

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

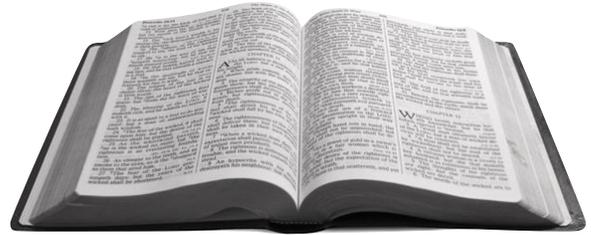
Genesis 12:1-3

Lesson #9

Israel's Covenants

03/03/2019

## How to read the Old Testament



1

### The foundation of the O.T

1. Human **Dignity** - We are made in the image of God, which is (a very big deal).
2. Human **Depravity** - The Fall of Adam was also a (a very big deal).

**Culture wars**  
**Science & Ethics**

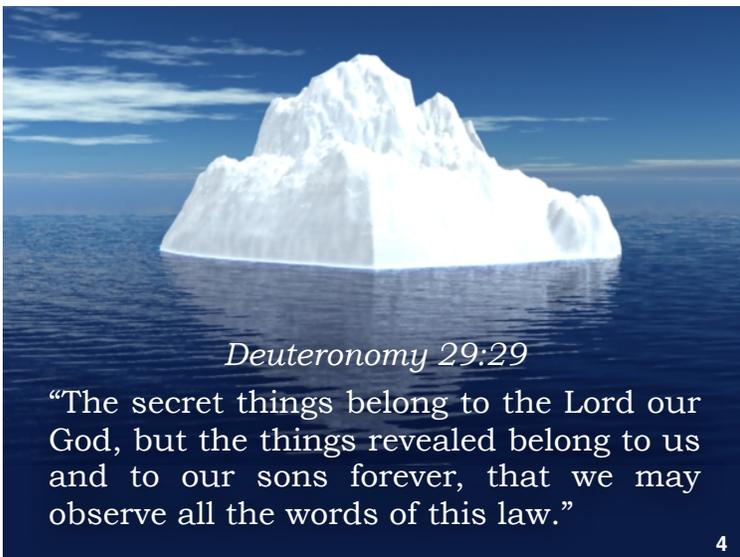


2

### Theodicy - Partial explanations

1. A response to the severity of **human depravity**.
2. An expression of a **gradual disclosure** of the divine nature.
3. A reflection of **ancient culture**.
4. An example of **accommodation** to human nature and development.
5. **A part of the bigger story** of human redemption through the Cross of Christ.

3



Deuteronomy 29:29

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

4

### The story of the O.T

1. Human **Dignity** - We are made in the image of God, which is (a very big deal).
2. Human **Depravity** - The Fall of Adam was also a (a very big deal).
3. Human **Destiny** - The Covenant Promise is (a very big deal).

**Civil wars**

5

*1 Corinthians 1*

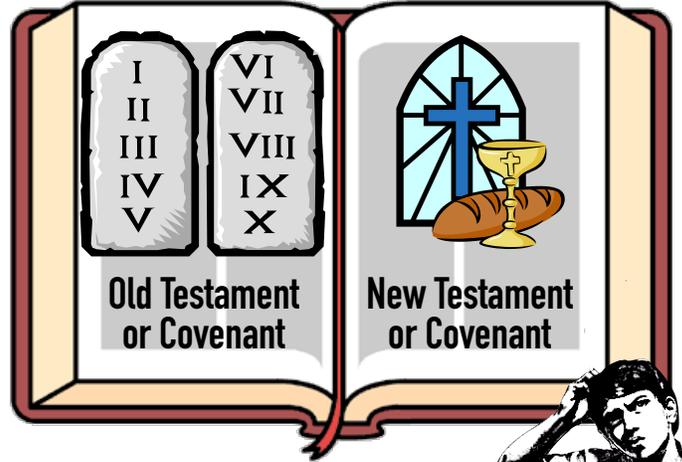
“10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.””

