

Study on Covenant Theology **By Pastor Hanson**

John Calvin's *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* became the treatise on the protestant faith.

3 Covenants: None of these covenants are in the Bible

1. Covenant of Works. This is named for the agreement between God and Adam between the creation and the Fall of man (Gen. 2:16-17).
2. Covenant of Redemption. This was supposedly established before creation between God the Father and God the Son (Gen 3:15).
3. Covenant of Grace. Some say that this covenant is implied with the "I am the Lord thy God" statements throughout Scriptures (Gen. 12).

Not all, but many that hold the Covenant Theology position believe that the Mosaic Law and even the O.T as a whole has been canceled thus believers should only hold to the authority and direction of the New Testament.

Dispensationalism: This system holds to a literal interpretation of Scripture while also holding to a distinction between Israel and the church.

There are seven dispensations/ages of time: 1. Innocence (before the fall) 2. Conscience (Adam-Noah) 3. Government (Noah-Babel) 4. Promise (Abraham-Moses) 5. Mosaic Law (Moses-Christ) 6. Grace (Pentecost-rapture) 7. Millennium

Some key beliefs of Covenant Theology

1. Always a 5-point Calvinist
2. Accepts both literal and allegorical interpretation of the Bible even when figurative language is not clearly stated or implied.
3. Israel may mean either literal descendants of Jacob or the figurative spiritual Israel. Thus, God has always had only 1 people, the church. (I Chron 6:5-6; Amos 7:15; Heb. 8:10)
4. The church began in the O.T. (Acts 7:38) and reach fulfillment in the N.T. (Acts 2:44-47)
5. All men who have ever been saved, including in the O.T., have been saved by faith in Christ as their sin-bearer (I Cor. 2:1-11).
6. The Holy Spirit has indwelt believers in all ages including in the O.T. era. (John 14:26; Acts 2:16-18, 37-39).
7. Regarding the end times, the church is the Kingdom of God and they are usually Amillennial or Post-Millennial