

The First Covenant

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Introduction

When I write, I put much emphasis on contracts and covenant, therefore this article is designed to be a core document that many other documents can reference. The meat of the covenant with Noah is found in Genesis chapter 9, but, for the purposes of reference I go back a few chapters.

Covenant is *brit* in Hebrew

There is a teaching that there are [many covenants](#) in scripture (some suggest 7) which I find interesting, but the first time *brit* is used is with Noah not with Adam. There was an arrangement and understanding between YHVH and Adam in the garden but, nevertheless, *brit* was not used to describe that event.

Scope: Limiting myself to the word *brit* is nice in the sense that it defines the scope of this article.

What's the difference between Adam who was in the garden and Noah who was not? I contend that because Noah inherited from Adam the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, YHVH was forced to propose a formal covenant (a *brit*) with Noah. The ramifications are huge because Noah had the [right to refuse](#) this contract/covenant offer. The nature of a contract/covenant is that YHVH, the offeror, must respect this which means to respect Noah, the offeree, the right of refusal. ^a

It's my testimony that armed with this knowledge, understanding of scripture becomes much clearer and shows the great power it has.

^a An example of this is when Israel fired YHVH as their King. See "1st-Samuel-Chapter-8-the-Origin-of-the-Devine-Right-of-King-(Plan-B)", article [#431](#) where I show that Israel chose to refuse YHVH's role as king and thereby chose to discontinue the covenant in the form that Israel had with YHVH from Mt. Sinai. Having this great power to contract, which includes the right of refusal, can be very dangerous when given to fools.

Previous Verses for the sake of context

Here are some points of interest pertaining to legal concepts to give some context for **The First Covenant**.

- Gen 6:18 YHVH says with Noah will I establish (*koom*) my covenant (*brit*).
- Gen 6:19-22 Instructions about the ark and what to put in it
- Gen 7:1 YHVH recognizes Noah's righteousness
- Gen 7:2-4 Similar instructions about the ark. A distinction between clean and unclean animals is given
- Gen 7:5, 7-9, 16 Noah did as commanded. E.g. he and the other seven got on the ark.
- Gen 7:5, 9 Noah did as commanded
- Gen 7:10-24 A description of the flood
- Gen 8:1 YHVH remembers Noah's i.e. his covenant with him.
- Gen 8:2-5 A description of the flood abatement.
- Gen 8:6-14 Noah opens the window to the ark and sends out a raven and a dove.^b
- Gen 8:15-19 Noah is told to disembark of the ark
- Gen 8:20-22

²⁰ And Noah **builted an altar unto** YHVH; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and **offered** burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And YHVH smelled a sweet savour; and **YHVH said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground** any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. ²² While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

^b There is a lot of symbology regarding the raven, the dove and the olive branch etc. that one could speculate about. Since this article is about law and covenants I'm going to speculate in that direction.

Gen 9:1-17 – The covenant with Noah ^c

¹ And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. ² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. ³ Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. ⁴ But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

⁵ And surely your blood of your lives¹ will I require; at the hand of every beast² will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother^{3 or 4?} will I require the life of man. ⁶ Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

⁷ And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

⁸ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

⁹ And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; ¹⁰ And with every living creature that *is* with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

This concept is repeated three times again see Gen 9:12, Gen 9:15 and Gen 9:17.

¹¹ And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

¹² And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I do set my bow, in the cloud and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: ¹⁵ And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁷ And God said unto Noah, This *is* the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

^c **Gen 6:18 – First use of covenant (*brit*)** “But with thee (Noah) will I establish (*koom*) my covenant (*brit*); and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.”

