

# Covenant Theology: from a Reformed Baptist Perspective

## Lesson 3: The Adamic Covenant (aka The Covenant of Works)

*“Now there are but two covenants; therefore it must needs be that they that are under the curse are under the law (covenant of works); seeing those that are under the other covenant are not under the curse, but under the blessing.”-*  
Bunyan

**At the beginning of human history, while man was still in his state of innocence in the Garden of Eden, God made a \_\_\_\_\_ with Adam-Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17**

This covenant was made with man in the state of his \_\_\_\_\_. Adam was made in the image of God. Adam had a rational soul that was not given to fallen reasoning. Adam was created holy, upright, and good. He was truly able to obey God’s commands. He was placed by God in a perfect environment. He was given a helper so that he would not be alone. All the circumstances were there for Adam to succeed.

**Objection! Wait a second, the word covenant is not used as all in Genesis 1-3. So, how can we say that God made a covenant with Adam?**

**Answer: Yes, the word “covenant” is not found in these chapters, but all the elements of a covenant are contained here.**

**Elements of a covenant:**

- 1. 2 parties (God and Adam)**
- 2. A command given**
- 3. A punishment is attached to disobedience**
- 4. A promise of reward is inferred**
- 5. Agreement to obey the given command**
- 6. A visible sacrament was given that was a pledge and sign of the promise (the Tree of life)**

**This covenant that God made with Adam (Eve was not yet in existence) is commonly called “the covenant of \_\_\_\_\_”.**

**Adam’s \_\_\_\_\_ before God was based upon his works. Would he obey God and trust His Word and live? Or would he disobey God and doubt His Word and die?**

*“Confirmed eternal life and immutable perfect communion with God were not a part of Adam’s natural constitution. He was sinless and upright, but he was able to sin...Adam was capable of violating God’s law...”-*  
Renihan

**God’s covenants with men always promise future \_\_\_\_\_ and this was also the case with Adam. Eternal life in perfect holiness was to be earned by works.**

This is seen in existence of the tree of life. Had Adam remained faithful to the Lord he would have been granted to eat of the Tree of Life and be \_\_\_\_\_ confirmed in a state of holiness and communion with God.

**The covenant of works leaves no room for \_\_\_\_\_. The covenant of works declares, “Do this and live”.**

The covenant of works demands \_\_\_\_\_. You must be perfect to gain life. Any transgression would be punished according to the stipulations of the covenant.

*“The covenant of works provided no mediator, nor any other method of restoration to the purity and bliss which was lost. There was no place given for repentance. All was irrevocably lost. Between the blessing of obedience and the curse of disobedience there was no middle ground. So far as the terms of the covenant of works was concerned, its inexorable sentence was: ‘The soul that sinneth, it shall die.’”-Pink*

**The work of Adam was fidelity to the Law of God. Adam had the Law of God written on His heart (the moral law). Adam also was given a \_\_\_\_\_ law. While positive laws are not part of the moral law, disobedience to them is a violation of the moral law.**

-A positive law is an \_\_\_\_\_ law of God that cannot be discovered by nature but is revealed specifically by God...here in Genesis the positive law was “do not eat from the tree”.

**In this covenant Adam was the \_\_\_\_\_ head of all humanity. All humanity was bound up in Adam and Adam’s failure or success would impact all of his posterity.**

Adam acted for us all

**Adam \_\_\_\_\_ against God by violating His Law. Adam broke covenant of works. -Genesis 3:1-7**

-in breaking the positive law of God Adam also violated the law written on his heart (\_\_\_\_\_ law)

**Adam failed to usher himself and his posterity into the blessed state of eternal \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, his communion with God was severed and he was cursed to toil by the sweat of his brow until he would eventually return back to dust. -Genesis 3:8-19**

**When Adam sinned, the promised curse was meted out upon him and all his posterity (\_\_\_\_\_ sin).**

The phrase “original sin” refers to the state that all humanity is now born into after the Fall. We all fell in Adam. His sin was \_\_\_\_\_ to us. We are all seen as breakers of the covenant of works even from birth. -Romans 5:18-19

*“If there had been no covenant of works there could have been no death in Adam, there could have been no life in Christ.”-Pink*

**In Adam, all men stand before God by nature as \_\_\_\_\_ of violating the covenant of works**

And this curse brought death not only to Adam but to all humanity. This teaches us why we sin. We do not become sinners because we sin. We sin because we are \_\_\_\_\_

*“Everyone whether they have the Mosaic Law written on stones or the law written on their heart of stone (in both cases the moral part of the law is identical), has a covenantal relationship with God, and this includes after Jesus died. People are fond of saying, ‘You need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.’ According to the Bible, everyone already does. Remember, a covenant is defined first and foremost by relationship. The problem is, it is a relationship built now on treachery and lies.”-Van Dorn*

**Even in His judgments against sin God shows Himself to be \_\_\_\_\_ and gracious.**

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ can be seen in not enacting all the covenant curses upon men all at once

God’s mercy can be seen in keeping Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life after the Fall. He did this to keep Adam and Eve from the \_\_\_\_\_ that eternal life could now be attained by our works.

God’s grace can be seen in His giving of \_\_\_\_\_ in the giving of the promise of a Savior-Genesis 3:15

*“The covenant of works being broken by sin and made unprofitable unto life, God was pleased to give for the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman...” (LBC 20.1)*

*“It is of vital importance for a right understanding of much in God’s Word to observe the relation which Adam sustained to his posterity. Adam was not only the common parent of mankind, but he was also their federal head and representative. The whole human race was placed on probation or trial in Eden. Adam acted not for himself alone, but he transacted for all who were to spring from him. Unless this basic fact be definitely apprehended, much that ought to be relatively clear to us will be shrouded in impenetrable mystery. Yea, we go further, and affirm that, until the federal headship of Adam and God’s covenant with him in that office be actually perceived, we are without the key to God’s dealings with the human race, we are unable to discern man’s relation to the divine law, and we appreciate not the fundamental principles upon which the atonement of Christ proceeds.”-Pink*