Cephas (Peter) & Christ



Paul & Apollos

The Christian’s relationship to the O.T. Law? 6

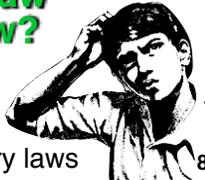


**Two general views**

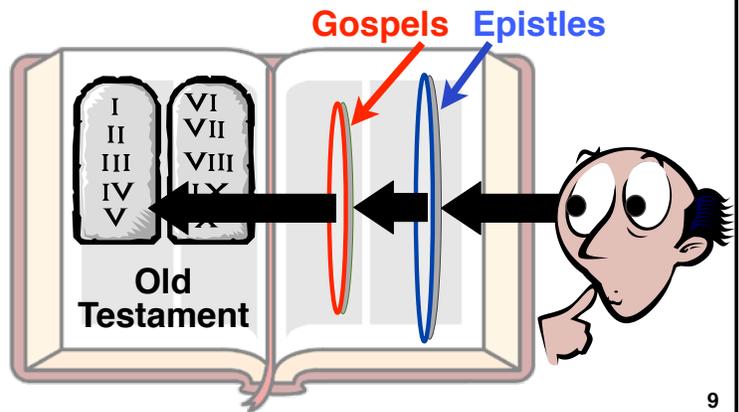
1. Those who see the N.T. as an **upgrade** of the O.T. operating system.  
“Judaizers” - Christianity is reformed Judaism
2. Those who see the N.T. (after Pentecost) as a **new** operating system.  
Paul’s Gospel - no longer under the Law

**How much of the O.T. law am I expected to follow?**

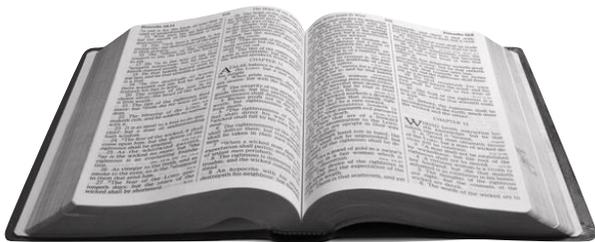
support of national Israel  
 sabbath      10 commandments  
 temporal / material focus      dietary laws



**We read the O.T. through the lens of the N.T.**



**The Covenant system is the framework for O.T. Theology**

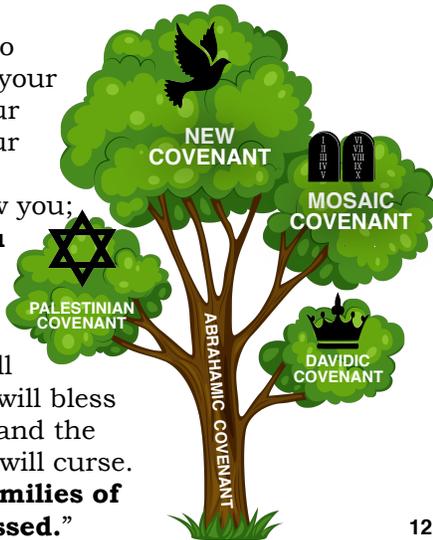


**The significance of “Biblical Covenants”**

1. They are contracts that lay out **rules of engagement in a relationship** (in this case between God and His chosen people - Israel).
2. They imply and demand a dynamic relationship with **responsibilities, free choices, and consequences**.
3. They solidify the **community identity** of the Israelites.
4. They are the basis of **faith and hope** for the fallen world through Israel’s Messiah.

