

Our Covenant Relationships Descendants

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- Ro 5:12, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned”
 - Why did Adam's sin affect all humans?

God's Covenant with Noah

- no scriptural reference to inclusion of descendants

God's Covenant with Abraham

- Gen 17:7, “I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”
 - How many of Abraham's descendants did this covenant include?
- Gen 17:20-21 “And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”
 - Which of Abraham's descendants were included in his covenant?
 - Today, who traces their lineage back to Ishmael and believes this entitles them to the land of Israel?
 - Gen 26:2-5, God renewed/confirmed this covenant with Isaac
 - Gen 28:12-15, God renewed/confirmed this covenant with Jacob

God's First Covenant with Israel

- Ex 12:24 (Passover), “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.”
- Ex 30:8 (incense), “. . . so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come.”
- Ex 30:10 (alter of incense), “This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come.”
- Ex 30:21 (basin for priests to wash hands), “This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come.”
- Ex 30:31 (anointing oil), “This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come.”

- Ex 31:16 (Sabbath), “The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.”
 - Do you see a pattern?

God’s Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 4:9 “Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”
- Deut 28:46 “They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever.”
 - What is God’s intent for their descendants?

David and Jonathan’s Covenant

- 1 Sam 20:42, “Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying “The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.”’”
 - What is the significance of the phrase, “we have sworn friendship”?
 - How long were their descendants to be covered by the covenant?
- 2 Sam 9:1 (after Jonathan died & David became king), “David asked, ‘Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?’”
 - “kindness” (Heb, *hesed*): covenant privileges
 - What is David’s intent?
 - In that culture, if a king died, who replaced him?

- 2 Sam 9:6-10

When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, “Mephibosheth!”

“Your servant,” he replied.

“Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.”

God’s Covenant with David

- 2 Sam 7:16, “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”
 - Were David’s descendants included in God’s covenant with David?
- Ps 132:11-12, “The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: ‘One of your own descendants I will place on your throne — if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever.’”
 - What condition did God state?
 - Explain how 2 Samuel 7:16 can be unconditional while Psalm 132:11-12 is conditional.

God’s New Covenant with Christians

- 1 Co 7:14, “For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”
 - “children” (Gk, *teknon*): child; descendant; inhabitant of a particular place; child as a term of endearment; disciple; class of people
 - What effect does a believing parent have on the children, according to this verse?
 - How does this relate to the covenant?

- Acts 16:31, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.”
 - Does this mean everyone in the household will personally accept Paul’s message, or does it mean the children will be saved by their parents’ response?
- Lk 12:51-53, “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”
- Rom 14:12, “each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
 - Does this mean descendants are not automatically included in the covenant?
- How can we resolve this apparent contradiction?

God’s New Covenant with Israel

- Jer 32:39, “I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them.”
 - What does this suggest about descendants being included in the covenant?

Marriage Covenant

- no scriptural reference to inclusion of descendants
- In what ways do children (underage and living at home) benefit from the covenant relationship of their parents?
- When a child marries, does the parents’ marriage covenant still affect him?

Blessing

- May you recognize the blessing of any godly heritage you have and bless your children by including them in your covenant relationship with God.