

LESSON 2: THE THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF HOSEA

Intro:

What is a Covenant?

A covenant has been called “a _____ in _____”⁶

Covenants define _____ - who is involved, what responsibilities and consequences are.

Covenants can be between _____, or equal partners: marriage, business, homeowners ...

Covenants can be between _____ parties: lords (suzerains) and vassals.

ANE Covenants

Historical _____ - Prior kindness of the Lord to the vassal, like defending them.

Responsibilities- what the vassal must _____ to remain in the lord’s good graces like _____

Promises- _____ grants, _____

Sanctions- the _____ things that will happen if you don’t meet your responsibilities

Signs- given to _____ either party about their _____

Sacrifice- they were often cut in _____, the dead animal symbolizing a self-maledictory oath

Salt of the covenant- salt was a symbol of a covenant’s _____.

Covenant Meal- often a fellowship meal was eaten to display _____ of _____.

ANE Suzerains would send _____ to apply & _____ vassal nations for breaking the covenant.

Biblical Covenants

God _____ this pattern to help them understand their relationship w/Him

Or

ANE covenants are a _____ of the true covenants between God & man.

YHWH, the true King, sends _____ to apply & prosecute Israel for breaking the covenant.

They limit the power of the king reminding him and Israel that they serve the King.

Covenant Theology believes that covenants _____ & progressively _____ God’s dealing with humanity.

⁶ Robertson, O. Palmer. The Christ of the Covenants. Philippsburg, P&R Publishing. 1980, pp. 7.

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1. The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant. *WCF, VII*

In the background virtually unseen is the Covenant of Redemption between the Father & Son.

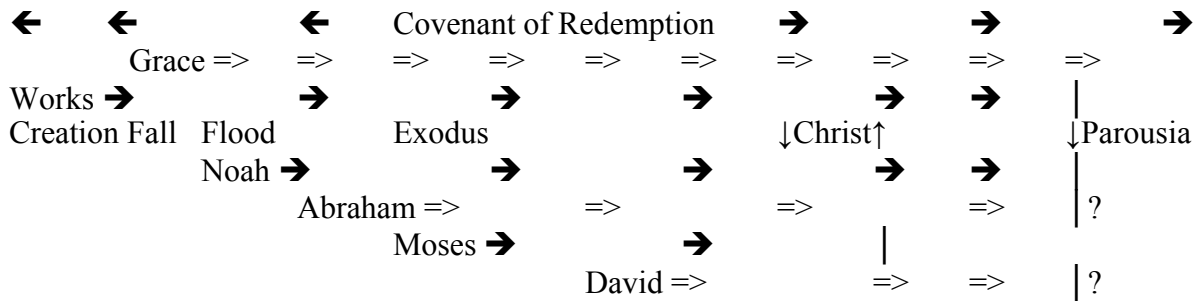
²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” **John 10**

And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. **Revelation 13** (some translations have “before the foundation of the world referring to the Lamb who was slain, not the Book of Life)

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ... **Hebrews 13**

The **Covenant of Redemption** is an _____ between the Father and the Son wherein the Father gives to the Son a _____, whom the Son will _____ from sin by becoming man, laying down His life as our _____ or covenant head and being _____ by the Father thru the Spirit & glorified.

The covenants between God and man are expressions of God’s ultimate goal represented by the Covenant of Redemption.



- The Covenant of Grace is revealed & _____ in all the covenants after Adam & Eve’s disobedience.
- Those covenants do not _____ one another, but are _____.
- All who are in Adam remain under the covenant of works and earn death by their sin.
- Those who _____ what had been revealed were saved by the covenant of grace.

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- All of those covenant point to _____ who _____ them bringing salvation.
- Jesus is the _____, obeying God as our covenant head to earn life (Rom. 5).
- Jesus is the _____ of the woman who crushes the head of the _____ (Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14).
- Jesus is the Seed of _____ through whom all the nations are blessed (Mt. 1:1; Gal. 3).
- Jesus is the _____ like _____ that Israel was to obey, and revealed the full plan.
- Jesus replaced the _____ priesthood and fulfilled all of the _____ law (Heb.).
- The Mosaic Law has been _____, though the moral law remains binding.
- Jesus is the Son of _____ who sits on throne forever to destroy God's enemies.

