

**“Remember that you [gentiles] were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the *commonwealth of Israel*, and strangers to the *covenants of promise*, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

**Ephesians 2:12-13 (NAS)**

## I. DEFINING THE TERM “COVENANT”

### A. Etymology Of “Covenant”

1. Hebrew word *beriyth* (ber-eeth') – Pronounced Berit:
  - “a treaty, an alliance, a league, a pledge (man to man)”
  - “a constitution, an ordinance (monarch to subjects)”
  - “an alliance (used of friendship or marriage)”
  - “a friendship between God and man”
  - “a covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges)”
  - “to select; (in the sense of cutting); a compact (made by passing between pieces of flesh)” – *Implies the shedding of blood*

### B. Biblical Definition of “Covenant”

**Deut. 4:13** Covenant is God's Commandments (God's Words)

**“So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments [*Ten Words*]; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.”**

### C. Working Definition Of “Covenant”

*Determined By How Covenant Is Described and Carried Out In Scripture*

1. It is Eternal – Covenant extends to your heirs (successors)
2. Has a common language, terms and vocabulary (Bible)
3. Based on grace and mercy and love that is expressed by deeds
4. Mutual Fidelity – *All parties are faithful to keep the terms and conditions of the covenant*
5. There are witnesses, an exchange of gifts, a change of names, a sign is given and a meal shared when a covenant is made
6. Religious Element – *Generally ratified by the shedding of blood.*

**II. GOD'S "COVENANTS OF PROMISES"****A. Edenic Covenant (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-17)**

1. Universal Covenant for life before the fall
2. Man given dominion over the earth
3. Monogamous marriage relationship between man & woman only
4. Be fruitful and multiple and work in the garden
5. Seventh day Sabbath rest
6. Eat from all the trees except the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil"
7. Disobedience brings the curse of death – "Law of sin and death"

**B. Adamic Covenant (Gen. 3:14-24)**

1. Universal Covenant governing life after the fall up to the flood
2. Defined the curse of sin on the man, the woman and the serpent
3. Promised virgin birth of a redeemer who would defeat Satan
4. Establishes salvation by grace through faith in the blood sacrifice
5. God's laws were given

**C. Noahic Covenant (Gen. 8:21 – 9:17, 24-27)**

1. Universal Covenant for life after the flood
2. Promise never to flood the earth again
3. First Covenant with a sign of the promise (Rainbow)
4. Blood sacrifice in a burnt offering to seal the covenant
5. Human government with a structure for the punishment of sin
6. God added some laws

**D. Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-18)**

1. Covenant specifically for God's people (Israel – Hebrew & Gentile)
2. Promised to bless Abraham and making him a great nation
3. Promised Abraham's descendents a land (Promised Land)
4. Melchizedek priesthood of the Messiah was revealed
5. Sign of the Abrahamic covenant (circumcision)
6. Obeying God's laws brought blessing (Gen. 26:3-5)

**E. Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 19 – 24, 31)**

1. Reestablished All God's "covenants of promise" given earlier
  - The law of sin and death
  - Promised Messianic Redeemer
  - Salvation by faith in the blood sacrifice (Passover blood a "sign")
  - Redefines blood sacrifice and burnt offerings
  - Reestablishes human government
  - Sign of Noahic Covenant (Rainbow still remains a sign)
  - Sign of Abrahamic Covenant (Circumcision)
  - Promises that Abraham will be a great nation (Israel)
  - Promises the Land of Canaan
  - Clean and unclean animals (relationship to them clarified)
  - Seventh day Sabbath rest reestablished on the way to Mt. Sinai
2. Seventh day Shabbat becomes the sign of the Mosaic Covenant
3. Separates God's feasts/celebrations from pagan celebrations
4. God commands Israel to write Torah on the heart  
**(Deut. 6:4-6; Pr. 3:3; 7:3)**
5. Israel rejects Melchizedek priesthood so God establishes the Levitical priesthood as a shadow and a type of Melchizedek order

**F. Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:12-16)**

1. An addition to the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants
2. Oath made to David securing an eternal resting place for Israel
3. That kings would descend from David
4. Promise that David's heir (the Messiah) would rule the restored house of Israel and the nations
5. Promises that David's tabernacle would be part of the pattern of the New Covenant Tabernacle (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16-18)

**G. The New (Renewed) Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8 – 10; Ez. 36)**

1. **"New"** – *Chadash*; "to be new, to renew, to repair, to make anew, to renew oneself"
2. A renewing of God's Covenants of Promise to all God's people  
(*a mixed multitude that is the commonwealth of Israel*)
3. The Torah (covenant terms & laws) written on the mind and the heart by God's Spirit, which empowers us to walk in them

### III. THE NEW COVENANT IN MESSIAH JESUS RENEWS GOD'S COVENANTS OF PROMISE

#### A. Eph. 2:11-22 Jesus Abolished The Barrier Of the Dividing Wall

1. "barrier of the dividing wall" was in the "Law of commandments contained in ordinances"
2. We just proved that this law was not Torah

#### B. Lev 19:33-34 Torah Never Puts A Barrier Between Jew And Gentile Gentiles Were Offered Full Access To The Covenants

<sup>33</sup>When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. <sup>34</sup>The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

- Deut 10:18-19

<sup>18</sup>"He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."

- Matt 5:43-45

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you <sup>45</sup>in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven..." (See also Heb. 13:1-2)

#### C. "Barrier" Is Referring To "Fences" Rabbis Put Up Around The Torah

1. Fence were "contained in ordinances"
2. "ordinances" is the Greek word; *dogma* (dogmatic manmade laws)
3. Direct reference to the man made *oral laws* (fences) of the Rabbis
4. Rabbi's made people go thru the Rabbi's Doctrine to get to God
5. Church has done the same thing today

#### D. 2 Tim. 3:14-17 Torah Has A Dual Purpose

1. Torah is the tutor that leads us to Messiah (**Gal. 3:24**)
2. Then it instructs us how to keep God's Covenant