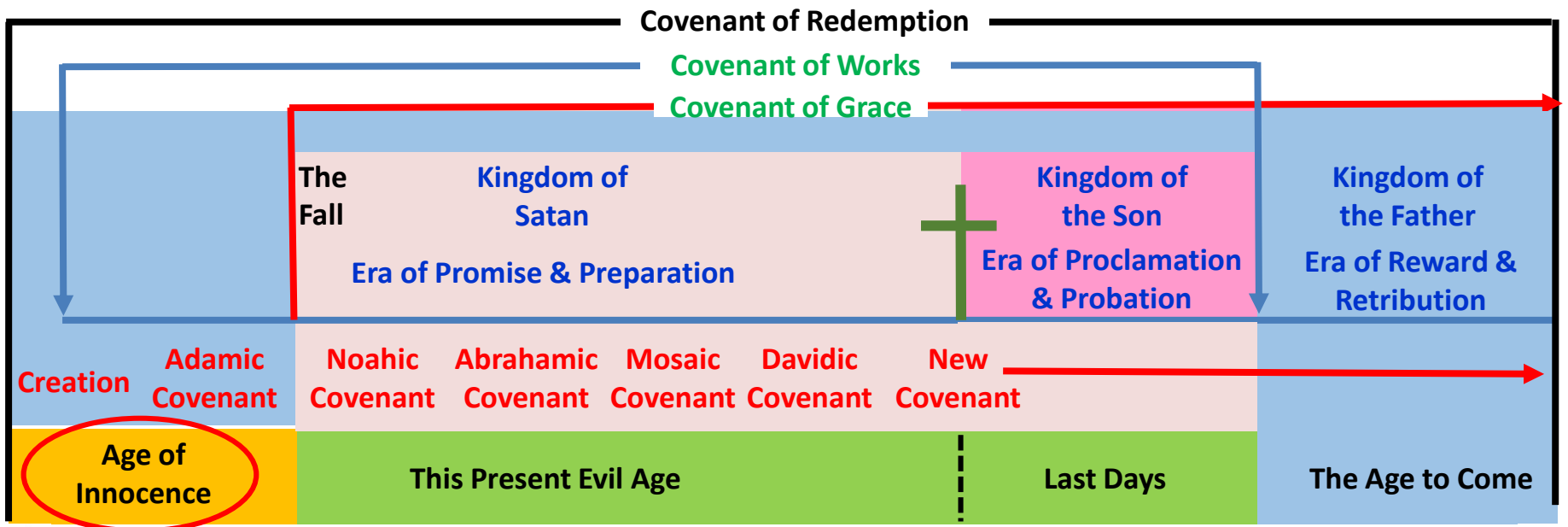


# Of Kingdoms & Covenants



## Lesson 2 – The Covenant of Works



- **Three Kingdoms**
- **Two Covenants with men**
- **Six Covenantal Administrations**
- **Four Ages:**
- **One Purpose:**

**“I will be your God, you will be My people, and I will dwell with you”**

**(Gen 17:7, Ex 29:45-46, Lev 26:12, Jer 7:23, Jer 31:33, Ezk 37:27, Zech 8:8, 2 Cor 6:16, Heb 8:10, Rev 21:3)**

- In Eden we catch **a glimpse of the eschatological Kingdom of God**
- The essence of the Kingdom is **God's direct rule** over his creation, a rule that by its very nature involves **purity, wholeness and blessing**
- God **reigned** in Eden:
  - **God ruled directly** over everything, man and world
  - There was **peace and communion**; all things were **“very good”**
  - There was **no sin**, chaos, evil, brokenness, pain, or sorrow
- **God Himself** (King) walked **within it**, eager to meet regularly, to commune (dwell), with **Adam and Eve** (subjects)



**“I will be your God, you will be My people and I will dwell with you”**

# Eden: “I will Dwell with You”

And the LORD God *planted* a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He *put* the man whom He had formed (Gen 2:8)

- God established the earth; He formed it to be inhabited – **by and for man!**
- God created Eden as a **sanctuary**, where He **dwelt** with Adam and Eve, “**His people**”
- This was **God’s Holy Temple** where:

... I will dwell with you”

- **If** Adam kept covenant
- God **cannot and will not**, dwell with or commune with sin



