

THE COVENANTS: PART 2

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 2 | THE NATURE OF THE COVENANTS AND GOD'S COVENANTAL LOVE

We are continuing to introduce the topic of the biblical covenants by looking at what a covenant is, the nature of the covenant relationships that exist between God and his people, and how the covenants are a reflection of God's love for his people. In a recent study, Daniel I. Block has offered this definition for covenant in the Bible: "A covenant is a formally confirmed agreement between two or more parties that creates, formalizes, or governs a relationship that does not naturally exist or a natural relationship that may have been broken or disintegrated." Even if some covenants are more unconditional in nature and others more conditional, all covenants have both promises and obligations. There are blessings and promises, but there are conditions attached to those blessings. The fullness of God's covenant love and blessing is for those who reciprocate his love through their commitment to him.

Read the following passages:

Exodus 34:6-7

Deuteronomy 7:6-16

1 Samuel 18-20

Psalms 103, 105, 106

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Questions for Reflection:

1. What aspects of the definition of “covenant” given to us in the quote from Block stand out as important in helping us to understand the nature of God’s covenants?
2. What does the relationship between David and Jonathan reflect about the nature of a covenant? How is their covenant instructive for us in helping us to understand the relationship that we have with God?
3. What are the specific blessings and benefits that come as a result of living in covenant with God in Psalm 103? What does this reflect about the nature of God’s covenant relationship with his people?
4. How do we see the covenant faithfulness of God toward Israel in Psalm 105? How do we specifically see God’s covenant faithfulness to Israel in Psalm 106? What is the critical difference between God and Israel in terms of covenant commitment that comes out in reading these two psalms together?
5. In light of Deuteronomy 7:9-11, how can we see that God’s covenantal love for us is both unconditional and conditional?
6. How did the video presentation help in understanding the conditional and unconditional aspects of our relationship with God?
7. How does the book of Deuteronomy as a whole help us to understand the nature of covenant and how God relates to his people?
8. What aspects of covenant and what character attributes of God have stood out in this study?
9. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to someone or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?