

# **THEOCAST**

## INTRODUCTION TO COVENANT THEOLOGY

### **SESSION 1: Overview and History of Covenant Theology**

#### OUTLINE

- Covenant Theology as a Framework
- The History of Covenant Theology
- Reading with New Testament Lenses
- Introducing the Covenants
- Understanding Typology
- Promise vs Covenant
- Why Covenant Theology Matters

#### GLOSSARY

**1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith:** a doctrinal statement compiled and agreed upon by reformed or particular baptists in England in 1689. It draws heavily on the Westminster Confession of Faith

**Bicovenantalism:** a system that recognizes two primary covenants God made with man (the Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace)

**Conditional/Unconditional:** a way of differentiating covenants based on who is responsible for keeping the conditions; a conditional covenant is one in which both parties (God and man) bear responsibility for its conditions, and an unconditional covenant is one in which the initiating party (God) bears all of the weight of satisfying its conditions

**Covenant:** an oath-based union under given stipulations and sanctions

**Covenant of Grace:** a new covenant God made with man to keep the conditions of the Covenant of Works on their behalf through His Son, who bore the curse of man's failure and provided perfect righteousness to be imputed to their account. Its blessings are now received by grace through faith because of the merit of Jesus.

**Covenant of Redemption (pactum salutis):** the agreement within the Godhead before time in which the Father determined to redeem a people through the mediatorial work of His son applied by the Spirit

**Covenant of Works:** the covenant between God and man first made in the garden of Eden with Adam that promised life for perfect obedience to God's commands and death as the consequence for failure to keep the covenant

**Federal Head:** the representative leader of a given people who can rightfully act on their behalf

**Promise:** the commitment to form a covenant relationship at a later point

**Protestant Reformation:** a 16th-century movement to recover the apostolic faith from the corruption of the Roman church

**Redemptive-Historical Framework/Hermeneutic:** the view that all of scripture is a unified whole telling the story of redemption accomplished in the work of Christ

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**Typology:** a way God has progressively revealed himself and his redemptive plan truth by using a person, place, or thing to intentionally foreshadow a greater reality to come

**Type:** a person, place, thing, or event that intentionally foreshadows and models a greater reality to come

**Antitype:** the greater reality that was portrayed by a type; the fulfillment of the type

**Word-Concept Fallacy:** the false assumption that a specific word must be present in order to communicate the concept to which it refers (i.e. the word "trinity" is not in scripture while the concept is clear)

#### SCRIPTURE INDEX

Genesis 3

John 17

Romans 5

1 Corinthians 15

Ephesians 1:3-14

2 Timothy 1:9

Titus 1:2

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### **SESSION 2: The Covenant of Redemption**

#### OUTLINE

- Scriptural Grounds for the Covenant of Redemption
- The Parties of the Covenant and their roles within it
- How the Covenant of Redemption provides context for the rest of the covenants

#### GLOSSARY (New terms)

**Assurance:** the objective certainty of our standing before God

**Beneficiary:** the recipient of the blessings promised when the requirements of a covenant are satisfied

**Conditions:** the requirements of a covenant that must be met in order to gain its blessings and avoid its curses; also called stipulations

**Commitments:** what a party promises to in a covenant

**Elect:** those chosen before the foundation of the world to be included in the blessings of the Covenant of Redemption through the Covenant of Grace

**Foreordained:** something determined beforehand to happen

**Fulfillment:** the completion of something begun or promised in the past

**Moralizing:** to assume the primary purpose of biblical narratives is to teach us moral lessons and show us how we ought to act

**Open Theism:** the view God has not ordained all things but given humans free will and God's knowledge of the future is limited by the existence of this free will. In this view, God is reactive, takes risks, changes his mind, makes mistakes, etc.

**Regeneration:** the work of God through His Spirit of making someone, dead in their sin, spiritually alive; this work of God precedes faith and repentance.