For my notes on this verse and others, see “Gen-8-15-9-17-Notes” #417 and “Gen-9-18-to-10-32-Notes” #905

An enumeration of legal items

- As an agent of YHVH, Noah built an altar which is a claim of ownership on the earth (see Gen 8:20).
ToDo find a reference to this symbology
- A requirement of blood. ^{Gen 9:5-6}
- Be fruitful and multiply ^{Gen 9:7}
- The covenant is in perpetuity. ^{Gen 9:9 &12}
- YHVH draws up or defines the jurisdiction as being the Heavens and the Earth. ^{Gen 9:12}
- A promise to never flood the earth.
- Note, the animals which are part of “every living creature” have no capacity to contract, therefore this isn’t a covenant between YHVH and the animals.

Gen 9:24-27 Noah blesses two and curses one ^d

²⁴ And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew **תע** what his younger son had done unto him. ²⁵ And he said, Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. ²⁶ And he said, Blessed *be* YHVH God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. ²⁷ God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

^d I’m including this here because I contend that when the patriarchs bless their sons, it impacts how the covenant that they are under gets played out. This is important in the study of scriptures. **ToDo**: maybe expand on this?

References

Contract, Elements of a

Contracts must have: 1. Offer, 2. Acceptance, 3. Consideration ^e 4. T's & C's, ^f 5. Meeting of the Minds ^{g h}

Definition: A legally binding exchange of promises between parties that the law will enforce.

Insights of contracts as it relates to covenants

I say frequently that “a covenant is a special form of contract, but a contract nonetheless”, with that consider these insights

- **Binding:** YHWH cannot do whatever he wants. If he binds himself to a contract/covenant then he is bound to it. For me, this is the core of faith i.e. do you actually believe that YHWH will perform what he said he will perform pursuant to the Mt. Sinai covenant? Corollary: YHWH is not a capricious Elohim.
- **Right of refusal:** Meeting of the minds means I can't be coerced or forced into signing a contract/covenant. If Noah exercised his right of refusal, we would all still be treading water.

More detail

What are related words that I believe aren't elements of a contract...

- **Performance:** Lack of performance is breach of contract, but if you don't perform that implies that you were going to and that implies that at one point there was a contract.
- **Competent Parties**
 - Does meeting of the minds imply competent parties?
- **Legal Purpose/Objective:** this implies that it has to be legal. What may be legal in private maybe illegal in public, therefore this is subjective and therefore this is not an essential element of a contract.
- **Counteroffer.** If the offeree changes the terms of an offer, then it is rejected. At this point the roles of the offeror and offeree switch and the modified contract is a counteroffer.

Contrast: contrast a contract with covenant, agreement and gift ⁱ

^e Demonstrated / evidenced by payment (*quid pro quo*). This element of a contract distinguishes it from a gift.

^f Terms and Conditions

^g This means it was not done under TDC (Threat, Duress or Coercion). There has to be two or more (i.e. minds_s) and the minds have to have a capacity to enter into a contract.

^h Signature (optional) A contract can still exist without a signature, but it serves a purpose as evidence that the contract exists

ⁱ See C:\Users\John\Law\Law_C_Drive\Definitions\Contract - Blacks Law Dictionary 1910.doc

Table of Agreements / Covenants

#	Name	Verses
1	Adamic	Gen 1:26 .? isn't this just a commandment to rule over the earth, not a covenant.
2	Edenic	Gen 2:15-17 .
3	Noahdic	Gen 6:13-22, 7:1; Gen 9:9 This is the 1st time Brit is used
4	Avrahamic	Gen 17:1-16
5	Mosaic	Exo 20:1-21, Exo 31:13-18 .
6	Davidic	2Sa 23:1-5
7	Renewed	Heb 8:13
8	? Peace	Num 25:10-13 (Given to Phinehas ben Eleazar), Mal 2:4-5, Mal 3:1; Eze 34:25
9	? Levi	- ?

Related Reference Documents

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H1285 *beriyth* covenant

ברית

From [H1262](#) (in the sense of *cutting* (like [H1254](#))); a *compact* (because made by passing between *pieces* of flesh): - confederacy, [con-]feder[-ate], covenant, league.

KJC: 285; covenant 265, league 17, confederate 2, confederacy 1; **LXX**: [G1242](#) *diatheke*, [G1785](#) *entole*