

Leviticus 26**5-31-01****“Covenants!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Read last verse 1st.
 - 1.1.1. “made between” – speaking of “covenants” w/God.
 - 1.1.2. 8 times(*covenants*)in this chapter(9,15,25,42{3 x’s},44,45)
- 1.2. **Illustration:** If you represent the U.S.A. in the space program you must have an unconditional respect for authority!
 - 1.2.1. Astronaut **General Charles M. Duke**(Apollo 16)reported that he had to follow an **intricate** plan, & the **exact & precise** instructions “**if they wanted to return to earth!**” He said they landed “heavy” when they touched down on the moon, he was refereeing to their fuel supply. They had plenty left...how much...One minutes worth! – A rebel or renegade doesn’t make it in the space program.
 - 1.2.2. A rebel or renegade doesn’t make it in God’s program either!

2. NECESSITY OF RT RELATIONSHIP TO GOD! (1,2)

- 2.1. This is the summary of **man’s obligation** to God.
- 2.2. 4 reasons why to obey Him!
 - 2.2.1. (2a) **Who God is!** – the I AM(**the Lord**).
 - 2.2.2. (2b) **What God did!** - He made Israel special/unique in giving them these days of rest.
 - 2.2.3. (2c) **Where God dwells!** – The surrounding nations made their own gods, yet the God that dwelt in the midst of Israel “made them”.
 - 2.2.3.1. Today our bodies of course represent the dwelling place of God!
 - 2.2.4. (3-13) **What God promised!** – The people of Israel were but children in their faith, & you teach children primarily through rewards & chastisements.
 - 2.2.4.1. A **young child** doesn’t learn by **lectures on ethics**.
 - 2.2.4.2. They eventually learn that both commandments & chastisements are expressions of **love** for their own good.

3. IF YOU WALK IN MY STATUTES! (3-13)

- 3.1. This is the **blessings** of **Obedience** to God.

- 3.2. Covenants reminded them of their spiritual **relationship** w/Him & the **responsibilities** to that relationship.
- 3.3. **If** they obeyed the terms of the covenant, they'd remain in the promise and & enjoy His blessings.
 - 3.3.1. God doesn't promise material success to His New Covenant people today, but He does promise to be w/us & meet our every need.
 - 3.3.2. **Note:** "if" comes up **32 times** in this & the next chapter.
- 3.4. **"If you walk"** – "If I'm **walking** in one direction & **God is walking** another, I'm moving away from His presence; & God isn't about to change His direction!"¹
 - 3.4.1. If I continue to walk contrary to Him, I'm going to have some serious problems.
- 3.5. (6) Note "**peace**" the *shalom* of God. Living in harmony w/God!

4. **IF YOU DO NOT OBEY ME! (14-39)**

- 4.1. This is the **chastening of Disobedience** to God.
 - 4.1.1. You'll see "**7 times**" many times(18,21,24,28). It refers to the intensity of the suffering(remember, "**heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated**") – Deals w/degree, not duration!
- 4.2. Gods covenants always include both blessing & chastening, for He won't share His goodness w/rebellious children.
 - 4.2.1. "**Enjoying the gifts** while insulting **the giver** is both selfish & idolatrous."²
- 4.3. We should obey God, not to **deserve His blessings** or even **avoid His chastening**. But to show our **love to Him** & our **desire** to please His heart.
 - 4.3.1. **Q:** Why do you obey Him? What's your motivation? {the reward of it, to escape His discipline, or out of love?..."**The love of Christ compels me**"}

5. **IF YOU CONFESS! (40-46)**

- 5.1. This is **God's faithfulness** to His Covenant!

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg.135

² Warren Wiersbe.

- 5.2. A Gracious God always leaves the door open for restoration.
- 5.3. They may break **their promise**(15); but God will never break **His promise** to His people(44).
- 5.4. God forgets our sins but remember His Covenant!
 - 5.4.1. This isn't an excuse for sin, but it's an encouragement for sinners to repent & turn to the Lord.

