



SOZO CHURCH

YEARLY BIBLE READING PLAN

2023

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**GENESIS 1-6: ADAMIC COVENANT
GENESIS 6-11: NOAHIC COVENANT**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 15
GENESIS 1-11**

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

**WEEK OF JANUARY 22
GENESIS 12-20**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 29
GENESIS 21-30**

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5
GENESIS 31-40**

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12
GENESIS 41-50**

MOSAIC COVENANT

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19
EXODUS 1-10**

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26
EXODUS 11-20**

**WEEK OF MARCH 4
EXODUS 21-30**

**WEEK OF MARCH 11
EXODUS 31-40**

**WEEK OF MARCH 18
DEUTERONOMY 1-10**

**WEEK OF MARCH 25
DEUTERONOMY 11-20**

**WEEK OF APRIL 1
DEUTERONOMY 21-30**

**WEEK OF APRIL 8
DEUTERONOMY 31-34
NUMBERS 9-13**

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DAVIDIC COVENANT & ACCOMPANYING PSALMS

WEEK OF APRIL 15
1 SAMUEL 1-10

WEEK OF APRIL 22
1 SAMUEL 11-20
PSALM 59

WEEK OF APRIL 29
1 SAMUEL 21-22
PSALM 24; 52; 56;
57; 59; 142

WEEK OF MAY 6
1 SAMUEL 23-31

WEEK OF MAY 13
2 SAMUEL 1-7
PSALM 30 & 89

WEEK OF MAY 20
2 SAMUEL 8-15
PSALM 60; 51; 3

WEEK OF MAY 27
2 SAMUEL 16-24
PSALM 18

WEEK OF JUNE 3
1 KINGS 1-10

WEEK OF JUNE 10
1 KINGS 11-20

WEEK OF JUNE 17
1 KINGS 21-22
2 KINGS 1-8

WEEK OF JUNE 24
2 KINGS 9-18

WEEK OF JULY 1
2 KINGS 19-25

PROPHETIC PASSAGES REGARDING CHRIST, HIS KINGDOM & THE NEW COVENANT

WEEK OF JULY 8

ISAIAH 9:1-11, ISAIAH 11:1-10, ISAIAH 35
ISAIAH 42:1-9, ISAIAH 53, ISAIAH 61

WEEK OF JULY 15

DANIEL 2:31-45, DANIEL 7:9-28, PSALM 22
PSALM 110, JEREMIAH 31:31-34, EZEKIEL 37

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NEW COVENANT

WEEK OF JULY 22 LUKE 1-10	WEEK OF JULY 29 LUKE 11-20	WEEK OF AUGUST 5 LUKE 21-24 ACTS 1-7
WEEK OF AUGUST 12 ACTS 8-17	WEEK OF AUGUST 19 ACTS 18-28	WEEK OF AUGUST 26 ROMANS 1-10
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2 ROMANS 11-16 1 CORINTHIANS 1-4	WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9 1 CORINTHIANS 5-14	WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 1 CORINTHIANS 15-16 2 CORINTHIANS 1-8
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 2 CORINTHIANS 9-13 GALATIANS 1-4	WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30 GALATIANS 5-6 EPHESIANS 1-6	WEEK OF OCTOBER 7 ALL OF PHILIPPIANS ALL OF COLOSSIANS
WEEK OF OCTOBER 14 ALL OF 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS	WEEK OF OCTOBER 21 ALL OF 1 & 2 TIMOTHY	WEEK OF OCTOBER 28 ALL OF TITUS, PHILEMON & JAMES
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 HEBREWS 1-10	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 HEBREWS 11-13 ALL OF 1 PETER	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18 ALL OF 2 PETER 1, 2 & 3 JOHN
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 ALL OF JUDE REVELATION 1-9	WEEK OF DECEMBER 2 REVELATION 9-18	WEEK OF DECEMBER 9 REVELATION 19-22 JOHN 1-6
WEEK OF DECEMBER 16 JOHN 7-16	WEEK OF DECEMBER 23 JOHN 18-21	



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COVENANT

THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN RECORD OF GOD'S COVENANT JOURNEY WITH HUMANITY. IF WE UNDERSTAND THIS, THE SCRIPTURE NARRATIVE WILL TAKE ON A WHOLE NEW MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE. GOD'S LOVE AND PURPOSE FOR HUMANITY IS EXPRESSED THROUGH HIS FAITHFUL COVENANT LOVE. GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THE COVENANT THAT HE IS IN.

