

## LESSON - 9

# COVENANTS

**References** : Genesis. 1 : 26 - 31  
: Genesis. 8 : 21 - 9:17  
: Genesis. 15 : 12 - 18

**Memory verse** : 2 Cori. 1 : 20

**Objective:** To understand that God is faithful and just in all His dealings and to realise the greatness of God's new covenant through Jesus Christ.

**Introduction:** In the previous lessons we have learned about the dispensations. We understood how God dealt with man in each dispensation. Now, let us study about the covenant that God made to man in each dispensation. Mainly there are eight covenants such as, Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Palestenian, Davidic and the **New Covenant**.

As we study about these covenants, we will know the excellence and greatness of the New Covenant through Jesus Christ.

### 1. **EDENIC COVENANT** : (*Genesis 1:28-30, 2:15-17*).

This covenant was given during the dispensation of innocence.

#### **Conditions:**

- a) Have children so as to fill the earth by the descendants.
- b) Have control over the earth.

- c) Have dominion over the animal creation.
- d) Eat herbs and fruits.
- e) Guard and cultivate the garden.

**Test :** Don't eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil.

**Punishment :** Death and expulsion. A very simple test was given to know whether the man would obey the commandment of God or not. The result was failure on man's side. As warned by God they were subject to death.

## 2. ADAMIC COVENANT (*Genesis. 3 : 13 - 21*)

This covenant was given to Adam and Eve after they broke the first covenant. The Adamic covenant conditions the life of fallen man. The elements of the Adamic covenant are :-

- a) The consequence of sin on
  - i) The Serpent (Satan's tools)
  - ii) The woman (The executer, deceived by satan)
  - iii) The man (The deliberate participant)
  - iv) The Earth (Cursed due to man's sin)
- b) The first promise of a Redeemer.

"The seed of the woman shall crush the head of the serpent"  
Introduced sacrifices until its fulfilment by Jesus christ.

Some covenants have certain conditions. Of such conditions too, some remain overlapping a certain period of ages. The condition of this covenant is a transitional one which has its effect till the Kingdom Age. The promise of the Redeemer was fulfilled in Jesus Christ (with this covenant begins the lineage of "The seed of The Woman "beginning from Seth through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and David.

**Punishment :** Destruction by Flood.

## 3. NOAHIC COVENANT (*Genesis. 8: 21-9 :17*)

This was the covenant God made to Noah after the earth was destroyed by flood. In this also we see God's love demonstrated to man. This covenant was given at the beginning of the dispensation of Human Government. The main elements of this covenant are:

- a) The earth is secured against another universal Judgement by flood.
- b) Be fruitful with children and multiply on the earth to fill it by descendants.
- c) Eating of flesh permitted.
- d) Human government established.

**Punishment:** Confusion of language.

#### 4. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (*Genesis. 5: 12- 18*)

This was the covenant God made to Abraham who left his own country, believing and obeying God. Main elements of this covenant are:

- a) Promise of Christ as the seed of Abraham, through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed.
- b) Promise of the land to the descendants of Abraham marked by boundaries as "from the river of Egypt to the river of Euphrates".
- c) That Abraham's descendants would be strangers in a foreign land and after four hundred years would return.

**Punishment:** Famine.

#### 5. MOSAIC COVENANT (*Exodus 19: 25-20: 17, 24:6-8*)

This was the covenant that God made to Israel at the time of Moses. The main element of this covenant is "The Ten Commandments" comprising of conditions in relation to God (first four) and man (the six). In this, blessing is conditional.

**Punishment :** Scattering among nations.

#### 6. PALESTINIAN COVENANT (*Deut. 30 : 3-5*)

This was another covenant that God made to Israel. It laid down that in spite of being scattered to all nations in punishment, Israel would be brought back and restored in their Promise Land Palestine. History bears witness to this fact that God keeps His covenant in this respect even today.

## 7. DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 Samuel 7: 8-17)

This was the covenant God made to David, after rejection of Saul from the throne. The main elements are:

- a) The Dynasty of David to be for ever.
- b) His throne to be established for ever.
- c) His kingdom to be established for ever.

This found its fulfilment in **Jesus Christ the Seed of the woman**. That is why it was mentioned to Mary by the angel Gabriel:

- 1) "You will name Him Jesus.
- 2) The Lord God will give Him the Throne of David.
- 3) His kingdom will never end.

## 8. THE NEW COVENANT (Heb. 10: 14- 16, Mtt. 26 :28, Jer. 31: 31)

The man could not fulfil any of the covenants, due to the weakness of human nature. There fore, God prepared the way of salvation for man through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Under the new covenant man can obtain Justification and a new nature by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

May God help us to receive Jesus Christ by faith as our Lord and Saviour and obtain salvation and to grow in His grace.

### EXCERCISE 9

*Answer the following questions*

1. How many covenants are there? What are they?
2. When was the Edenic covenant given?
3. What were the conditions of this covenant?
4. What was the test and the Punishment given during the Edenic covenant?
5. When was the Adamic covenant given?
6. What were the elements of the Adamic covenant?
7. When was the Noahic covenant given?

8. What was the punishment given during the Noahic covenant?
9. What were the main elements of this covenant?
10. To whom was the Abrahamic covenant made?
11. What were the main elements of this covenant?
12. What was the punishment given during the Abrahamic covenant?
13. When and to whom was the Mosaic covenant made ?
14. What were the main elements of this covenant?
15. What punishment was given during this covenant?
16. What was Palestinian covenant?
17. When and to whom was the Davidic covenant made?
18. What were the main elements of this covenant?
19. When did the Davidic covenant find its fulfilment?
20. Why did God give the New Covenant?
21. What can men obtain under this New Covenant?

