

PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT
(part 1)

Intro: God has always desired to have a covenant relationship with His people. This was true at the dawn of creation and is still true today. To be in relationship with God, however, requires certain responsibilities.

I. What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a relationship, an agreement, into which two parties enter. It is a contract that benefits both parties. It is a bond of responsibility.

- II. God extended the first covenant to mankind in the Garden of Eden.
- A. First to Adam - Gen 2:15
 - Responsibility to care for Garden
 - Responsibility to eat certain fruit
 - Responsibility of naming animals
 - Responsibility of cleaving to wife
 - B. Then to Eve - Gen 2:18
 - Responsibility to help man
 - Responsibility to cleave to husband
 - Multiply and fill earth

Man had the primary responsibility. But woman had some too. Role differentiation between genders is here set forth.

- III. Results of the first covenant.
- A. God blessed and cared for man (Gen 2)
 - B. God had fellowship with man (Gen 3:8)

As long as man obeyed there was a blessing in the covenant relationship. All went well.

IV. Results of man's disobedience.

- A. Sin entered the world (Gen 3:1-7)
- B. Satan was given a stronghold (Gen 3:1-7)
- C. Sin always opens our eyes eventually (Gen 3:7)
- D. Shame (Gen 3:7) for they tried to cloth themselves
- E. Guilt (Gen 3:8) for they tried to hide from God
- F. Blame (Gen 3:12-14). Adam blamed God via Eve and Eve blamed Satan
- G. Curse
 - 1. Satan (Gen 3:14-15) seed of woman would bruise his head
 - 2. Eve (Gen 3:16) pain in childbirth - submission to husband
 - 3. Man (Gen 3:17) sorrow in tilling soil - no longer abundant
- H. Covenant was broken and man was driven from Garden (Gen 3:24)

Disobedience brought painful results upon all parties involved. The axiom of sin is that its consequences are widely felt and there are always consequences.

- V. God implemented the way man might return through Christ. (Gen 3:15)
- A. The scheme of redemption was in God's mind even from this time.