CANON

THE BIBLE IS A DIVERSE LIBRARY OF 66 BOOKS, WRITTEN OVER THE COURSE OF 1500 YEARS, BY OVER 40 AUTHORS, IN VARIOUS GENRES. COVENANTS IN THE BIBLE ARE SURROUNDED BY CANONS THAT PROVIDE CONTEXT AND CULTURE NEEDED TO MAKE SENSE OF THE COVENANT. CANONS ARE EXPRESSED THROUGH WISDOM LITERATURE, POETRY, STORIES, MUSIC, ART, CULTURE, HISTORY, PROPHECIES, EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, PASTORAL AND APOSTOLIC LETTERS, ETC.

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

BECAUSE THE BIBLE WAS ARRANGED IN CATEGORIES—HISTORY AND LAW BOOKS, POETRY, PROPHETIC BOOKS, AND SO FORTH—IT HINDERS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIG STORY FROM A NATURAL FLOWING NARRATIVE. WITHOUT CLEAR INSTRUCTION ON THE LAYOUT OF THE BIBLE, EVERYTHING WILL FEEL “OUT OF ORDER”, THUS IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE BIBLE.

CONTEXT

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE REQUIRES COMPREHENDING ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT. ASKING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHILE READING WILL HELP UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT: WHO IS THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR? WHO IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE WRITING? WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN? WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN? WHO WAS THE RULER WHEN THIS WAS WRITTEN? WHY WAS IT WRITTEN? WHAT WOULD THIS HAVE MEANT TO THE AUTHOR? WHAT WOULD THIS HAVE MEANT TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE? ETC.

CHRISTOLOGY

CHRISTOLOGY IS SIMPLY READING THE BIBLE THROUGH A “JESUS LENS.” JESUS CHRIST IS PERFECT THEOLOGY BECAUSE HE PERFECTLY REPRESENTS HIS FAATHER. CHRISTOLOGY HELPS US KEEP JESUS AT THE CENTER OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND AS THE LENS THROUGH WHICH WE READ HOLY SCRIPTURE.

BETTER COVENANT BIBLE READING GUIDE

THREE TYPES OF COVENANTS



IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF COVENANTS WERE COMMON: GRANT COVENANTS, KINSHIP COVENANTS AND VASSAL COVENANTS. THE ONLY TIME WE FIND THE KINSHIP AND VASSAL COVENANTS WITHIN SCRIPTURE IS WITH GOD'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BULK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT COVERS ISRAEL'S STORY UNDER THESE COVENANTS, GIVING THE APPEARANCE THAT EACH OF THESE DIFFERENT COVENANTS REPRESENT THE HEART AND NATURE OF GOD, BUT THEY DO NOT.

GRANT COVENANT

A GRANT COVENANT OCCURS WHEN A GREATER AND LESSER PERSON COMES INTO A COVENANT, AND THE GREATER ONE TAKES ON ALL OF THE OBLIGATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A KING DECIDED TO HONOR AND BLESS A FAITHFUL SERVANT OR LESSER KING, HE WOULD ESTABLISH A GRANT COVENANT. A GRANT COVENANT IS THE BEST TYPE OF COVENANT, BECAUSE IT COMES WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED. INTERESTINGLY, THE ONLY TYPE OF COVENANT WE EVER FIND GOD INITIATING IS THE GRANT COVENANT (I.E ABRAHAMIC AND DAVIDIC COVENANTS).

