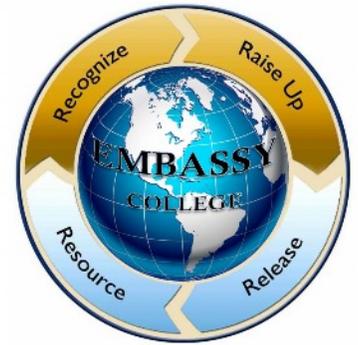
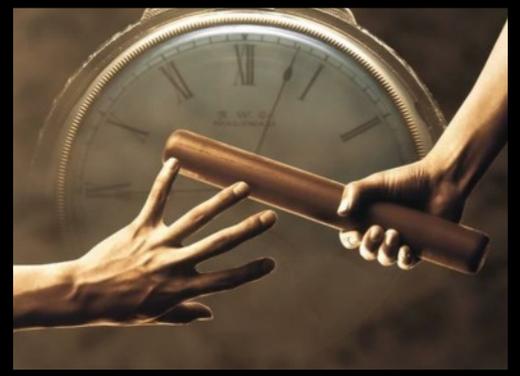


# EMBASSY COLLEGE



ανηρ ὃς εμπροσθεν μου γεγονεν, οὐκ ἄλλος  
μου ἦν. **31**κἀγὼ οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα  
φανερωθῆ τῷ Ἰσραὴλ διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ  
ἐν ὕδατι βαπτίζων. **32**Καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν  
Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι Τεθέαμαι τὸ πνεῦμα.



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

The Covenants of God

BT626

Rev. James Hodges

# COVENANTS OF GOD

REV. JAMES HODGES

Textbook for the Course:  
*The Covenants*  
by Kevin Conner and Ken Malmin

## ORIENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

### THE COVENANTS OF THE BIBLE

Jim Hodges, Instructor

#### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a study of the major covenants of the Bible beginning with the Adamic Covenant and concluding with the New Covenant.

#### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to:

- A. present a biblical and theological overview of all the major covenants of the Bible.
- B. declare the necessity of covenantal understanding as the basis for restoring the family, building the church, and discipling the nations.
- C. present the covenant structure as a tool for interpreting Scripture.

#### III. SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY

- A. THE HOLY BIBLE-NEW AMERICAN STANDARD and/or KING JAMES VERSION
- B. This study guide
- C. The textbook written by Kevin Conner and Ken Malmin, The Covenants, Bible Temple Publishing, Portland, Oregon.

#### IV. SUGGESTED STUDY HABITS

- A. Read the textbook before the course begins.
- B. Read this study guide before the course begins.
- C. Attend every session of the lectures.
- D. Take your own notes during the lectures.

V. CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY

- A. Lecture followed by class discussion.
- B. Each lesson-lecture will include in-class discussion.

VI. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- A. Attendance at lectures.
- B. The reading of the text and study guide.
- C. Pass the final examination.

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## Lesson 1

### Introduction to Bible Covenants

#### I. Definition of Covenant

##### A. Hebrew word -- beriyth

Strong's concordance: "a compact made by passing between pieces of flesh, i.e., to cut a covenant"

##### B. Greek word -- diatheke

"disposition, arrangement, testament, or will"  
(See Arndt and Gingrich)

"to cut or divide"  
(See Vine)

##### C. Theological definition:

"a bond in blood sovereignly administered"  
(see O. Palmer Robertson)

Discussion: The word "agreement" is not strong enough to adequately describe covenant. The word "testament" is related but not identical to covenant. Both "testament" and "covenant" relate to death, but in a different way. In covenant, death stands at the beginning of a relationship between two parties. In the case of testament, death stands at the end of relationship between two parties releasing inheritance. (Palmer, pg. 11)

##### D. Full definition:

A covenant is a bond of blood. It involves commitments with life and death consequences. At the point of covenant inauguration, the parties of covenant are committed to each other by the process of blood-shedding (bonding through sacrifice).

##### E. The covenants of God:

God sovereignly makes and reveals the covenant. He decides the terms and conditions of the covenantal relationship with man. Man cannot bargain or negotiate with God; he must simply enter the covenant on the terms God has established.

## II. Foundation of Other Biblical Doctrines

God always begins His relationships with man in terms of His covenant--not in terms of a doctrine. If we do not understand covenant, then we will be deficient in understanding other doctrines of the Bible. There are many streams of truth in the Word of God: theological, prophetic, typical, symbolical, eschatological, and practical. However, all these streams of truth flow out of and back into the mainstream of covenantal truth. (See Conner and Malmin)

## III. Essentially Two Covenants: The Old and The New

### A. The Old made with Adam; the New made with Jesus, the Last Adam.

The covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David were reestablishments of the first covenant with Adam.

The Hebrew word HEQUIM translated properly in Gen. 6:18 means "CONFIRM." The Lord God "confirmed" an already existing covenant. (Cf. Leviticus 26:9 and see the Edenic language in the Mosaic Covenant.)

