

What is a Divine Covenant?

1. What is a covenant?

2. Who did God make a covenant with?

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. Indeed I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, and there shall never again be a flood to destroy the earth." (Gen 9:8-11, LSB)

On that day Yahweh cut a covenant with Abram, saying,

"To your seed I have given this land,

From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite." (Gen 15:18-21, LSB)

Now Moses went up to God, and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (Ex 19:3-6, LSB)

So now, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, "I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and not be disturbed again; and the unrighteous will not afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Yahweh also declares to you that Yahweh will make a house for you. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will come forth from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Sam 7:8-13, LSB)

"Behold, days are coming," declares Yahweh, "when I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, but I was a husband to them," declares Yahweh. (Jer 31:31-32, LSB)

What is a Divine Covenant? Teacher Notes

1. What is a covenant?

Explain to the student that a covenant is an agreement or promise between two parties. A divine covenant is an agreement with God.

Help the student understand this by having the student turn to his neighbor and make a promise (i.e. I promise to be a good neighbor) and shake hands to formalize the agreement. This is essentially what a covenant is.

2. Who did God make a covenant with?

Reading passages from the Bible may tax the attention span of the student. However, if this were made a game, it might be more enjoyable for all. One game example is to encourage the student to call out who he thinks God made a covenant with. If the answer is incorrect or incomplete, the teacher could maintain the game atmosphere by making a funny sound that indicates an error and saying, "but thanks for trying!" Have a laugh and enjoy the interaction.

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. Indeed I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, and there shall never again be a flood to destroy the earth." (Gen 9:8-11, LSB)

Answer: Noah, his sons, and every beast that came with him and on the earth.

The sign of this covenant is the rainbow!

I put My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. And it will be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. (Gen 9:13-15)

On that day Yahweh cut a covenant with Abram, saying,

"To your seed I have given this land,

From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite." (Gen 15:18-21, LSB)

Teacher tip: note that God has another name, and there are several foreign groups of people that should be explained to the student.

Answer: Abram who would be renamed later to Abraham.

And no longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. (Gen 17:5)

Now Moses went up to God, and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” (Ex 19:3-6, LSB)

Answer: not Moses but the nation of Israel!

So now, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and not be disturbed again; and the unrighteous will not afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Yahweh also declares to you that Yahweh will make a house for you. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will come forth from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Sam 7:8-13, LSB)

Answer: David, king of Israel

“Behold, days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “when I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, but I was a husband to them,” declares Yahweh. (Jer 31:31-32, LSB)

Teacher tip: at this point in history, the nation of Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. This will be confusing to the student and will require careful explanation with perhaps a familiar and contemporary example (i.e. Eastern / Western WA, Northern / Southern CA, etc).

Answer: all of Israel that includes both houses of Judah and Israel