KINSHIP COVENANT

A KINSHIP COVENANT OCCURS WHEN TWO EQUAL PARTIES COME TOGETHER, AS IN MARRIAGE OR A MILITARY ALLIANCE. THIS TYPE OF COVENANT HAS A SMALL SET OF OBLIGATIONS AND IS EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. (I.E. TEN COMMANDMENTS).

VASSAL COVENANT

A VASSAL COVENANT IS WHEN A GREATER AND LESSER PERSON COMES INTO A COVENANT BASED ON THE GREATER'S ABILITY TO DESTROY THE LESSER ONE. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING TIMES OF WAR, A KING MAY HAVE DECIDED TO SPARE AN ENEMY NATION'S WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ELDERLY SO THAT HE COULD CONTINUE TO EXACT LABOR AND TAX MONEY FROM THEM FOR YEARS TO COME. TO KEEP THEM ALIVE, THE KING WOULD ESTABLISH A VASSAL COVENANT, WHICH IS THE HEAVIEST COVENANT TO BEAR. THE CONDITIONS FOR A VASSAL COVENANT WERE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT IF THE LESSER PARTY DID NOT UPHOLD THEIR END OF THE DEAL, THE KING WOULD KILL THE REST OF THEM. (I.E. 613 COMMANDMENTS IN DEUTERONOMY)

BETTER COVENANT BIBLE READING GUIDE

SIX MAJOR COVENANTS



ADAMIC COVENANT

GOD MADE A FAMILY, IN PERFECT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF. POURING HIS OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS IN BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, HUMAN BEINGS WERE THE CROWNING JEWEL OF CREATION. AFTER BEING GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO BE FRUITFUL, MULTIPLY, FILL THE EARTH, AND FREELY EAT OF ALL TREES BUT ONE. HEEDING THE VOICE OF THE ENEMY HOWEVER, THEY FORSOOK THEIR IDENTITY AND GOD FORBID THEM ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE. MANKIND AND CREATION WERE NOW SUBJECT TO MORTALITY, BUT NOT BEFORE GOD IN GENESIS 3 PROPHESED A FUTURE SALVATION.

NOAHIC COVENANT

GRANT COVENANT MADE TO NOAH AND HIS DESCENDANTS WITH THE RAINBOW AS A COVENANT SIGN THAT GOD WOULD NEVER AGAIN FLOOD THE EARTH. THE COVENANT IS A REINSTATEMENT OF GOD'S ORIGINAL COVENANT WITH ADAM IN EDEN ON BEHALF OF MANKIND: "BE FRUITFUL, MULTIPLY AND FULL THE EARTH." THE RESULT OF SIN AND REJECTING GODS GRACE IS UTTER SELF DESTRUCTION. SIN KILLS, BUT GOD RENEWS AND GIVES HOPE OF FULL REDEMPTION.

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

GRANT COVENANT MADE TO ABRAHAM, DECLARING "THROUGH YOUR OFFSPRING THE ENTIRE WORLD SHALL BE BLESSED." ABRAHAM WAS "BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING." REVEALED PROGRESSIVELY OVER HIS LIFETIME, THE COVENANT'S UNCONDITIONAL NATURE WAS MADE CLEAR WHEN GOD "CUT COVENANT" ALONE WHILE THE PATRIARCH SLEPT. AS A RESULT, TODAY ABRAHAM IS BELOVED AS A HERO OF FAITH, AND "THE FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE."

