the nation is restored, then they will obey Him perfectly (verse 8), and God will cause them to prosper (verse 9).

5) **Mosaic Covenant** (Deuteronomy 11; et al). The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant that either brought God's direct blessing for obedience or God's direct cursing for disobedience upon the nation of Israel. Part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20, but also the rest of the law which contained over 600 commands - roughly 300 positive and 300 negative. The history books of the Old Testament (Joshua - Esther) detail how Israel succeeded at obeying the law or how Israel failed miserably at obeying the law. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 details specifically the blessing / cursing motif.

6) **Davidic Covenant** (2 Samuel 7:8-16). The Davidic Covenant amplifies the seed aspect which was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises to David in this passage are very significant. God promised that David's physical line of descent would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away permanently (verse 16). This kingdom, furthermore, would have a ruling individual exercising authority over it (verse 16). Obviously, the Davidic throne has not been in place at all times. There will be a time, however, when someone from the line of David will again sit on the throne and rule as king. This future king is Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).

7) **New Covenant** (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The New Covenant is a covenant made first with the nation of Israel, and ultimately with all Mankind. In the New Covenant, God promises to forgive sin, and there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law of Moses (Matthew 5:17) and create a new covenant between God and His people. Now that we are under the New Covenant, both Jews and Gentiles can be free from the penalty of the law. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9).
