

LESSON 5

CHAPTER 7. “Of God’s Covenant”

The meaning of “covenant”: karat, berit, diatheke, syntheke

Features of a biblical covenant: parties, conditions, promises, signs

Major covenants: Adamic (works), Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic (law), Davidic, New Covenant

Federal Headship: The first Adam (earthy) and the Second Adam (Jesus Christ, spiritual)

I. Paragraph 1: The need for a covenant of grace

- A. Inability of mankind made grace necessary for any to be saved.
- B. God was not obligated to make any covenant, but He condescended to do so.

II. Paragraph 2: The covenant of grace

- A. Grace is offered to all sinners in the gospel.
- B. It is the duty of all hearers to believe and repent of their sin.
- C. Ability to believe is by God’s grace, and is given only to those ordained to eternal life.

III. Paragraph 3: Progressive revelation of the covenant of grace

- A. The covenant of grace is progressively revealed in successive divine covenants.
- B. The covenant of grace is based on the eternal covenant of redemption within the Trinity.
- C. The “covenant of works” cannot be fulfilled by fallen mankind, yet it remains in effect.

Interpretations of Biblical Covenants

- 1) Dispensational: 7 Dispensations each identified by a covenant. (Antinomian)
(more recent theological development, late 1800s, J. N. Darby, C.I. Scofield, Ryrie)
Book: Charles Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*
- 2) Covenant Theological: The Covenant of Works (pre-fall) and the Covenant of Grace (old administration and new administration)
(historic reformed view and is the view presented by the 1689 Confession)
Book: Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants between God and Man, Vols 1 & 2*
- 3) New Covenant Theological: Old Covenant (Mosaic law, external) finished, a New Covenant (grace, internal) by faith has been instituted. (Neonomian)
(not a well-defined position, but a view held, in practice, by most Southern Baptists)
Book: Wells and Zaspel, *New Covenant Theology*