BETTER COVENANT BIBLE READING GUIDE

SIX MAJOR COVENANTS



MOSAIC COVENANT

ISRAEL REJECTED GOD'S OFFER FOR DIRECT RELATIONSHIP (EXODUS 19) AND A KINSHIP COVENANT WAS ESTABLISHED. THAT COVENANT WAS DOWNGRADED TO A VASSAL COVENANT DUE TO THE REPEATED DISOBEDIENCE OF ISRAEL. GODS SIMPLE "LAW OF LOVE" (GRACE) BECAME 10 LAWS OF A KINSHIP COVENANT AND THEN BECAME 613 LAWS OF THE VASSAL COVENANT. ISRAEL TRADED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD FOR A RULE BOOK. FOR 1400 YEARS THE RULEBOOK OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT DOMINATED JEWISH SOCIETY.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

GRANT COVENANT MADE WITH DAVID, GIVEN WITHIN THE TIME FRAME OF THE EXISTING MOSAIC COVENANT. HOWEVER, DAVID, A WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIPER OF GOD, WAS A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME. GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID IS RECORDED IN 2 SAMUEL 7:11-16. FOUR PROMISES STOOD OUT - I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT; TO YOUR OFFSPRING I WILL BE A FATHER AND HE MY SON; I WILL BUILD YOU A DYNASTY; AND IT WILL LAST FOREVER. DAVID'S RULING DYNASTY WOULD BE FULFILLED THROUGH BOTH NATURAL DESCENDANTS AND IN JESUS, KING OF KINGS.

THE NEW COVENANT

GRANT COVENANT BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON, THIS ONCE-FOR-ALL; COVENANT DID AWAY WITH THE OLD TEMPLE SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHED THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN AS THE TEMPLES OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. THE DEATH OF JESUS CREATED THE NEW COVENANT AND MADE IT AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD TO RECEIVE THEIR SALVATION. IN THE NEW COVENANT, JESUS FULFILLS THE COVENANT TO BOTH ABRAHAM AND DAVID, WHILE BRINGING THE MOSAIC COVENANT "TO ITS DESIGNATED END" (HEBREWS 8:13). THE NEW COVENANT IS THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND WAS SEALED BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT.

- 1. JESUS' BIRTH FULFILLED THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.
(MAT 1:1; GAL 3:16; ACTS 3:24-26)**
- 2. JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS FOUNDED THE NEW
COVENANT. (MAT 1:1; GAL 3:16; ACTS 3:24-26)**
- 3. THE NEW COVENANT WAS RATIFIED BETWEEN THE FATHER
(AS GOD) AND SON (AS HIGH PRIEST IN THE ORDER OF
MELCHIZEDEK). WE INHERIT AND RECEIVE ITS BENEFITS
THROUGH ADOPTION AS SONS AND MARRIAGE TO CHRIST.
(HEB 5:5; ROM 7:4; 8:17; LUKE 22:29)**
- 4. JESUS' ASCENSION AND ENTHRONEMENT IN HEAVEN
FULFILLED THE DAVIDIC KINGDOM PROMISES.
(MAT 1:1; ACTS 2:29-36)**
- 5. THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM'S TEMPLE IN AD 70
REMOVED THE OLD COVENANT PERMANENTLY AND FULFILLED
HEBREWS 8:13. (HEB 7:12, 8:13, 10:9)**
- 6. A VIOLENT 40-YEAR COVENANT TRANSITION PERIOD
EXISTED BETWEEN CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION AND THE TEMPLE'S
DESTRUCTION. (ACTS 6:13-15, 21:2; GAL 4:28-30)**
- 7. THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS CO-EXISTED DURING THIS
PERIOD. (1 COR 2:6, HEB 8:13, 9:8-10; 1 JN 2:8)**
- 8. THE LAST DAYS AND THE END OF THE AGE ARE 1ST
CENTURY REFERENCES TO THE LAST DAYS OF THE MOSAIC
COVENANT AND THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT AGE.**
- 9. THERE IS THEREFORE NO CURRENT APPLICATION FOR THE
MOSAIC COVENANT. THE FEASTS, SABBATHS, CIVIL,
CEREMONIAL AND MORAL LAWS HAVE ALL BEEN DONE AWAY
WITH. (COL 2:16-17; EPH 2:15; GAL 4:10-11, 5:6; HEB 9:9-10)**
- 10. THE LAW OF THE NEW COVENANT IS: "LOVE ONE
ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU." (JOHN 13:34)**