# The Pure cannot commune with the Impure; Why?

- Scripture is clear and consistent:
  - God is **holy** (Isa 6:3, Rev 4:8, etc)
  - God requires **perfect and perpetual obedience** to His law
  - Which is **the expression of His holiness and character**

**Be holy as I am holy** (Lev 11:44 & 1 Pe 1:16)



**Whenever Pure Meets Impure, The Pure is No Longer Pure**



**"99% Pure" is not "Pure" – It is impure!**

# God's Kingdom on Earth: Eden, Paradise

## The Immanuel Principle was in full effect

- Adam was created a covenantal being, in the image of God, holy
- He had **no example, no presence, of sin** about him
- He knew God personally
- He **walked with God** in the garden
- He was **anointed as Servant King** (Vice Regent) and given **dominion** over all creation

**“The physical points to the spiritual, the present to the future”**

# God's Kingdom:

- God sovereignly **initiates** the covenant (**Our King**)  
(I will be your **God**)
- God **establishes** the conditions:
  - He creates man as (**His Subjects**), His Servant Kings  
(You will be **My people**)
  - He creates the garden, **Paradise (His Realm)**  
(I will dwell with you)

“I will your **God**, you will be **My people**, and I will **dwell**  
with you”

(Gen 17:7, Ex 29:45-46, Lev 26:12, Jer 7:23, Jer 31:33,  
Ezk 37:27, Zech 8:8, 2 Cor 6:16, Heb 8:10, Rev 21:3)

# The Covenant of Works

- Westminster divine Anthony Burgess (1600-1664) admits that the Covenant of Works made with Adam is more **“obscurely laid down”** than the Covenant of Grace
- The covenant made with Adam **“must only be gathered by deductions and consequence”**
- The Westminster divines held that the whole counsel of God **“is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture”**  
(WCF, 1.6)





# Was there a Covenant with Adam?

- “Covenant of Works” is **not a biblical designation** but is derived by “good and necessary consequence”
- Akin to “Trinity” – **Inferential** Theology

Hos 6:7 – “But like Adam **they** (Israel) **transgressed the covenant**; there they dealt faithlessly with Me”

- **Noun or Pronoun?** (... like Man, **they** (Israel) transgressed....)
- Transgressed what **covenant of man**?
- Scripture contrasts a **first and second Adam** (e.g., 1Co 15:45-49)

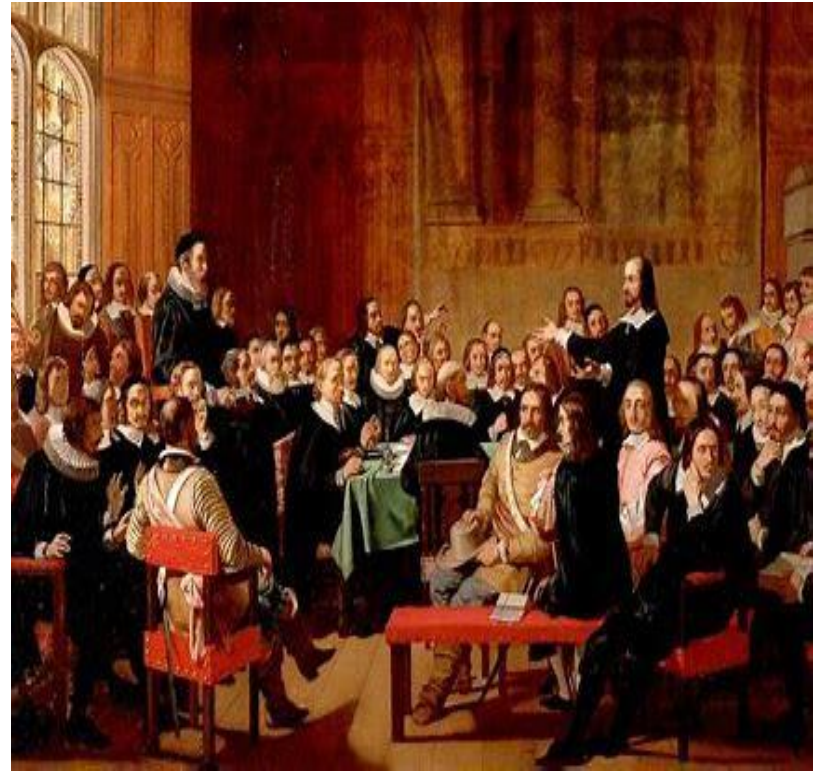
Heb 9:15 – **Therefore He** (Christ) **is the mediator of a new covenant** (Covenant of Grace), so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from **the transgressions committed under the first covenant** (Covenant of Works)

