

Covenant Themes

With Creation

Gen 1 & 2 Implied promises
Gen 9 Noah – rainbow etc.
also Hos 2 + Jer 33 for covenants with creation

Initial Covenant Promises

Gen (12, 14 implied), 15, 17 Abraham
 see also stories of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph for promises re-iterated again & again
Note inclusion of foreigners (Gen 17), and repeated promise of blessing to the nations

Calls to Keep the Covenant

Ex 19, 24 Call to keep covenant now they are brought out of slavery
Ps 25, 50, 103, 132 General calls to keep with God

Re-affirming Covenant

Ex 25, 31, 34 Re-affirming/renewing covenant

Remembering the Covenant

Ex 2, 6 *God* remembers the covenant with Abraham etc.
Lev 2, 24 + Dt 4, 5, 9 Calls *people* to remember covenant God has made
Ex 32 + Jos 24 + 2 Ch 15, 29 + Ez 10 + 2Ki 23 People looking *to God* for covenant to be remembered, and/or people re-committing themselves to original covenant
Lk 1, Acts 7 Looking back on OT covenants in light of Jesus

Blessings through God fulfilling covenant, disaster if people dis-obey

Dt 17, 28, 29, 30, 31 + Jos 23 + 2Ki 17, 18 + Ps 78 + Is 24 + Jer 22 + Ezek 44 + Hos 6, 8

Note Dt 28 is a classic 'blessings & curses' passage: the structure and format typically has strong parallels with other known covenants between people groups of the ancient near east. The key difference with these Biblical covenants is that they are God ↔ people, God initiated, and typically God provides a 'way back' beyond relationship breakdown.

God Keeps His Side For Ever

Dt 7, 8 + Jdg 2 + 2 Chr 13 + Neh 1, 9 + Ps 44, 74, 89, 105, 106, 111 + Is 42, 54, 55, 61 + Jer 14, 33

Covenant Breakdown

Dt 31 Failure predicted (note how far in advance failure is anticipated!)

Jos 7 Early breakage

1Ki 11, 19 + 2Ki 13 + 1Chr 5 + Dan 11 + Ezek 17 + Zech 11

Breakdown: is there any way back?

Special Provisions/People

Num 18 Provision for Levites

Num 25 Special covenant of peace

2Sa 23 + 2Ki 8 + 2Ch 21 Kingship Covenant through line of David

Dt 33 + Mal 2 Levites keeping the covenant

A New Covenant – a New Deal

Is 56 Inclusion of Gentiles

Is 59 + Jer 31, 32, 50 + Ezek 34, 37 + Mal 3 A new covenant!

Matt 26 + Mk 14 + Lk 22 + Acts 3 + Rom 11 + 1Cor 11 + 2Cor 3 + Heb 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13

A new covenant in Jesus. Note e.g. Hebrews the superiority of the new arrangement

Examples not involving God

Gen 21 Abraham/Abimelech

Gen 26 Isaac & people group

1Sam 20, 23 David & Jonathan

2Sam 3 Abner/David with people

2Sam 5 + 1Chr 11 David with people

2Chr 23 Joash with people

Job 32 Covenant with self – to control personal behaviour

Pr 2 Marriage

Symbols of the Covenant with God

Book of Covenant: Ex 24 + 2Ki 11,23 + 2Chr 32

Note also the Pentateuch (Genesis/Exodus/Leviticus/Numbers/Deuteronomy) is also considered to be the core of 'book of covenant' in Jewish thought

Tabernacle of Covenant: Ex 38 + Num 1, 10 + 2Chr 24

Ark of Covenant: Ex 16, 26, 30, 31, 39, 40 + Lev 16 + Num 4, 7, 17, 18 + Dt 10, 31 + Jos 3, 4, 6, 8 + Jdg 20 + 1Sam 4 + 2Sam 15 + 1Ki 3, 6, 8 + 1Chr 15, 16, 17, 22, 28 + 2Chr 5 + Jer 3 + Rev 11

(Abram) Abraham Timeline

Abraham is often considered the patriarch of Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. Jewish through Isaac & Jacob (and then the 12 tribes of Israel). Christian via Jesus who was a descendant of David in the tribe of Judah. For the Muslim faith it is claimed descent from Ishmael (Abraham's other son), though in practice there is no direct evidence for this.

