

## Backdrop: The Five Covenants

### Opening Discussion:

1. Have you ever made a promise you did not keep?
2. Has anyone ever made a promise to you that they did not keep?
3. Why do all people fail to keep their word?
4. Why is it important to know that God always keeps His promises?

God made five \_\_\_\_\_ with His people, and each covenant found its fulfillment in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

I will establish my covenant with you. **Genesis 6:18**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you. **Genesis 9:8-9**

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **Genesis 12:1-3**

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. **Genesis 15:18**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." **Genesis 17:1**

God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. **Genesis 17:9**

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. **Exodus 19:5-6**

#### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ covenant

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. **2 Samuel 7:12-16**

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations. **Psalms 89:3-4**

## 5. The New covenant

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **1 Corinthians 11:25**

All God's covenant promises are realized through Jesus:

- God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 1:54–55, 69–75; 2 Cor. 1:20).
- He is the Messiah (Matt. 1:17–18; 2:4–6; 16:16; 21:9; Luke 2:11; John 7:42; Acts 2:22–36).
- He is the ultimate seed of Abraham (Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16).
- He is the offspring of David (Matt. 1:1; Luke 1:27, 32–33; 2:4; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 5:5).
- He fulfills the role of Isaiah's Servant by redeeming Israel and expanding God's blessings to an international community of faith (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 2:38; Acts 3:18; 3:25-26; 4:27–28; 8:32–35; 10:1-11:18; 15:1-29; Rom. 1:2-6, 3:22-24; 4:16-18; 15:8-12; Gal. 3:7–14, 29; Heb. 9:12,15).

The New Covenant in Jesus replaced the Old Covenant (Mosaic Covenant).

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. **Hebrews 8:13**

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. **Galatians 3:16-18**

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. **Galatians 4:21-26**

In the gospel, God fulfilled His part of the covenants and our part of the covenants.

### **Fill in the Blank Answers**

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God has made five covenants with His people, and each covenant has found its fulfillment in Jesus.

1. Noahic
2. Abrahamic
3. Mosaic
4. Davidic
5. New

In the gospel, God fulfilled His part of the covenants and our part of the covenants.