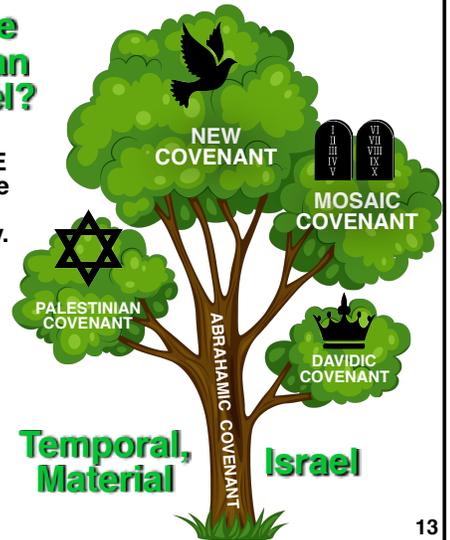
*Genesis 12*

“1 Now the Lord said to Abram, go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to **the land** which I will show you; 2 and **I will make you a great nation**, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; 3 and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. **And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**”

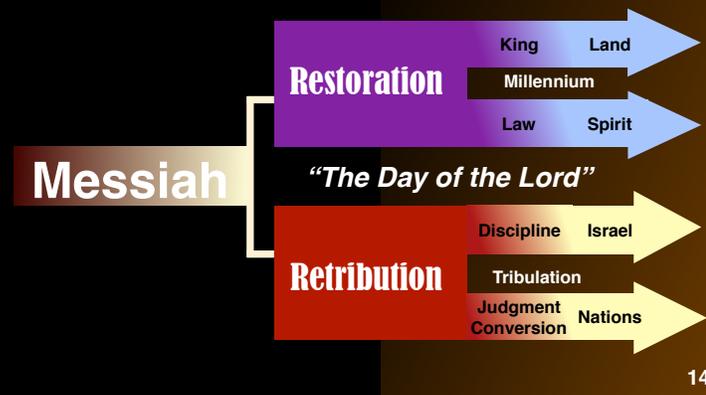


**What did these covenants mean to ancient Israel?**

- 1. Abrahamic C.**  
This was the **PROMISE** that Israel would be the center of God’s plan and blessing in history.
- 2. Palestinian C.**  
The land of Palestine would be home for God’s people.
- 3. David C.**  
Messiah would rule over all the earth.
- 4. New C.**  
God would write His Law on Israel’s heart.

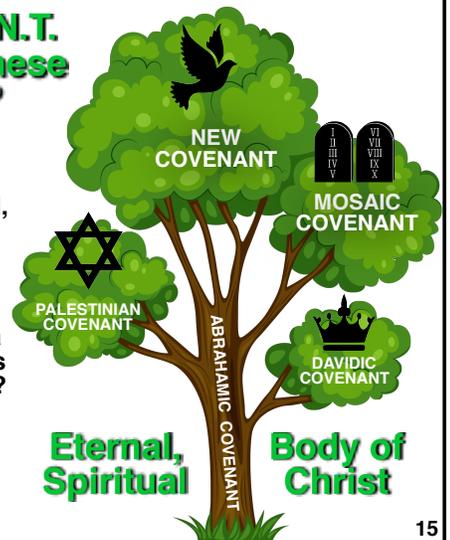


**What were the O.T. Prophets expecting in the future?**



**How does the N.T. shed light on these covenants?**

- 1. ISRAEL**  
The covenants are each made with Israel, but what constitutes “**true Israel**”?
- 2. PROMISE**  
The covenants offer a Messianic hope, but is it **material or spiritual**?
- 3. LAW**  
How does the Mosaic covenant relate to the, Abrahamic, and New?



*Genesis 17*

“7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your **offspring (seed)** after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, **all the land of Canaan**, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” 9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.””

**Who are the true heirs of the promise who will inherit the blessings of Abraham?**

**Physical descendants of Abraham**  
  
(marked by circumcision)

**Spiritual descendants of Abraham**  
  
(marked by faith)



*Genesis 22:18*

“In **your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

*Galatians 3:16*

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, **Christ**.”

1.

**The Promise to Abraham was Jesus Christ not national Israel.**

Judaizer’s teaching  
**Jewish people**

Paul’s teaching  
**Christ**

*Romans 2*

“28 For **he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.** 29 **But he is a Jew who is one inwardly;** and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter;”

*Romans 9*

“6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For **they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;** 7 neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “*through Isaac your descendants will be named.*” 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.”

