

The School of Biblical Law
Introduction to Law and Grace
Lesson Sixteen: “The Condemnation of Death, Part 2”

Because man is under the condemnation of the death sentence due to Adam’s transgression, God established a relationship with man by enacting a covenant. If man keeps the covenant, man is promised blessings; but if man breaks the covenant, man is assured of curses. The covenant defines man’s relationship with God.

1. The first point of the covenant model is Transcendence.

The first section of the covenant reveals the one who is the giver of the covenant, the boss, or the Lord.

When using the title of transcendence for God, we mean that God is outside or distinct from all the rest of the created order. Creation does not participate in God’s being.

Nothing existed before God stepped into the void and made all that is (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Isa. 45:5-12; John 1:1-3), therefore all that is created answers to the Creator.

He upholds, sustains, and maintains the world by the Word of His power (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17).

2. The second section of the covenant is Hierarchy.

Hierarchy identifies those appointed to work for the boss or those invited to steward or manage the assets of the sovereign.

Adam and Eve were the first appointed hierarchy to manage God’s property of the earth.

3. The third section of the covenant is Ethics.

Ethics defines the rules or the way in which the boss has outlined that which is right and is wrong for his stewards. The owner defines how the assets may be used.

All covenants have law, rules, or ethics; and these are always defined by the transcendent.

4. Section four of the covenant model is Sanctions.

The covenant implements a system of rewards or blessings for following the ethics and sanctions or cursing for disobedience to the laws (Deut. 28).

Without enforcing the sanctions, another law is established.

Sanctions are prophetic; they predict the outcome based upon obedience to the ethics.

5. Section five of the covenant model is Continuity.

Continuity defines the future of the covenant or who is in line to continue the covenant based upon the death of either the sovereign or the hierarchy.

In His mercy, God offers mankind an opportunity to work for Him and to walk with Him. This opportunity comes to us in the form of a covenant and is found in the pages of scripture in two forms: the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. Both covenants have laws because section three of the covenant model identifies required ethics. What happens to man if he cannot keep the ethical code identified in the covenant? How can man escape the decree of death?