## WCF (7.1)

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 has been pleased to express **by way of covenant**

## WCF (7.2)

The **first covenant** made with man was a **covenant of works**, wherein **life was promised** to Adam, and in him **to his posterity, upon condition** of perfect and personal **obedience**



# Was there a Covenant with Adam?

**Gen 2:17-19** - *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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”*”

## Elements of a Covenant:

- **Two parties:** God and Adam
- **A stipulation:** You shall not eat
- **A curse:** You shall surely die
- **A promise:** Implied (You will surely live)



# What is the Covenant of Works?

- Under this covenant, **man must do what he is commanded** to continue in a state of blessedness
- If man **fails**, then the **curse** falls, “**covenant-breaker**”
- If man **succeeds, blessing** will be his’ and his offsprings’, “**covenant-keeper**”
- Historically, this divinely-given arrangement by which man may be blessed has been called the **Covenant of Works**
- Because its **focal point** was **man’s working**
- Everything **depended upon man**, by his **works**

# Elements of the Covenant: **The Parties**

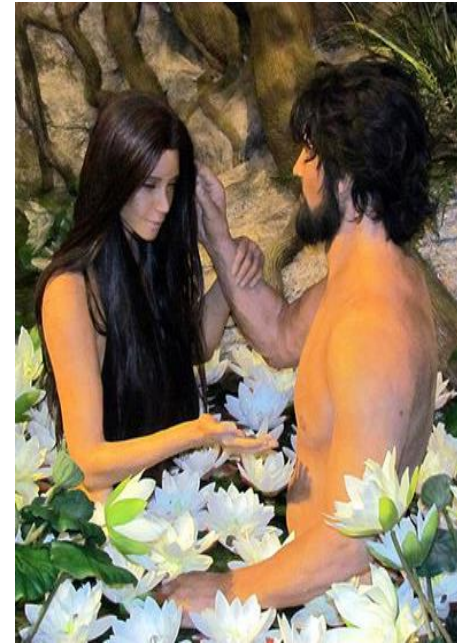
“You will be **My people**”

Then God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our image**, after **Our likeness** ...So God created man in **His own image**, in the **image of God** He created him; **male and female** He created them (Gen 1:26-27)

- God made man “in His image”

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a **living creature** (Gen 2:7) – Said **only** of mankind

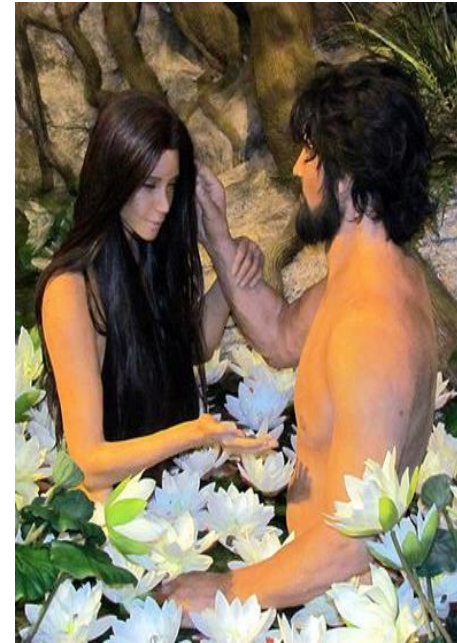
- A **creature**, God's creation
- Not immutable but **mutable**
- God made/makes all of His creatures "**according to their kind**" (Gen 2:21, 24 & 25)
- **Male and female** He created them – “Mankind”



# Elements of the Covenant: The Parties

“You will be **My people**”

- So Man was made **"in the image of God"**
- This also means that humanity has a **purpose**, a **meaning**, and a **reason to live**
- Part of that intent is a **covenant relation** with God – to image **Who and What God is**
- For Adam **did not have to seek after God**; he was immediately introduced to God, a **Personal Creator ...**
- God patterned Man upon Himself exclusively because He wanted him as **a particular creation to reveal His own image and likeness**