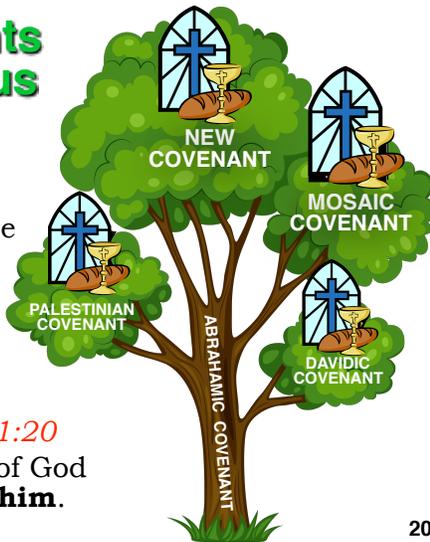
## The covenants point to Jesus

*John 5:39*

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is **these that bear witness of Me.**”

*2 Corinthians 1:20*

“For the promises of God **find their YES in him.**”



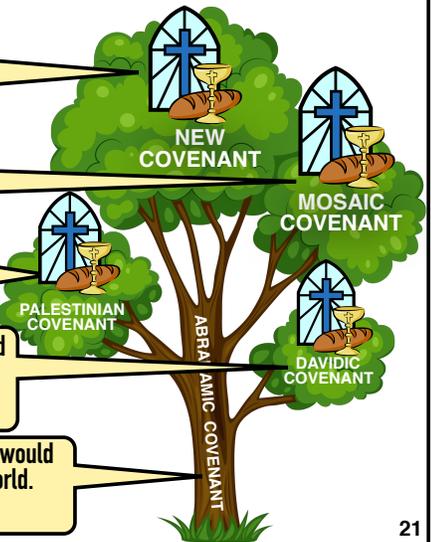
He is the New Covenant Spirit indwelling God’s people. (Heb. 8:6-13)

He is the satisfaction of the Law for God’s people. (Heb. 10:1-18)

He is the promised land of rest for God’s people. (Heb. 4:8-10)

He is the Davidic king who would rule over God’s people (Acts 2:29-36)

He is the seed of Abraham who would be a blessing to the whole world. (Gal. 3:15-16)



*Galatians 3*

“18 For if the inheritance is based on **law**, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a **promise.** 19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.**”

2.

**The Promise to Abraham was a gift of grace not earned by obeying the Law.**

The Judaizers  
**merit**

Paul’s teaching  
**faith**

# History is HIS Story.

# The Gospel is not about DO it is about DONE.

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## Galatians 3

“26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

3.

**The Promise to Abraham was a call to ethnic and economic integration not segregation.**

The Judaizers      Paul’s teaching  
Jews and proselytes      neither Jew nor Gentile

25

Promised blessing to Abraham  
Genesis 12:1-3

through  
the Law



To Jews  
only

God’s  
Glorious Kingdom



Gentiles  
could be included  
only by becoming  
Jewish proselytes

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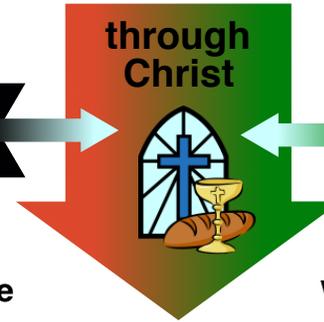
Promised blessing to Abraham  
Genesis 12:1-3

through  
Christ



To all  
who believe

Jews and Gentiles were both included  
on the basis of their faith in Christ



To all  
who believe

27

## Affirmative action in ethnic / racial relationships.

### Acts 6

“1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “3 . . . select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. . . .” 5 And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.”

28

## Affirmative action in economic matters.

### James 2

“1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?”

29

***Be somebody  
who makes  
everyone  
feel like a  
somebody.***

30

***1 Corinthians 11***

“25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**The covenant of promise made to Abraham is realized in his “seed” (Christ) and offered to his people who are united with Christ by faith.**



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