

COVENANTS

PART 1—INTRODUCTION AND ADAM, NOAH, AND ABRAHAM

I. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

What does Biblical Theology have to do with *covenants*?

“A *covenant* is an agreement enacted between two parties in which one or both make promises under oath to perform or refrain from certain actions stipulated in advance.”¹

ברית (*bərit*) and διαθήκη (*diathēkē*)

binding and not binding

macro and micro (or general and specific)

“...As such, covenant is the instrument constituting the rule (or kingdom) of God, and therefore it is a valuable lens through which one can recognize and appreciate the biblical ideal of religious community.”²

Why are covenants difficult for us to understand in 21st century Western culture?

II. STRUCTURE OF COVENANTAL TREATIES

III. MAJOR BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Adam	Genesis 1-3
Noah	Genesis 6-9
Abraham	Genesis 12/15/17
Moses	Exodus 19:3b-8; 20-24
David	2 Samuel 7, Psalm 89
New Covenant	Jeremiah 31-34, Ezekiel 33:29-39:29

¹ George E. Mendenhall and Gary A. Herion, “Covenant,” ed. David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 1179.

² *Ibid.*

IV. ADAM AND NOAH

V. ABRAHAM

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