# Elements of the Covenant: The Parties

- Man is **a triune being** because he is created **in the image of God**  
    **“God said, Let Us make man in Our image”** (Gen 1:26)
- The **greatest gift** that God could give His creatures was **the gift of Himself** – His own image – given only to man
- Likewise, man is created a **triune being; body, soul and spirit**
- The Christian **doctrine of immortality** cannot be understood apart from the right conception of the tripartite nature of men
- Today’s **prevailing thought** is that man consists of only two component parts: namely, **body and soul**
- While **soul and spirit** are so **closely related** that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish accurately between them
- The Bible **does distinguish** between the soul and spirit; they are not the same

# Elements of the Covenant: **The Parties**

## **“You will be My people”**

- The **Bible clearly establishes** the fact that man is a triune being composed of **spirit, soul, and body**:

**I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 5:23)**

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (body), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12)**

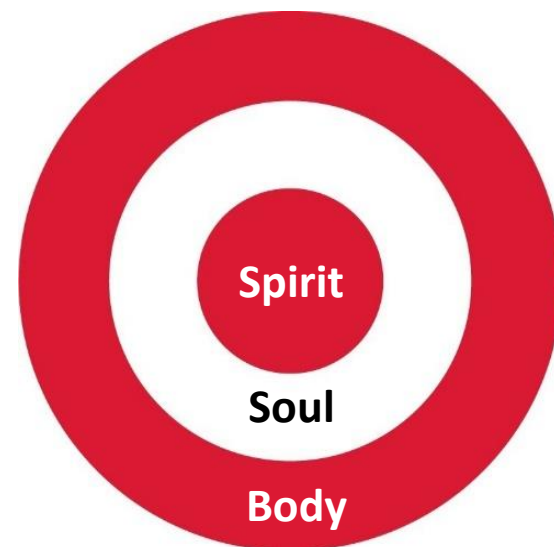
- Man was **created a trinity of spirit, soul, and body** even as the eternal God is Himself a trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
- The trinity of man is an essential part of **our image relationship with God**



## Elements of the Covenant: **The Parties**

- The **'Body'** relates to the Material world through the **five senses** of 'Sight,' 'Smell,' 'Hearing,' 'Taste' and 'Touch'
- The **'Soul'** relates to this world through our **minds and hearts**; our reason, imagination, 'conscience,' 'memory,' and 'affections'
- And it is our **'Spirit'** that relates to God; it is the sphere of **God consciousness**

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed** (H: ruach – spirit) into his nostrils the **breath** (H: ruach – spirit) of life, and the man became a living creature (Gen 2:7)



# Elements of the Covenant: **The Parties**

**“Male and female** He created them. Then the LORD God said, **“It is not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” (Gen 2:17-18)

- Just as God is a **communal** God in Himself
- The **Economic Trinity** – Three persons in one essence

**“God said, Let Us make man in Our image”** (Gen 1:26)

- So, He created man to **commune**
- God’s statement that it was **“not good that the man should be alone”** implies that Adam was **incomplete** by himself
- Adam had been **created for relationship**
- Eve was the **solution** to Adam’s deficiency

# Elements of the Covenant: The Parties

## “You will be My people”

Mankind *only* was created the “**imago Dei**”, in the image of God:

- As such, human beings **alone** are God’s image bearers
- As God’s image bearers, human beings are **under God and over lower creation**, and **great error** arises when they are pulled up toward God or pushed down toward animals
- Human beings are the image of God **intrinsically**, and this fact is not reduced to any aspect of their person or performance
- As God’s image bearers, humans were made to mirror God as an act of **worship and service**
- All people are **accountable** image-bearers of God – All are “**without excuse**” (Ro 1:20b)

**“Without God, all things are permissible”**

## Moral Relativism

- “There is **no God**”
- If no God, **no truth**
- If no truth, **no sin**
  - Values, **not virtues**
  - Lifestyle, **not sexual sin**
  - Choice, **not murder**
- If no sin, **no salvation**
- If no salvation, **no Savior**

## Scripture

- “Love the Lord your **God**”
- “I am the way, the **truth**”
- “Sin is the **transgression of the law**”
- “I have come that you might have **life**”
- “There is salvation in **no one else**”

# Elements of the Covenant: The Parties

- Our creation in the “image of God” provides the **foundation** for **ALL Human Rights**
- Rights: **Human and Animal**
  - All creatures are made after their “kind”
  - **Man is distinct from the animal creation**, a wholly different “kind”
  - We’re **not a higher animal** or the **most evolved**
  - We are **not the human animal**
  - In Gen 1:28, God gave man **authority** over all creation, to include the animals
  - Man, as God’s **Vice Regent**, is both **Steward** and **Protector** of creation

