

COVENANT I

I. Definition

A. "A bond in blood, sovereignly administered."

1. **Relationship** (True meaning of COVENANT can only be discerned from context) (*Considering Noah, Moses & David*)

B. "A cut covenant"

1. 'To cut' is used to represent the whole.
2. A pledge to the death-self deprecation.
3. A bond of life & death
 - a) Emphasized in Hebrews 9:22 -"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."
 - b) Note pouring out of blood - sole relief from Covenant obligations.

C. Types of Covenants

1. **Man with man**
2. **God with man**
3. **Man with God**

- a) Only in the context of an existing Covenant initiated by God and only appears as a renewal of said Covenant.

D. Contrast of Testament and Covenant (*The fact that the latter section of our Bible is called the 'New Testament' is indicative of a doctrinal dispute.*)

1. Both relate to death.
2. Both are activated at a death.
3. Covenant has it's symbolic death at the BEGINNING, while the Testament has it's death at the END. (The KEY is Relationship!)
4. COVENANT: Death is symbolic TESTAMENT: Death is actual (i.e. Testator)
5. In a TESTAMENT there is NO symbolic death and the Testator doesn't die for violation of the LAST WILL & TESTAMENT (see Pg. 12)

E. Christ as SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE.

1. SUBSTITUTION is essential to understand death of Jesus Christ.
2. Substitutionary death has NO place in the TESTAMENT. (*Utterly foreign!*)
 - a) Christ died for **our** COVENANT violations NOT to activate a LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.
3. We are HEIRS by ADOPTION NOT by Testamentary fiat! (*per John Murray, Adoption is the greatest gift of God in Christ Jesus!*)
 - a) Illustration: Donald Trump.
4. The LORD'S SUPPER is a COVENANT MEAL with elements of both FULFILLMENT & INAUGURATION. (*Christ fully satisfied God's righteous demands for the FIRST TIME*)
 - a) Illustration: G. Campbell Morgan - Scarlet Thread (The Analyzed Bible (1908) vs Three-fold Cord)
5. The COVENANT makes SUCCESSION arrangements not TESTAMENTARY. (*Contrast a Dynasty versus a one-time gift!*)

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F. **BOND IN BLOOD** (Illustration: RSV Controversy)

1. The COVENANT contains Commitments with **Life & Death consequences**.
2. It is FORMALIZED by **blood shedding** (these issues aren't in the *fine print*)
3. Signifies **intensity** of commitment.
4. **Duration** of commitment (lifelong - until death; *'til the last drop of blood!*)
5. **Bad scholarship** has suggested that these are MUTUAL COMPACTS (SYNERGISTIC V. MONERGISTIC).
6. Both Biblical and Extra-biblical evidence points to a UNILATERAL form of COVENANT establishment. (*God's Way or NO WAY!*)
7. NO bargaining, bartering or contracting permitted - GOD is SOVEREIGN! (cp. *Prayer*)
8. Through the successive COVENANTS the mode of administration is the same - **GOD is SOVEREIGN!**
9. Emphases of COVENANTS: Promissory or legal (*Promises or Laws; contrast Koran - 1st person imperatives only!*).

The Christ of the Covenants

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