

**Covenant Made,  
Covenant Broken:  
Creation, Fall, and  
Death in the  
Covenant of Works**

# Creation

In the beginning...

God created heaven and earth

Earth was:

Formless and void

Darkness on the face of the deep

Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters

# Creation

Day 1: Light, day, night

Day 2: Divides the waters from the waters  
=> Sky and Sea

Day 3: Dry Land

Day 4: Luminaries (sun, moon, stars)

Day 5: Birds and Sea Creatures

Day 6: Land Animals and Man

Day 7: Rest

Death Results from the Fall

# Covenant of Works

A Covenant cannot be undone

There can be no neutrality

“When Eve became neutral as between God and the Devil, weighing the contentions of each as though they were inherently on the face of them of equal value, she was in reality already on the side of the Devil.”

Van Til, *Why I Believe in God*; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 128.

# A Relationship with God

## Everyone Knows God and Has a Relationship With Him

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:18-25

# All Know God

“All men know God. Every fact of the universe has God’s stamp of ownership indelibly and with large letters engraved upon it. All men know not merely that a God exists, but they know that God, the true God, the only God, exists. They cannot be conscious of themselves, says Calvin, except they be at the same time conscious of God as their creator. This general revelation of God stays with man whatever his attitude toward God may be. When he sins against God, he must sin against this God whom he knows. Otherwise, sin would be sin in a vacuum. Even in the hereafter, the lost and the evil angels still know God.”

Van Til, *Common Grace*, 130, 131; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til’s Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 456.

# The Fall

Genesis 2:15 “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Merism

Specify the subject, express totality of that subject

# The Ethical Fall

“According to Christ speaking in the Scripture, man has sinned against him by declaring his independence. When man listened to the temptation of Satan it was, in effect, to deny his own creaturehood. Adam was no longer willing to love his Creator and to show this love by obedience to his voice. He wanted to make himself the center of his own interpretive effort.”

Van Til, *Protestant Doctrine of Scripture*, 12-14; quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*, 309.



# The Ethical Fall

“At the instigation of Satan man decided to set himself up as the ultimate standard of right and wrong, of the true and false.”

Van Til, *Christian Theory of Knowledge*, 47-49;  
quoted in Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings  
and Analysis*, 397.