# Elements of the Covenant: **The Parties**

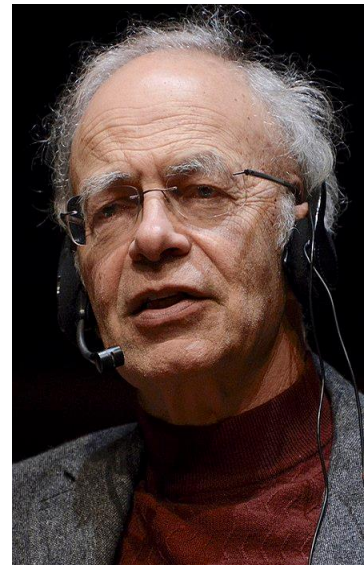
- Our creation in the “**image of God**” gives human beings have **intrinsic dignity, value, and worth**
- We are “**wonderfully made**”, “**His workmanship**”.... (Ps 139:13-16, Eph 2:10)
- Because we are created in God’s image, **ALL human life is sacred**
- The Sanctity of Life should move us to **combat all forms of evil and injustice** that are perpetuated against human life
- This fact provides the **foundation** for ALL Human Rights

**“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”** (Mt 22:39)

**“But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ ... ‘Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’”** (Lk 10:29, 36-37)

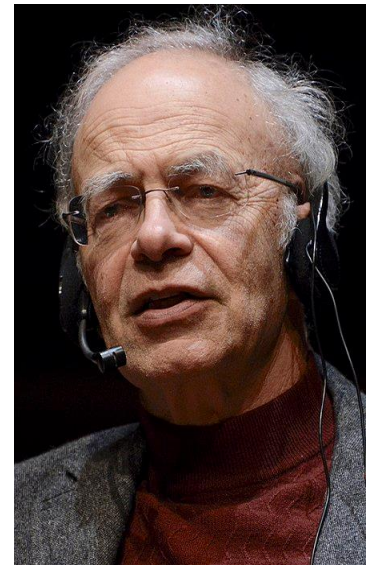
# Personhood

- Peter Albert David Singer, is a **Professor of Bioethics** at **Princeton**
- He was a member of the **President G.W Bush's Council on Bioethics** to advise his administration on bioethics
- He advocates that **personhood, not life**, should be the standard for ethical issues
- Personhood is the **status of being a person**; it is defined as any human (or non-human) agent which:
  - (1) possesses **continuous consciousness** over time &
  - (2) who is therefore **capable of framing representations** about the world, formulating plans and acting on them
- These views of personhood have major implications for the **sanctity of life**



# Personhood

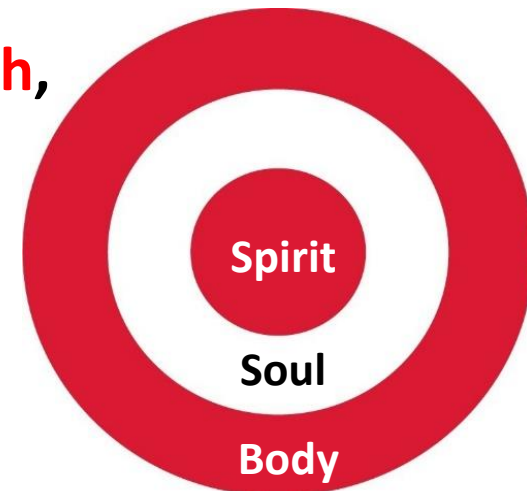
- Capacities or attributes common to definitions of personhood can include **human nature, agency, self-awareness**, a notion of the past and future, and the possession of rights and duties
- The **right to life** is essentially tied to a being's **capacity to hold preferences**, requiring rationality and self-awareness
- Personhood must be **developed and maintained**
- According to law, only a natural person or legal personality has **rights, protections, privileges, responsibilities, and legal liability**
- **"What is a person?"** When we group humans (and animals) into **"persons"** and **"nonpersons,"** we potentially provide justification for eugenics, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, slavery and a plethora of evils