6. **COVENANTS!**

- 6.1. **Covenant defined:** An agreement between persons or parties. Promises of God revealed in scripture.
 - 6.1.1. "A covenant is unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God & man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship."³
 - 6.1.1.1. "Agreement" = 2 parties;
"divinely imposed" = man can never negotiate.
 - 6.1.2. God's Word, or promise, or covenant cannot fail!
 - 6.1.2.1. **Ps.89:34** "My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips."
 - 6.1.2.2. **He is a covenant keeping God!**
 - 6.1.3. It is also defined "to cut an agreement".
 - 6.1.3.1. **Jer.34:18** "And I will give the men who have transgressed My **covenant**, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they **cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of**" (also see Gen.15:7-21)
 - 6.1.4. It is like a **contract...but different.**
 - 6.1.4.1. **Contracts** are usually made from **equally** bargaining positions.
 - 6.1.4.2. Both parties are **free to not sign** the contract.
 - 6.1.4.3. **A covenant** is also "an agreement", but usually is not between equals.
 - 6.1.4.4. Often times there was a covenant between the conquering king & the conquered.
 - 6.1.4.4.1. These were called the **Suzerain/Vassal Treaties** (soo-zer-in)
 - 6.1.4.4.2. **Suzerain**= Lord; **Vassal** = slave.
 - 6.1.4.4.3. **There were no negotiations between the parties.**
 - 6.1.5. Elements of a Covenant:⁴
 - 6.1.5.1. **[1] Preamble:** Identifies the sovereign.
 - 6.1.5.1.1. The 10 commandments start w/ "**I am the Lord your God.**" (2)

³ Wayne Grudem; pg.515

⁴ R.C. Sproul; pg.72

- 6.1.5.2. [2] **Historical Prologue**: rehearses the history of the relationship of the parties.
6.1.5.2.1. "I brought you out of Egypt." (13)
- 6.1.5.3. [3] **Stipulations**: Outline the terms of the cov. (3-46)
- 6.1.5.4. [4] **Oath/Vows**: The promises that bind the parties to the terms.
6.1.5.4.1. *If...then!* Statements.
- 6.1.5.5. [5] **Sanctions**: The blessings & the curses to be enacted for keeping or breaking the cov. (blessings 3-13; curses 14-39)
- 6.1.5.6. [6] **Ratification**: The sealing of the cov. By blood. (40-46)
- 6.1.5.7. *We serve a God that pledged Himself to our full redemption!*

7. HUMAN HISTORY & THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD!

- 7.1. God's eternal plan for man is found in the Scriptures, in the promises He has made.
 - 7.1.1. "His promises are Yes & Amen!" – "He cannot lie!"
- 7.2. Theologians have come up with 2 ways of looking at this.
 - 7.2.1. **Theological Covenants** or "Covenant Theologians".
 - 7.2.2. **Biblical Covenants** or "Dispensationalists"
 - 7.2.3. The 1st places "the plan of salvation" as the primary purpose of God
 - 7.2.4. The 2nd sees obviously the plan of salvation as an important aspect of His eternal purpose, but not His total plan.
 - 7.2.4.1. This view teaches that God's plan for history is to **reveal His Glory**, & He does this not only by saving men but by fulfilling His purpose & revealing Himself through His dealings w/Israel, w/the church, & w/the nations.⁵
- 7.3. **Theological Covenants** – "Covenant Theologians". They see 3 basic theological covenants.
 - 7.3.1. **Covenant of Works** – When Adam & Eve were created they stood in a moral relationship w/God, their creator.
 - 7.3.2. [1] God entered into a "**Covenant of Works**" w/Adam & Eve.
 - 7.3.2.1. God required perfect & total obedience to His rule.
 - 7.3.2.2. He promised **eternal life** for obedience – **death** for disobedience.
 - 7.3.3. [2] All humans are instant members in God's Covenant of works.
 - 7.3.4. [3] All human beings are violators of the covenant of works.
 - 7.3.4.1. A single sin is enough to violate this covenant & make us debtors.
 - 7.3.5. [4] Jesus fulfilled the covenant of works.
 - 7.3.5.1. He is the only human being to ever keep the covenant of works.
 - 7.3.5.2. He was the only one to make it to heaven on His Good works!