The original covenant with Adam is repeatedly confirmed with "replacement Adams" so that there is essentially one covenant (old) until a true different and New Adam, i.e. Jesus, arrives. (See Sutton)

### B. All covenants are progressive.

1. Each covenant reveals more about the Christ to come.
2. Every time God confirms the first covenant with a new man, He adds more revelation until the final revelation in Jesus comes and transforms the old covenant into the New Covenant.
3. Each "new" covenant was a resurrection in a more glorious form of the previous one -- and pointed to the New Covenant.

Each "Covenant Adam (Man)" falls, but another Covenant comes forth -- a resurrection.

New covenants are like New Creations!

### C. All the covenants are of divine grace.

For example: "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." A man is never

justified by works! Ephesians 2:8-9 basis for all the covenants.

Mistaken theology: the old covenant is law; and the new covenant is grace.  
The truth is: all covenants are of grace and all covenants include law.

Examples of law in each covenant: (1) Adam--"do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (2) Noah--"multiply and fill the earth." (3) Abraham--"circumcize the sons." (4) The New Covenant--the principles of the Sermon on the Mount provide ethical guidelines for godly behavior.

Grace in the Old Covenant: (1) Rahab received the Gospel of Moses; she was saved by grace; (2) David was not stoned for adultery, he received grace (see Psalm 51).

- D. All covenants kept through faithfulness or violated through disobedience.
  - 1. The covenant is inviolate from the Lord-- Psalm 89:33-34.
  - 2. The covenant is dissoluble from man's part; it can be broken--see Hosea 6:7.

#### IV. Scriptural References for the Covenants

- A. Adamic--Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3
- B. Noahic--Genesis 6:18; 8:15-22; 9:1-17
- C. Abrahamic--Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-18; 17:1-21
- D. Mosaic--Deuteronomy 5:1-5; 29:1-9; Exodus 19:1-6;  
Exodus 24:7-8; Leviticus 26:9
- E. Davidic--Jeremiah 33:19-22; II Samuel 7:1-17; 23:5;  
Psalms 89:3-4, 28-29
- F. Jesus--Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20

## NOTES

## Lesson 2

### The Structure of Bible Covenants

Introduction: Bible scholar, Meredith G. Kline, discovered the parallel between ancient Hittite and Assyrian treaties and the book of Deuteronomy.

Meredith G. Kline, The Structure of Biblical Authority (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972)

The ancient kings (called "suzerains") copied the pattern in Deuteronomy in forming geo-political covenants. These covenant-treaties declared and explained how the people conquered by the king would relate to him.

Scholar Ray Sutton has expanded Kline's study.

#### I. The Five-Fold Pattern of Covenant Structure

##### A. The Five Parts:

1. Transcendence
2. Hierarchy
3. Ethics
4. Sanctions
5. Continuity

##### B. The Covenantal Structure of Deuteronomy:

1. Transcendence -- Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Hierarchy -- Deuteronomy 1:6-4:49
3. Ethics -- Deuteronomy 5-26
4. Sanctions -- Deuteronomy 27-30
5. Continuity -- Deuteronomy 31-34

## C. The Five Parts Defined

### 1. Transcendence

God, the King, is not distant, but He is distinct from creation. Creator-creature distinction must be maintained.

We are not "little gods."

New Age, Mormonism, eastern religions all teach that God and man are one essence; they just differ in degree of divinity. "God is a super man, and man is not a god yet."

### 2. Hierarchy

God governs through chosen representatives--delegated authority.

Suzerain king would appoint "reps" to govern the land he had conquered.

Responsibility, accountability, submission.

Husbands and Apostles

### 3. Ethics

Standards and stipulations

The law of God as guidelines and rules. Law is at the heart of covenant. There is an ethical relationship between cause and effect.

Obedience leads to blessing; disobedience leads to cursing.

### 4. Sanctions

Treaty ratified by an oath. There are rewards and punishments attached to the covenant.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are sanctions of the New Covenant.

### 5. Continuity

Concept of succession

The covenant handed from generation to generation.

Concept of inheritance.

D. The Five Parts Explained by Questions:

1. Transcendence -- "Who is in charge here?"
2. Hierarchy -- "To whom do I report?"
3. Ethics -- "What are the rules?"
4. Sanctions -- "What happens if I obey? disobey?"
5. Continuity -- "Does this outfit have a future?"

II. The Five-Fold Structure Illustrated in the New Covenant

Read Revelation 2:1-7

1. Transcendence "the One Who holds the seven stars.." (2:1)
2. Hierarchy "put to test those who call themselves apostles" (2:2-4)
3. Ethics "do deeds you did at first.." (2:5a)
4. Sanctions "remove lampstand unless you repent" (2:5b)
5. Continuity "him who overcomes, I will grant..." (2:7)

Conclusion: Our Heavenly Suzerain-King, Jesus, has conquered you and me. His arrows have penetrated our hearts and we are now His vassals. He brings us into the surrender treaty-covenant.