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Section: Divine Covenants (Covenant Theology)

Teacher: Joshua Kirstine

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q57. What is the covenant that God made with Adam as the representative for all of mankind?**

The covenant required that Adam obey and trust God entirely. In this, obedience would be rewarded with eternal life and blessing, but disobedience would be punished with curse and death. Adam disobeyed, bringing the consequences upon mankind.

* **God Created Mankind**

**Genesis 1:26-27**

* **Creatures owe full obedience to God—our Creator**

**Luke 12:48**

Being made in the image of God, mankind has a creature-creator moral *obligation* to use our capacities to obey God in all He requires of us. Creatures owe the Creator perfect obedience *by nature of being His*.

* **In what condition did God create Adam and Eve**

They were created ***good, blessed, and with no sin.***

While God made Adam and Eve this way, they were not made *infallible* nor *immutable* in their nature.

Infallible means *incapable of doing wrong*.

Immutable means *unable to change or be changed*.

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; *having the law of God written in their hearts,* *and power to fulfil it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change*.”

* **The Adamic Covenant (The Covenant of Works)**

**Nehemiah Coxe:** “It is evident that God dealt with Adam not only upon Terms of a Law, but in a way of Covenant, and this Transaction with him was of a Federal Nature.”

**Genesis 2:15-18 and 3:1-19**

* **Full covenant obedience was required of Adam**

* + **Universal Moral Law (Natural Law)**

Universal Moral Law (Natural Law): Unchanging law and commands based on the right and character of God, to which man is held accountable for all of life. Universal Moral Law is written in the hearts of all people, leaving them without excuse in disobedience.

* + **Additional law (Positive Law)**

Positive Law is law and commands based on the will of God for a particular people, a particular purpose, and a particular time.

**Genesis 2:16-17**

**Nehemiah Coxe:** “It pleased the sovereign Majesty of Heaven to add to [the] eternal law a positive precept [a positive law] in which he charged man not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden. This tree was called the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. The eating of this fruit was not a thing evil in itself *but was made so by divine prohibition*.”

**1689 Confession of Faith:** Besides the law written in their [Adam and Eve’s] hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil ...”

* **The Adamic Covenant was a probationary test**

Adam had the *natural and moral* ability to pass this test in that He was created good, blessed, and with no sin.

* **What was at stake**

What was at stake in this covenant for Adam (and all those he also represented) was an earning of the rewards or a breaking the covenant requirements unto receiving the punishments. The implications of this cannot be understated; upgraded eternal blessing or curse and death was at stake.

* + **A covenant of works**

Since the Adamic Covenant required obedience to law/commands in order to receive the rewards it promised, it is a most certainly a *covenant of works*.

* + **The eternal life and blessing reward offered**

The reward available was eternal righteousness (being secured sinless by God), eternal blessing, and eternal life (with/in the presence of God).

**Richard Barcellos:** “Adam was not created in a condition or state that could be called “glory” … Adam was created in a state that could have been improved.

**Genesis 2:9**

**Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14,19**

* **Adam failed.** **In Adam, we failed.**

God has been dishonored. The covenant has been broken by man. The perfect, almighty, and worthy God *has been dishonored.*

Adam did not obey perfectly, breaking the covenant, so he and all those he represent receive the curses of the covenant—namely *death.*

* + **Adam’s curses are** **ours by natural Federal Headship**

This reality of sin, guilt, and condemnation of Adam is imputed to his wife (being that he represented her as well) and to all those born of both man and woman to come after them.

**Romans 5:12**

This statement is precisely saying that the consequences of **Adam’s sin are a reality for mankind *because Adam acted on our behalf*.**

* **The Plan of God, according to the wisdom of God**

God’s choice was perfect and wise—we were represented most accurately.

God makes no errors. God’s ways are the right ways—perfectly right—and we can rest in and trust that.

* **God Immediately Proclaimed the Gospel!**

After the Covenant of Works was broken in the garden, God immediately proclaimed the gospel; He promised the means for man to be redeemed from this fall.

**Genesis 3:15**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament; and it is founded in that eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect; and it is alone by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam that ever were saved did obtain life and blessed immortality, man being now utterly incapable of acceptance with God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocence.

**1689 Baptist Confession:** “*Because the covenant of works was broken by sin and was made unable to grant life, God was pleased to proclaim the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect and producing in them faith and repentance. In this promise the gospel in its substance* ***was revealed*** *and* ***made effectual*** *for the conversion and salvation of sinners.*”

* **Desperate for the better Federal Head—the Antitype**

**Romans 5:14**

What sinners are desperate for is to be moved to the Federal Headship of one who does not fail.

**Romans 5:17-19**