# The Image of God

- Man as created in the image of God is made both to be and to do ... **we are designed to express who we are in what we do**
  - “To err is human, to forgive divine”
- For this reason, **God established** certain **blessings and obligations** for man at the very outset of His relationship with man
- What is the **punishment** for Adam's sin in the Garden?
- **Death is not a natural process** – It is the result of sin, of rebellion against God
- The punishment was **immediate spiritual death**, and the slow death of both soul and body – “you shall dying die”
- Resulting in the separation of **soul and body** at death



# Elements of the Covenant: The Parties

## “I will be your God”

- We know God only as He reveals Himself to us
- The universal precepts of the law are the expression of God’s character and holiness
- The Creator/creature distinction necessitates law, accountability
- If man were autonomous, then man would be his own “god”
- The law and communion with God requires external and internal obedience – integrity (Sermon on the Mount)
- Thus, God invokes covenantal promise for faithfulness and curse for unfaithfulness

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it (Ja 2:10)

## Elements of the Covenant: Stipulation

The symbolic law was the tree of knowledge of **good and evil** (Gen 2:26-17), **to test and try man's obedience** – “**Do this and live**”

A perfect **three-fold keeping of the law** was required:

- Of its **parts**, the whole man, **body and soul**, had to keep the law

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind**. This is the great and first commandment (Mt 22:37)

- Of its **degree**, man had to keep all the law perfectly

For whoever keeps the whole law **but fails in one point** has become accountable for all of it (Ja 2:10)

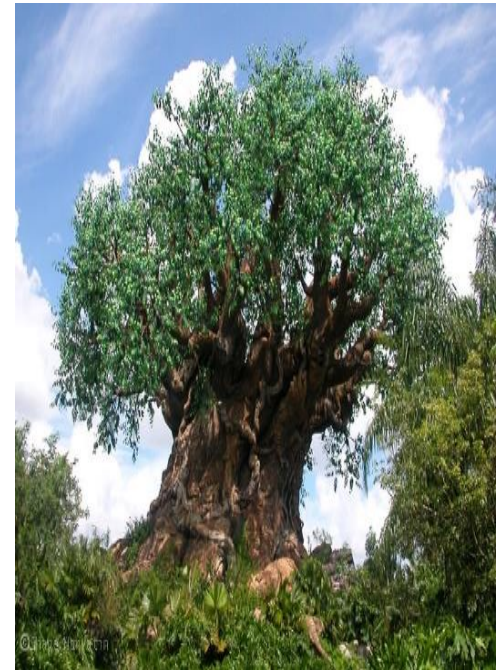
- Of its **duration**, man had to persevere in keeping the law without fault, always

Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man**, and death through sin, and so **death spread to all men** because all sinned (Ro 5:12)

# Elements of the Covenant: **Curse and Promise**

Curses – Gen 2:17-19 - “And the Lord God **commanded** the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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** (dying die)”

- The covenant blessing was contingent on Adam continuing **perfectly** in his obligations to God
- Man might have had **life and everlasting communion** with the Lord of creation forevermore
- He might never have known **corruption, misery, and the curse**
- The way for Adam and all his posterity to remain in a state of well-being and happiness was **based entirely on what he would do** (Gen 2:8-9, 16-17)
- There was no **provision for the continuation of God’s blessings** if disobedience occurred



# Elements of the Covenant: **Curse and Promise**

Curses – Gen 2:17-19 - “And the Lord God **commanded** the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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** (dying die)”

- There was no **provision for the continuation of God’s blessings** if disobedience occurred
- “**Dying, you shall die**”: Man would **die spiritually immediately** and begin the process of physical death

*For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse*; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them” (Gal 3:10)

- Under this covenant, **man must do what he is commanded** in order to continue in a state of blessedness



# Promise – Eternal Life: “Do this and Live”

- **All men**, descending from Adam, **are born under** the Covenant of Works

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who *does the commandments shall live by them* (Ro 10:5)

But the law is not of faith, rather “*The one who does them shall live by them*” (Gal 3:12)

“Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And He said to him ... **If you would enter life, keep the commandments**” (Mt 19:16-17)

- All religions are based on **works righteousness** (Covenant of Works)
- Even we who are under grace struggle with works righteousness (**Arminianism**)



## Elements of the Covenant:

**Two Parties:** God covenants with **mankind** not individually but corporately, through their **Federal Head** (Ro 5:12-18; 1 Co 15: 21 f., 45-49)