#### SCRIPTURE INDEX

Psalm 2:8

John 6:37

John 10 (the charge), 10:28-29

John 17

Acts 2:32-33

Ephesians 1:1-14

2 Timothy 1:9-10

Titus 1:2-3

Revelation 5

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#### **SESSION 3: The Covenant of Works**

##### OUTLINE

- The Covenant of Works in scripture
- The components of the Covenant of Works
- The Covenant of Works and Federal Headship
- How the Covenant of Works drives us to Jesus

##### GLOSSARY (new terms)

**Active Obedience:** Jesus' keeping of the entirety of God's moral law; he has a perfect, positive righteousness that can be imputed to us by grace through faith

**Adam:** the first man and federal head of the human race

**Adamic Covenant:** the covenant made by God with Adam in the garden of Eden that promised life for obedience and death for disobedience

**Davidic Covenant:** an unconditional covenant God made with David promising a perpetual kingship from David's line

**Depravity:** a term that describes our spiritually dead state; sin is not merely the bad things that we do, rather we do bad things because we are sinners (depraved)

**Imputation:** this comes from an accounting term and the idea is to credit to one's account. In Christ, there is a double imputation: Christ's perfect obedience is credited to us, and our sin is credited to him and was paid for at Calvary

**Mosaic Covenant:** a conditional covenant made with the nation of Israel through Moses

**Passive Obedience:** passive refers to Jesus' "passion" his suffering; Jesus' passive obedience is his bearing of the guilt of sin that reached its culmination at Calvary and is imputed to us by grace through faith

**Righteousness:** perfect conformity to God's moral law

**Sanctions:** the penalties agreed upon in a covenant should it be broken; can also be referred to as curses

**Self-righteous:** the righteous one possesses on the grounds of their own merit; contrasted to imputed righteousness, which is merited by another and credited to our account

##### SCRIPTURE INDEX

Genesis 1-3

Hosea 6:7

Romans 5:17

1 Corinthians 15:22

Ephesians 1

Revelation 2:7

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### **SESSION 4: The Covenant of Grace (Part One)**

#### OUTLINE

- The nature of the Covenant of Grace
- The components of the Covenant of Grace
- The promise and progressive revelation of the Covenant of Grace

#### GLOSSARY (new terms)

**Grace:** a free gift one has done nothing to be merit

**Mercy:** to be spared from deserved punishment

**New Covenant:** in 1689 LBCF Federalism, the new covenant established, inaugurated, and accomplished by Jesus is the covenant of grace promised throughout the Old Testament

**Noahic Covenant:** an unconditional covenant God made with Noah to never destroy the created order again until it's rightfully appointed time

**Proto-euangelion:** literally "first gospel", it refers to the initial promise of Christ's saving work in Genesis 3:15

**Savoy Declaration:** a confessional statement by Congregational churches put together at a conference in 1658; it was based largely on the Westminster Confession of Faith, with notable difference regarding church polity and the authority of the civil magistrate

**Westminster Confession of Faith:** the confession of the Presbyterian church born out of the Westminster Assembly of 1643; the assembly was called to revise the Thirty Nine Articles for the Church of England, but ended up generating a new formulation that ended up being better received by the Church of Scotland

#### SCRIPTURE INDEX

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 12

Genesis 15

Genesis 17

2 Samuel 7

Psalms 1-2

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Jeremiah 31:31

Malachi 4

John 8

Romans 4

Galatians 3:7

Hebrews 3

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### **SESSION 5: The Covenant of Grace (Part Two)**

#### OUTLINE

- The Covenant of Grace as a different and New Covenant
- Jesus as the fulfillment of all the promises and pictures of the Old Testament
- Covenant Theology as a sound basis for rest and assurance

#### GLOSSARY

**Gnostic/Gnosticism:** a complex, syncretic movement that reached its height in the 2nd century after Christ. A key feature was a strong dichotomy between the spiritual (good) and the physical (bad) that led to the denial of the humanity of Jesus.

**Justification:** righteous legal standing before God

**King:** the ruling office established to bring God's righteous reign to His people for their good and to serve as their federal head; Jesus is the true and better king

**Mediator:** one who stands between two parties as an advocate

**Priest:** the mediatorial office that is able to stand between God and man for the sake of the people; Jesus is the true and better priest

**Prophet:** the office that God speaks through to His people; Jesus is the true and better prophet

**Sanctification:** the practical love and righteousness God produces in us by His Spirit as the fruit of our union with Christ

**Temporal:** earthly, of this world/life

#### SCRIPTURE INDEX

Numbers 21

Deuteronomy 18:15

Isaiah 11

Jeremiah 31

Ezekiel 34

Ezekiel 36

Matthew 28

John 1:9

John 1:18

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:17

Romans 7

Romans 15:8

2 Corinthians 1:20

Galatians 3:2-3

Galatians 3:7

Galatians 3:16

Colossians 2

Hebrews 7

Hebrews 8:6

Hebrews 10:11