

**PREFACE  
TO  
THE COVENANTS**

This is an exceptionally important topic for at least three reasons. First, it concerns God's Holy Word once for all delivered unto the Saints. All we may know on this subject comes from the Bible. Second, Bible study has largely gone the way of gas lanterns and the Model A automobile; interesting but no longer essential. This could help some resume or begin serious Bible study by giving them a place to begin and hopefully offering some clarity to their studies. Third, a mass of religious error is owed, in part, to misunderstandings about the Covenants. Sabbatarianism, erroneous worship styles and premillennialism just to name three, are due in part to a failure to understand God's Word and how he has interacted with man throughout history.

This study will respectfully contribute to a better understanding and dividing of God's truth (2 Timothy 2:15) .

## COVENANTS HEBREWS 1:1-4

**Objective: To aid individual Bible study by giving an understanding of the different covenants through which God has worked.**

### Introduction

1. Some find Bible study difficult because they cannot piece together various Bible stories into a single coherent message.
2. There are at least four distinct periods or ages of Bible history: Patriarchal, Mosaic, Christian and Eternal or Heavenly period (dispensation).
3. Each period is unique and has it's own particular purposes, methods of revelation and worship.

### Discussion

#### **I. The Age of the Patriarchs.**

- A. May be divided into two periods: Innocence and Sin
- B. The Period of Innocence.
  1. From creation until man's sin in Eden.
  2. Very brief, but significant in that it shows how pure the relationship can be between God and man.
    - a. Key verse: Genesis 1:26 B 2:7
    - b. Blessings: Genesis 2:9 / 2:22ff
    - c. Relationship with God was complete and unhindered by any sin whatsoever. 3:8
  3. Gives us a hint at the relationship that awaits us beyond this life.
- C. The Period of Sin
  1. From man's sin until either the giving of the law at Sinai or the coming of the church at Pentecost.
  2. During this time that man drifted further and further from God.
    - a. Murder of Abel (Genesis 4)
    - b. The Great Flood (Genesis 6-9)
    - c. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

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3. Relationship with God was strained as sin worked deeper into the culture of the day.
  4. Worship in the Patriarchal age was family based and most often centered around a thankfulness for the blessings of the land and divine protection.
    - a. Cain & Abel (Genesis 4)
    - b. Noah (Genesis 8:20)
    - c. Abram (Genesis 12:7)
- D. Generally, this was a time of God dealing directly with the head, or patriarch of each family.
1. Noah
  2. Abram, Isaac and Jacob
  3. Moses
- E. There were special people, "Priests" that served God. Namely Melchizedek.
1. These were people who especially served God.
  2. There are separate from the priests we read of in later passages.
  3. It is this type of priest to which Jesus is likened in Hebrews 6:6.
- F. Key People in the Period: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses.

## II. The Age of Moses

- A. The only God approved theocracy.
- B. A period used by God to prepare for the coming of Jesus.
  1. Learn the importance of righteousness and faithfulness
  2. Begin to learn about true worship of the Almighty
  3. Prophetic utterances were made clear, were preserved and were brought to pass.

- C. This was a unique age who's laws were temporary and only for one group of people.
1. The Time of the Age of Moses:
    - a. The Law would begin to develop at Sinai three months after the children of Israel fled Egypt (Exodus 19:1).
    - b. The Law would be terminated at the death of Jesus and the coming of His church (2 Corinthians 3:3-8; Colossians 2:14)
    - c. The period of Moses had a clear, certain beginning and ending.
  2. The Focus of the Age of Moses
    - a. The Law was never given to anyone except the Jews. It was not and is not a pattern for our lives and worship today,
    - b. Exodus 19:17 – God meets with the Hebrews three months after leaving Egypt.
      - i. He offers to be there God
      - ii. They agree and accept
    - c. Exodus 20:2: *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage....*
      - i. 'brought thee out...' refers to whom? The Hebrews obviously.
      - ii. He then immediately begins to give the 10 commandments.
      - iii. God will continue to give them the Law through Exodus 31:18.
    - d. The purpose of the law was to make sin, sinful. (Romans 3:19-23 & Romans 7:7-13) and to teach us (Galatians 3:24,25).
      - i. The priests Hebrews 5-9
      - ii. Only a shadow Hebrews 10:1
- D. The Age of Moses was designed to bring us to an understanding of Sin and Righteousness before God; to prepare us for the sacrifice of Jesus and the coming of His church.

- D. The Nature of God's Blessings.
1. Many promises were given to the Israelite people.
    - a. Genesis 50:24 – Joseph's promise
    - b. Exodus 3:8 & 6:2-8 – Moses
  2. The promises were **conditional upon Israel's faithfulness.**
    - a. Exodus 19: 1-6: (vs. 5, 6 esp.)  
*"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.*
    - b. Joshua 21:43 - 45 – The Promises Fulfilled
    - c. Israel failed miserably as a nation and still, today rejects the saving work of Jehovah God.

Application