⁵ Chafer & Walvoord; Major Bible Themes; pg. 141

- 7.3.6. [5] The covenant of Grace provides us w/merits of Christ by which the terms of the covenant of works are satisfied.
7.3.6.1. So, they can become “our” good works when we receive Christ by faith.
- 7.3.7. **Covenant of Redemption** – Between **God the Son**(I promise to provide the redemption) & **God the Father**(I promise to accept the sacrifice).
- 7.3.8. **Covenant of Grace** – Christ is the mediator of the covenant & the representative of those who trust in Him.
- 7.3.9. This view **blends** Gods plan for **Israel** & Gods plan for the **church**.
- 7.4. **Biblical Covenants** – “Dispensationalists”. They see distinctions in various stages in human history, which are revealed in the dispensations(or ages).
- 7.4.1. (Not that God “changed His mind” on how to deal w/man, but instead “purposefully altered” how He was going to deal w/man in different time periods)
- 7.4.2. **Conditional** – God will do His part, when the human requirements are met.
- 7.4.3. **Unconditional** – It may include certain human contingencies, but God **will** certainly do His part, in His time & in His way.
- 7.4.4. **Of the 8 Biblical Covenants only 2(Edenic & Mosaic) were conditional.**
- 7.4.5. [1] **Edenic** – (**conditional**) {Gen. 1:26-31}
- 7.4.5.1. **Life & blessing**, or **death & cursing** were dependant on Adam’s faithfulness.
- 7.4.5.2. Adam & Eve failed & disobeyed by eating the fruit, thus the penalty of death for disobedience was imposed.
- 7.4.5.3. **Ended in the fall of man.**
- 7.4.6. [2] **Adamic** - (**unconditional**) {Gen.3:16-19}
- 7.4.6.1. God declares to man what his lot in life will be. (**serpent** cursed; **woman** pain in childbirth & submission to husband; **man** work 6 days sweat of brow; **earth** cursed)
- 7.4.6.2. **Continues still today.**
- 7.4.7. [3] **Noahic** - (**unconditional**) {Gen.9:1-18}
- 7.4.7.1. Introduces new principles of human gov. as a means to curb sin(i.e. capitol punishment)
- 7.4.7.2. **Continues still today.**
- 7.4.8. [4] **Abrahamic** - (**unconditional**) {Gen.12:1-4}
- 7.4.8.1. The promise that **he personally** would be blessed; **a great nation** would emerge through him(Israel); & through him a blessing **to the entire world**.
- 7.4.8.2. **Continues still today.**
- 7.4.9. [5] **Mosaic** -(**conditional**) {Ex.20-31}
- 7.4.9.1. To Israel. If they were obedient God would bless them, disobedient/curse them.
- 7.4.9.2. **God anticipated they’d fail, yet promised He wouldn’t forsake them. Terminates at the cross.**

- 7.4.10. [6] **Palestinian** -(unconditional) {Deut.30}
- 7.4.10.1. Unconditional covenant regarding Israel's **final** possession of the land.
- 7.4.10.2. Even though kicked out a few times ultimately Abraham's seed **will** possess the land.
- 7.4.10.3. **1st phase has returned to the land in 1948, but ultimate promise in the future.**
- 7.4.11. [7] **Davidic** - (unconditional) {2 Sam.7}
- 7.4.11.1. The promise of an unending royal lineage, a throne, & a kingdom forever!
- 7.4.11.2. **Ultimate fulfillment in millennium.**
- 7.4.12. [8] **New** - (unconditional)
- 7.4.13. **1st to Israel - Jer.31:31-33**
- 7.4.14. **2nd to the Church** – This is given to the church in the Lord's supper **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**
- 7.4.14.1.1. **"The New Covenant"** or **"New Testament"** was an agreement ratified by the shed blood of the redeemer.
- 7.4.14.1.2. It is also called the **"Better Covenant"** because it is of **Grace!**
- 7.4.14.1.3. **The Law was written on stone, the New on our hearts!**
- 7.4.14.1.4. The Law required **animal sacrifices**, the New provided the **perfect & final sacrifice... The Lamb!**
- 7.4.14.1.5. The Law was of **works**, the New is by **faith!**
- 7.5. **END:** Read Ps.1