








5 - The Eight Covenants of the Bible

Types of Covenants:

- **Parity:** This is a covenant between two equal parties. Typically both parties need to give something in order to get something.
- **Suzerainty:** This is a covenant between a greater party (i.e. a king or God) and a lesser party (i.e. a vassal or servant). In this type of covenant, the suzerain defines all of the stipulations.
- **Conditional:** This is a bi-lateral agreement between two parties. If you do something, I will do something. One party promises to do something if the other meets the defined conditions.
- **Unconditional:** This is a unilateral agreement between two parties. In this type of covenant, one party unconditionally promises something without anything required from the other party.



| Covenant | Scriptures | Participants | Provisions | Status | Sign (Seal) |
|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Edenic (Conditional Suzerainty) |  Genesis (1:28-30) Genesis (2:15-17) Hosea (6:7) | God and Adam (Adam represented all of humankind) | 1) Be fruitful and multiply. 2) Subdue the earth. 3) Take dominion over all living things. 4) Herbs, seeds & fruit for food. 5) Dress and keep the garden. 6) Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 7) If you eat from the tree, you will surely die. | This covenant was the basis for dispensational "Innocence" and was broken in Genesis (3:1-8) resulting in the "Adamic Covenant". | The Tree of Life |
| Adamic (Unconditional Suzerainty) |  Genesis (3:14-19) | God, Serpent (Satan), Adam, Woman (Adam and Woman represented all of humankind) | Serpent (Satan): He is cursed above all other creatures, is to crawl on his belly, and dust will be for his food. There is enmity between you and the woman and your seed will bruise the heel of the woman but her seed will crush your head. Woman: Greater sorrow and pain in child birth and a desire to rebel against being under her husband's subjection. Man: The ground is cursed and tending it will be hard work. Humankind: Immediate spiritual death and eventual physical death. | This covenant was the basis for dispensational "Conscience" and is still in effect today. | Death |
| Noahic (Unconditional Suzerainty) |  Genesis (8:20-22) Genesis (9:1-17) | God and Noah (Noah represented all of humankind) | 1) Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. 2) The fear of man was put into the animals and they were given to man. 3) Humankind could eat any animal but was not to drink the blood. 4) One man was not to kill another; otherwise they were to be killed. 5) Promise that God would never flood the earth again. | This covenant was the basis for the dispensation of "Human Government" and is still in effect today. | Rainbow |
| Abrahamic (Unconditional Suzerainty) |  Genesis (12:1-3) Genesis (13:14-17) Genesis (15:1-21) Genesis (17:1-21) Genesis (22:15-18) | God and Abraham (Abraham represented all of the Israelites) | 1) A great nation will come from Abraham through many descendants. 2) Descendants would get certain lands (Canaan). 3) Abraham and his descendants would be blessed and would bless others. 4) Those who blessed descendants would be blessed. 5) Those who cursed descendants would be cursed. | This covenant was the basis for the dispensation of "Promise" and is still in effect today. | Circumcision |
| Mosaic (Conditional Suzerainty) |  Exodus (20:1-31) Exodus (18) | God and The Nation of Israel | 1) The law as a whole was given (10 commandments & 613 other laws) 2) Blessings and Judgements were defined. 3) Blood sacrifices were required for sin and offerings were defined. 4) Dietary restrictions were imposed. 5) The death penalty was expanded (ex. adultery, cursing God, witchcraft, etc.). | This covenant was the basis for the dispensation of "Law" and came to an end at the death of Jesus Christ. | The Sabbath |
| Palestinian (Land) (Unconditional Suzerainty) |  Deuteronomy (29:1) Deuteronomy (30:1-20) | God and The Nation of Israel | 1) Israel will break the Mosaic law and will be scattered. 2) Israel will be punished through tribulations 3) Israel will be regathered, will repent, and Jesus will return. 4) Israel will possess the promised land and rebuild their relationship with God. 5) The enemies of Israel will be judged. | This covenant is normally viewed as a reaffirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant and is still in effect. | Blessings and Curses |
| Davidic (Unconditional Suzerainty) |  2nd Samuel (7:4-17) 1st Chronicles (17:4-15) | God and David (David represented his descendants) | 1) David would be part of an eternal dynasty. 2) Solomon would establish a throne after David and build the temple. 3) Solomon would be disciplined for disobedience 4) The Messiah would come through David's line and establish His throne forever. 5) Promised Eternal Dynasty, Kingdom, Throne, and Descendants. | This covenant is still in effect. | Everlasting Kingdom |
| New (Eternal) (Unconditional Suzerainty) | Jeremiah (31:31-34) Matthew (26:28) Mark (14:24) Luke (22:20) Hebrews (8:8-12) Hebrews (13:20-21) | Jesus Christ and The Apostles (The Apostles represented the "Church") | 1) The law and Mosaic Covenant are ended. 2) Two new commandments are given to replace the original ten. 3) The Sabbath is ended (Rest is found through belief in Jesus). 4) The salvation of Israel is to extend to gentiles. 5) An everlasting provision for sin is to be made by the blood of Jesus. 6) The Holy Spirit is promised to indwell believers. | This covenant is the basis for the dispensation of "Grace" and is in effect eternally. | Baptism and The Lord's Supper |