

Covenant Theology: from a Reformed Baptist Perspective

Lesson 2: The Eternal Covenant (aka The Covenant of Redemption or Pactum Salutis)

1. The Eternal Covenant was established in _____

A. Everything that happens on earth happens because God has _____ it to happen.

“God hath decreed in Himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein...” LBC 3.1

“Our God is in the heavens, He does all that He pleases.” Psalm 115:3

“The Lord of Hosts has sworn: As I have planned so shall it be, and as I have purposed so shall it stand.” Isaiah 14:24

B. All human history is the _____ and fulfillment of the eternal decree of God. The eternal covenant was the decree of God.

Human history is the unfolding of God’s _____ decree. The covenants God made with man are part of human history. Therefore, the covenants God made with man are the unfolding of that which God decreed before the world began.

“...God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.” 2 Timothy 1:8-9

“Reformed dogmaticians for the most part have come to designate this eternal order of decrees as the pactum salutis or ‘covenant of redemption’ to distinguish it from the concrete, tangible execution in history of the specifically redemptive aspects of the same eternal decree, which they designate the ‘covenant of grace.’”-Dr. Robert Reymond

2. The Eternal _____ was made within the Godhead

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are those who are involved in the eternal covenant. However, we must remember that this covenant is different than covenants made between people because God is One therefore there is _____ divine will. This covenant flows from the Father to the Son and then to the Holy Spirit.

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.”-John 6:38

“The everlasting covenant...is the mutual agreement into which the Father entered with His Son before the foundation of the world respecting the salvation of the elect, Christ being appointed the Mediator, He willingly consenting to be their head and representative.” -Pink

3. The Eternal Covenant is the _____ of all the covenants God made with man

Every covenant God makes with man is simply a historical outworking and progression of the unfolding of The Eternal Covenant. The Eternal Covenant lies behind all other covenants. We _____ separate any of the covenants from this one.

“For all of the promise of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.”-2 Corinthians 1:20

“The prehistoric Covenant of Redemption contains the seeds out of which all historic treaties and grants (works and grace) would be planted.” -Van Dorn

4. The Eternal Covenant is all about God’s plan of _____ His elect

God decreed the salvation of a particular group of people and _____ detail about of how this would happen was decided upon before the world began.

“For therein was He ‘foreordained before the foundation of the world’ (1 Peter 1:20) to be a Savior and Deliverer, by whom all the counsels of God were to be accomplished; and this by His own will, and concurrence in counsel with the

Father. And such a foundation was laid for the salvation of the church in these counsels of God-as transacted between the Father and Son-that it is said, that 'eternal life was promised before the world began' (Titus 1:2)."-John Owen

-This plan involved _____ for the Son to do and the promise of reward based upon His accomplishing of it

Similar to the other covenants there was work to be done and upon the completion of that work promised blessings would be _____

-God the Father promised the Son several things:

1. _____

"For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption."-Psalm 16:10

"...they will kill Him, and on the third day He will rise."-Luke 18:33

2. _____ glory

Philippians 2:8-10

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."-Hebrews 12:2

"Covenants are commitments with attached rewards and blessings guarded by sanctions. The reward promised to the Son if He faithfully and perfectly completed the commitments and obligations of the covenant was resurrection and exaltation."-Renihan

3. a _____

"I have manifested our name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."-John 17:6

4. an _____

"...the ends of the earth shall be your possession."-Psalm 2:8

-God the Son agreed to several things:

1. To be _____ to His people-His bride

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church."-Ephesians 5:31-32

2. To fulfill the covenant of works as a _____ for His people

"For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."-Romans 5:17

"The covenant of Redemption was a covenant of works. God the Son had to fulfill commands to obtain the blessings of the covenant. The mission of the Son and its effects will extend to a people represented by the Son."-Renihan

3. To be the _____ between God and man fulfilling the roles of priest, prophet, and king

"Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises."-Hebrews 8:6

"The Covenant of Redemption is a wonderful and wondrous truth. The Father sent the Son on a mission as a federal head of an elect people, constituted Him a prophet, priest, and king, sustained Him in all His work, and promised Him a reward of eternal resurrected glorified life for Himself and all His people in a new creation."-Renihan

4. To pay the _____ for sin as the representative of His people

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."-Mark 10:45