

# SESSION 1: THE CRISIS OF CALVINISM'S COVENANT THEOLOGY

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## CONCERNING COVENANT THEOLOGY, PSALM 138:1-2

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**Defn.:** *Biblical authority* means the authority for our living faith, and for our spiritual practice, is derived from God's written word, because the Bible takes \_\_\_\_\_ over both tradition and reason in regulating our lives.

**Point 1.** Any error the Devil wants to foist on hapless believers always comes in some form of \_\_\_\_\_ or distortion of scripture. **2 Tim 2:15**

### COVENANT AND REFORMED THEOLOGY

Johannes Cocceius, Dutch theologian and Hebrew scholar, 1630-1669

Wikipedia:

These three covenants are called theological because, though not explicitly presented as such in the Bible, they are thought of as theologically implicit, describing and summarizing the wealth of Scriptural data. Historical Reformed systems of thought treat covenant theology not merely as a point of doctrine or as a central dogma, but as the structure by which the biblical text organizes itself.

#### THE BASIS OF BIBLE STRUCTURE

I. <i>Creation</i>		Gen 1.1
and Ruin		Gen 1.2
	call for	
II. <i>Redemption</i>		Gen 1.3-31
and Rest		Gen 2:1-3
	<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Gen 1:3-31</u>
	1. Light Vs. Darkness (3-5)	4. Lights—Sun, Moon, Stars (14-19)
	2. Waters (6-8)	5. Waters Filled (20-23)
	3. Earth (9-13)	6. Earth Filled (24-31)
	a. Separated from the seas	a. Creatures named and divided
	b. Made fruitful	b. Man replenishing
7. <i>Rest</i>		Gen 2:1-3

## THE PARALLEL STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

I. <i>Creation</i> and Ruin  II. <i>Redemption</i>	call for  <u>OLD TESTAMENT</u> 1. Good Vs. Evil (Gen-Deut)  <b>HISTORICAL</b> 2. Earthly Kingdom Fails (Josh-Song of Sol) <b>EXPERIENTIAL</b> 3. A Chosen Nation <b>DOCTRINAL</b> a. Separated from the nations (Isa-Dan) b. Made ready for the King (Hos-Mal)	Gen 1-11 Gen 12-Exod 11  Exod 12-Jude  <u>NEW TESTAMENT</u> 4. Gospel—Christ, Church, Christians (Matt-John) <b>HISTORICAL</b> 5. Spiritual Kingdom Fills (Acts) <b>EXPERIENTIAL</b> 6. A Called-Out Church <b>DOCTRINAL</b> a. Separated from the world (Rom-Phlm) b. Made ready for the rapture (Heb-Jude)
7. And Rest		Rev

**Point 2.** Covenant and Reformed Theology \_\_\_\_\_ a covenant of redemption, \_\_\_\_\_ a covenant of works with Adam before the fall that promises eternal life in exchange for obedience, and \_\_\_\_\_ a covenant of grace providing salvation for fallen humanity.

### COVENANTS AND DISPENSATIONS

**Defn.:** A biblical *Covenant* is a divine \_\_\_\_\_ that forms the ground of God's future dealing with mankind. **Eph 2:12**

#### BIBLICAL COVENANTS (YMMV)

1. \_\_\_\_\_, Gen 6:18; 9:9-17 (an everlasting covenant of salvation, 9:16)
2. \_\_\_\_\_, Gen 12:2; 15:18-20
3. \_\_\_\_\_, Gen 17:2-14; Acts 7:8; **Gal 2:7-8; Rom 4:9-12**
4. \_\_\_\_\_, Exod 19:3-6
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Law—Ten Commandments, Exod 19-20
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Law—Social Judgments, Exod 21-22
  - C. The \_\_\_\_\_ Law—Religious Ordinances, Exod 23-24
5. \_\_\_\_\_, Deut 29:1-30:3
6. \_\_\_\_\_, 2 Sam 23:5; **Luke 1:31-33**
7. \_\_\_\_\_, Jer 31:31-34; Heb 8:7-10; 12:24 (an everlasting covenant of salvation, Heb 13:20) **Rom 10:19-20; Rom 11:11-12, 15, 25-32**

**Defn.:** *Grace* is the \_\_\_\_\_ work of Christ operating on your behalf as you activate it by faith.

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COVENANT AND A DISPENSATION

1. Covenants deal with people on a collective or \_\_\_\_\_ level, and almost all of them without reference to how an individual gets eternal life from God
2. Dispensations are the ways God is \_\_\_\_\_ eternal life in any given period of time since the fall of Adam

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#### DEFINING DISPENSATIONALISM

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**Defn. *Dispensationalism*** is a way of approaching the Bible that allows the Bible to interpret \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Defn. *Dispensations*** are periods in which God is dispensing eternal life according to \_\_\_\_\_ divine goals, human roles, and biblical rules.

#### THREE RULING LINES OF SPECIAL REVELATION

1. The most \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of the Bible only comes as you allow it to shed light on itself, **1 Cor 2:13; Isa 28:9-10**
2. In the final analysis, all scripture is related to the \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose of God
3. The illuminating teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit to students in the past can be \_\_\_\_\_ for those of succeeding generations

#### GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE **Eph 3:10-11,21**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ God, B. By his \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, C. Through his body the \_\_\_\_\_

**Point 3.** The primary cohesion of your Bible lies in the fact it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for man today, and he has an overall Eternal Purpose.

**Point 4.** All scripture is related to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in setting forth distinctions and distinctives relating to the particular role and time for \_\_\_\_\_ as the people of God in the kingdom of heaven, and the \_\_\_\_\_ as the Sons of God and body of Christ in the kingdom of God.