

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Four: "The Covenant Model: Hierarchy"

The second section of the covenant model is entitled Hierarchy. In section one, we identified the Transcendent One who was seen to be the giver of the covenant. In this section, we identify the one to whom the covenant is given. Along with receiving the status of covenant participant, the hierarchy is yoked with the Sovereign and given the job of stewarding for Him.

1. "And God said, Let us make man in our image and after our likeness and let them have dominion" (Gen. 1:26, KJV)

Image (#6754) *selem* – resemblance, representative, figure

- Adam would be an earthly, visible image of the Father and reflect God differently than all the rest of creation.
- Jesus responded to Philip's request to see the Father by saying, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:8-9)

Likeness (#1823) *demut*, from the root (#1819) *dama* – to be like, compare, liken, or similitude

- Adam would represent His father's interest in the earth; he would care for the earth like God would rule the earth.
- Jesus answered those who accused him of breaking Sabbath laws: ". . . The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." (John 5:19)

Dominion (#7287) *radah* – reign, bear rule, subjugate

- Adam would image the Father's attributes and be like the Father in his management, thus ruling the earth as God's vice regent.
- "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)

2. Hierarchy manifests God's transcendence.

God, as true Sovereign, establishes His authority on earth through his representatives.

Hierarchy is visible sovereignty. Lordship is proven by setting up delegated authorities in the earth, as seen in the following examples:

- A president appoints his own cabinet after assuming office.
- A king chooses his court, his knights, his nobles.
- In Christ's kingdom, the church serves as his ambassadors. "So that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old state of things has passed away; a new state of things has come into existence. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has appointed us to serve in the ministry of reconciliation. We are to tell how God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not charging men's transgressions to their account, and that he has entrusted to us the Message of this reconciliation. On Christ's behalf therefore we come as ambassadors, God, as it were, making entreaty through our lips: we, on Christ's behalf, beseech men to be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:17-20, WEY)

Section two of the covenant model is sometimes called the Historical Prologue because the demonstrating of God's transcendence transfers from Him to his hierarchy, from the verbal to the visual, from heaven to earth, and from declaration to temporal demonstration (history). God repeatedly demonstrated His sovereign and transcendent power through his hierarchy: Moses defeated Pharaoh and Egypt; Joshua and the Israelites conquered nations in Canaan; Gideon defeated the Midianites; and numerous other examples can be found within the pages of scripture. Because of who He is, His hierarchy will be successful in advancing His kingdom until the glory of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14)