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Covenants in the Old Testament

	Works	“Adamic”	Noahic	Abrahamic	Mosaic	Davidic
Prologue	Creation		Preservation from the flood	“Brought you out of Ur”	“Brought you out of Egypt”	“I took you from the pasture ... made you prince over my people”
Obligations	“Subdue & rule, be fruitful & multiply” Don't eat of that 1 tree!		“Be fruitful & multiply” Don't eat meat w/blood	Walk blamelessly before me (Gen. 17)	Moral, civil & ceremonial law-walking w/ Him	To walk blamelessly with God
Promises	Land grant, food, fruitfulness	Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head	Won't flood the earth again in judgment Regularity of seasons	Land grant, fruitfulness (nation & kings), great name, be your God	Enter & remain in land, fruitfulness, prosperity	Great name, land, security, a son to build a temple, a descendant to sit on the throne forever
Sanctions	“day you eat of it you shall die”		Death penalty for homicide	Exile & slavery in Egypt	Defeat, disease, famine & exile	Discipline the disobedient
Sign			Rainbow	Circumcision	Sabbath	
Sacrifice		Animals for skins	Burnt offerings	Smoking fire pot	Ex. 24:8	
Meal					Meal w/elders	

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Hosea served during the time of the divided kingdom.

- As Israel grew more unfaithful, we see an increasing number of prophets.
- If unfaithful (sin they did not acknowledge) they warned of covenant _____.
- Encourage _____ (faith & repentance => obedience) w/covenant _____.
- Their responsibility was to call the people back to God under the terms of the covenant.
- He spoke about the _____ & _____ based on the past (redemption & covenant).
- Hosea will expose the _____ of Israel (and Judah) and call Israel back to _____.
- False prophets usually _____ the sin of the people & _____ of God: false security.

The Blessings of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 27)

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

- They were to “*faithfully obey the voice of the Lord*” as people redeemed by God’s grace.
- They would be _____ over all the _____ of the earth.
- They would be _____ by blessings.
- Blessed in the _____ & the _____ (trade & agriculture). _____ prosperity.
- They will be _____ & multiply, and their herds and flocks will multiply.

⁷“The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ⁹ The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, ¹⁴ and if you do

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not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

- They will defeat their enemies.
- They will be _____ to God, and all the earth shall see.
- The nations will _____ them because they belong to God.
- They will have enough _____ for their crops to grow.
- They will _____ to other nations, and not have to _____ from other nations.
- They will grow in _____, leading other nations instead of being led.

The Curses of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 27-8)

¹⁵“But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

- Curses come for if they do “*not obey the voice of the Lord your God.*”
- They will be overtaken by _____, a contrast with the blessings.
- Economic _____ in the city & field (trade & agriculture).
- There will be a lack of _____ for the people.
- Many will be _____ or have sickly children. Their flocks & herds won’t grow either.

²⁰“The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²²The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

- All they attempt to do will meet with _____ & frustration until _____.
- This is an _____ of the curse upon Adam.
- Pestilence, disease, drought and mildew (unclean) will afflict them.
- There will be no rain and high heat for a dry, baked land w/out crops.

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²⁵ “The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you. ³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. ³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. ³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

- Other nations will _____ them in battle.
- Instead of being honored & feared by the nations, they will be a _____ to them.
- They would be bird food, and scavenger food.
- They will be struck with _____, particularly those that afflicted _____.
- There will be _____, confusion, ignorance. Physical & spiritual blindness.
- They will be oppressed _____ & _____.
- Others will take their _____, homes, flocks, herds and beasts of burden.
- Their children will be taken away from them into _____. They are helpless!

Hosea → Covenant → Life in Israel → Short-term curses → Long-term blessings

Literary Structure (Richard Pratt)⁷

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| 1:1 | Title |
| 1:2-3:5 | Symbolic Experiences of Judgment & Salvation
Judah should learn from his experiences about God’s judgment against infidelity.
Judah should put their hope in God’s tender love. |
| 4:1-9:9 | Prophetic Announcements of Judgment
Judah should learn from the judgment upon Samaria & repent. |

⁷ Pratt, Richard. *Prophets Syllabus*. 1994, pp. 45.

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- 9:10-14:8 Prophetic Historical Reflections of Judgment & Salvation
Judah should learn how severely God judges His people for infidelity.
Judah should learn how God loves.
- 14:9 Call to Consider
Judah should consider these warnings of judgment & offers of restoration.