- Adam was the federal head because God made all of His creatures "**after their kind**", **after or according to their nature**
- **“Man-Kind”** or **“Adam-Kind”**
- In Adam, the terrible plight of fallen mankind is that **we inherit his nature – covenant breakers of the Covenant of Works**
- God establishes His covenants through representatives – **“You will be My people (plural)”**
- All of mankind is in covenant with God; either **in Adam (the Covenant of Works)** or **in Christ (the Covenant of Grace)**

# Federal Headship: “You will be My People”

- The first **Adam** was a “**type**” of the Last Adam— **Jesus Christ**
- Scripture presents both **Adam and Christ** as heads of a people whom they **represent**

**Ro 5:12** – Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man**, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

**Ro 5:15** – For if many died through **one man's** (Adam) **trespass**, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by **the grace of that one man Jesus Christ** abounded for many

**1 Co 15:45-47** – **The first man Adam** became a living being; **the last Adam** became a life-giving spirit... **The first man** was from the earth, a man of dust; **the second man** is from heaven

**1 Co 15:22** – **For as in Adam all die** (Covenant of Works), **so also in Christ** (Covenant of Grace) **shall all be made alive**



# Sacraments & Seals of the Covenant

- There were **two sacraments and seals** in the covenant:
  - The **Tree of Knowledge** respecting the Law, “do this” , and
  - The **Tree of Life** respecting the promise, “Live”
- One is called the **Sacrament of Life**, and
- The other the **Sacrament of Death**
- All were agreed that the presence of **these two trees represented:**
  - **Covenantal promise and curse,**
  - **Life and death**
- And these confirmed Adam in a **Covenant of Works**



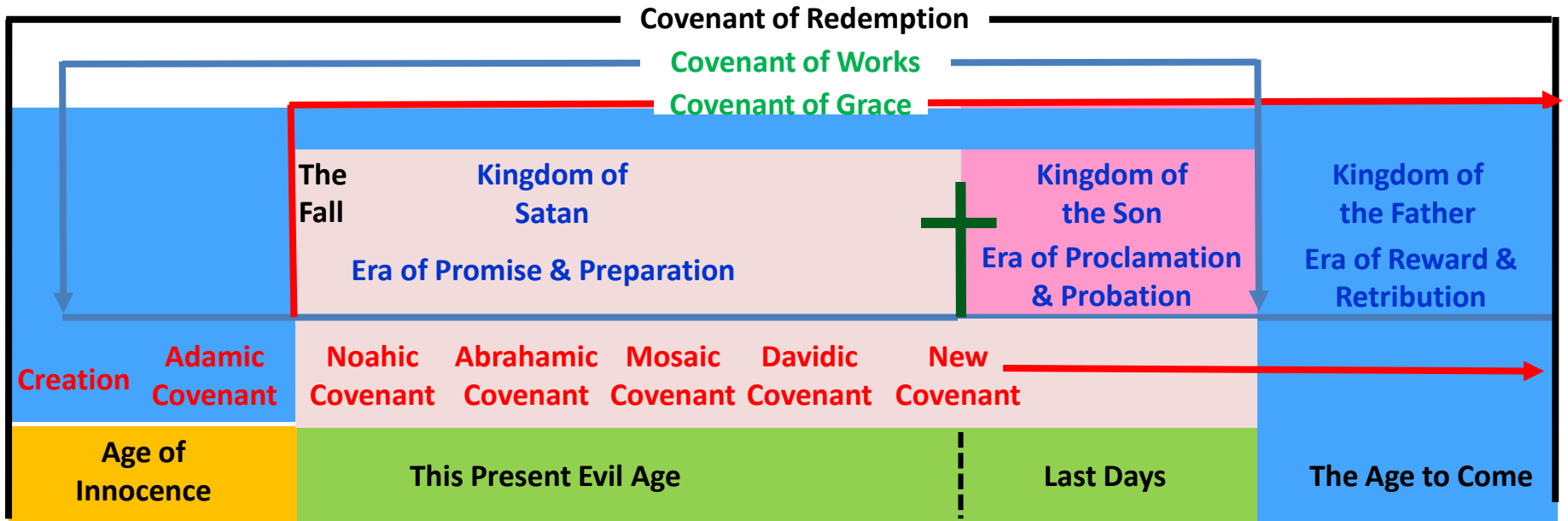
# The Kingdom of God:

## God's Consummate Purpose:

- Had Adam and Eve remained faithful ...
- They would have produced **children** to fill the whole earth with God's **holy, righteous** image
- This people, God's **people**, would have **imaged God** in their work by subduing and cultivating the **earth** until it became one giant **sanctuary; God's dwelling place**
- At the end of this joyful work, God would **consummate** His **creation**, and the human race would experience **glorification**
- Thus fulfilling:

**“I will be Your God, You will be My People, and I will Dwell with You”**

**Heaven on Earth**



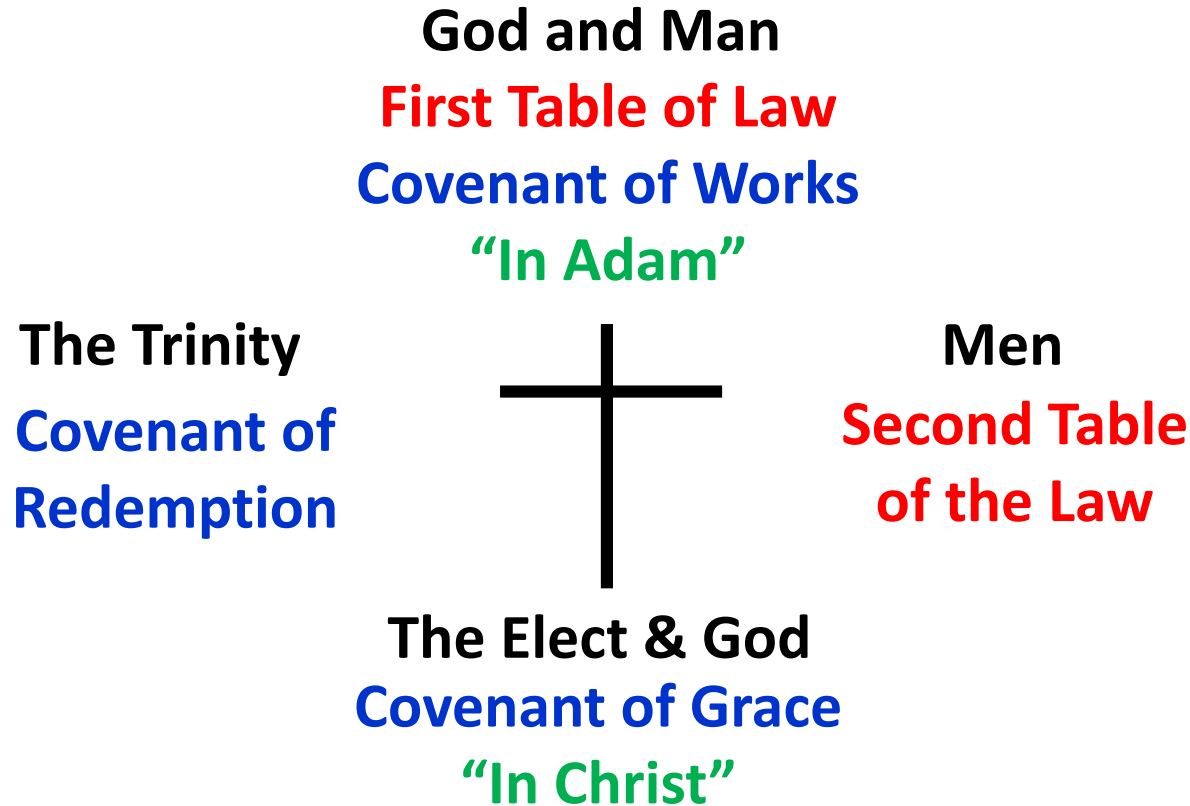
- **Three Kingdoms**
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**“I will be your God, you will be My people, and I will dwell with you”**

**(Gen 17:7, Ex 29:45-46, Lev 26:12, Jer 7:23, Jer 31:33, Ezk 37:27, Zech 8:8, 2 Cor 6:16, Heb 8:10, Rev 21:3)**

# Back-Ups

# Mankind – Covenantal Beings



Mt 22:36-39 -- Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets

# Eden: “I will Dwell with You”

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there He put the man whom He had formed (Gen 2:8)

- Surrounded by **beauty and loveliness** -- perfection
- Born into **a world completely without sin, or its effects**
- There was only **ONE will**
- All creation lived in **harmony**; no fighting, no anger, no strife
- There was **no shame** nor anything to be ashamed of
- There was **no death** or illness
- **Blood had never been shed**; there was no **injury**, no **pain**

