**Covenants and Consequences\* --- Promises and Punishments\***

\*Some promises God made were CONDITIONAL. If obeyed – blessings occurred. If disobeyed – punishment occurred. Some promises God made were UNCONDITIONAL. They only depended on God’s love, grace, and faithfulness to be fulfilled. The Old Testament is the story of God’s promises made to humans created in His image and God’s promises made to His chosen people Israel.

**Three [3] Covenants between God and Humankind in general –**

**Adamic Covenant --** Seen in 2 parts; Edenic [innocence] and Adamic [Grace]

 **Edenic** [Innocence] – [CONDITIONAL] God made humans in His image and commanded humans to ‘*have dominion’* and rule over/take care of God’s good Creation. God blessed His created human and said *“Be fruitful and multiply…*’ Gen. 1: 26-31. God placed humans in His Garden of Eden and promised humans blessings and abundant life. All humans had to do was not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Gen 2:15-17. Once they did; the consequences would be death. We see in Genesis 3: 1-13 and Genesis 3: 20-24 human ‘sin’ came into the world. [Called a covenant in Hosea 6:7]

 **Covenant of Redemption** [Grace] – [UNCONDITIONAL] This is referred to by Biblical scholars as the **1st Gospel**. Genesis 3:14-19. This covenant is mostly a New Testament interpretation of a covenant. God speaks to the serpent, representing Satan, and He speaks to Eve, representing humankind. vs. 15 *“I will put enmity between you* [Satan] *and the woman* [Humankind] *between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”* Here God promises that one born of woman would be wounded in the process of destroying Satan. “*The seed of the woman, [*Jesus], *would crush Satan’s head.”*  Gal 4:4. 1 John 3:8. Jesus would be bruised on the cross defeating Satan/evil. Even with a curse, God promises salvation from the beginning of time. Again, this is a ‘New Testament’ interpretation of an Old Testament covenant.

**Noahic Covenant –** [UNCONDITIONAL] Sign: RAINBOW. After the flood, God promises never again to destroy all life on earth with a flood. Gen 9: 8-17. This promise was made to Noah and his descendants and to all living creatures and to the earth in general. The unconditional covenant is based on God’s faithfulness alone. *[Bible scholars point out that this does not mean God will never again destroy the earth. He has promised this in “the Day of the Lord” 2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev 20:7-10 and 21:10-11 and in many Old Testament prophecies.]*

**New Covenant –** Jer. 31: 31-34. Sign: EUCHARIST. Some scholars say this is a reinterpretation of an old covenant. This covenant made 1st with the nation of Israel and 2nd to all humankind. In the New Covenant God promises to forgive {vs.34b} sins and there will be a universal knowledge of the Lord {vs.34a}. Matt 5: 17 Jesus came to fulfil the Law of Moses and create a New Covenant between God and His people. Bible scholars claim Jesus fulfilled this covenant from Jeremiah. Now, following Jesus, since we are under the New Covenant, both Jews and Gentiles can be free from the penalty of the Law. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift. Eph. 2: 8-9. This is fulfilled in Jesus Heb. 8: 6-13, Heb. Ch9, Heb. 10: 11-25. God’s promise is God will forgive sins and God will have an unbroken relationship with His people. This promise is 1st made to Israel and then is extended to all who come to Jesus in faith. Matt26: 28; Heb. 9: 15. The New Covenant Jesus sealed with His blood. Everyone is offered salvation by grace through faith. Acts 2: 21.

**EUCHARIST Covenant of Jesus --** Some Bible scholars conclude that on the cross Jesus became the sacrifice that fulfils the universal blessing to all nations in the Abrahamic covenant; thus, completing all covenants. Sign of this covenant = BAPTISM. Promise of this New Covenant = Resurrection and eternal life on the last day John 6: 54.