- Genesis 11 v27f** **The family line down to Abram**
- Genesis 12** **First call to Abram: covenant promise and journey start**
Note v10f Abram doesn't declare he is married!
- Genesis 13** **Abram and nephew Lot go in separate directions**
- Genesis 14** **Battles – Abram rescues Lot**
Note blessing from priest who pops up in v18 (c.f. Hebrews 7)
- Genesis 15** **Second call – big vision, simple belief with pondering. Covenant meal**
- Genesis 16** **Human solution with Hagar the maid-servant! (not recommended ...)**
- Genesis 17** **Covenant & promises re-stated. Covenant sign introduced**
Abram renamed to Abraham
Note covenant is through Abram → Isaac, yet Ishmael (from Hagar) is still in some way included
- Genesis 18** **Promises re-stated via 3 visitors**
- [Genesis 19 Side story: Lot & destruction]**
- Genesis 20** **Abraham journeying on**
Note Abraham again doesn't declare he is married!
- Genesis 21** **Abraham & Sarah's son Isaac is born**
- Genesis 22** **God tests Abraham – is he prepared to give up his son (through whom all the promises would be fulfilled)?**
Abraham trusts God and God provides (note parallels with Jesus!)
Covenant promises re-stated once again
- Genesis 23 – 24** **Story now moves on, focussing on Isaac ...**

Your journey as a follower of Jesus ...

Think and pray through:

Where have you come from / where were you
1/5/10+ years ago, or before you started following
Jesus?

Where are you now?

The UP/IN/OUT questions overleaf might be helpful
here

Where is Jesus leading you?

Get someone to pray into this with you if helpful

What has calling has God seeded in you?



Key Questions from the past year ...

[OUT] From this faith community who is God calling you to reach?

[IN] How is Jesus leading you with others to be church?

[UP] How do you receive Jesus as we start 2017?

[OUT] Where are you called to speak for Jesus?

[IN] Where does God need to challenge you right now?

[UP] Is your faith based on a bargain, a pledge or simple trust?

[OUT] Who are you called to pray for?

[IN] Where might God mess with your schedule?

[UP] What giving does God want to enable through you?

[OUT] Do you live a life worth imitating?

[IN] Do you feel part of God's bigger purposes?

[UP] What level of confidence do you have to approach God in prayer?

Seeking to Worship
COUNTRESS
FREE CHURCH
ELY

Seeking to Serve

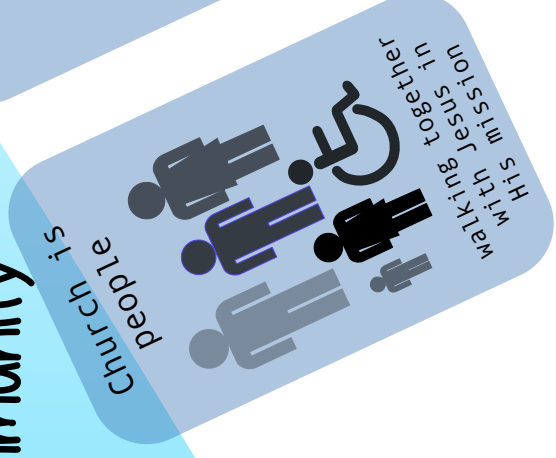
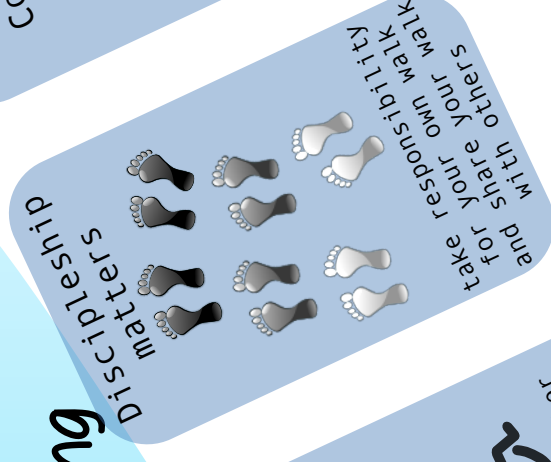
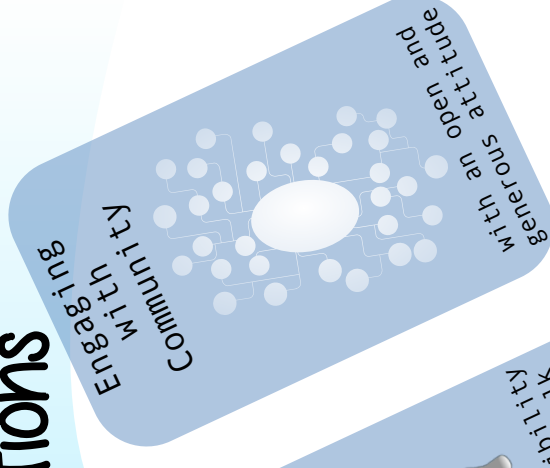
the city

Church in Mission Across
the City

Disciples engaging in mission
in diverse ways, times &
locations

Learning to be church:
people in discipleship, engaging
with community

Wanting to see Kingdom Life across
A congregation
in a building
with various ministries





Journeying with God Wanting to see Kingdom Life across the City



The Big Story
*The trajectory of God through
Scripture and our place in it*



The Bias to the Poor
*The Heart of God and our
response to it*



The Way of God
*In Jesus Christ, and how we
are to follow as his disciples*



Knowing God Better
*Exploring God, and
discovering the prophetic voice*



Jesus Followers
*Jesus the Discipler
Disciplined Leaders*



His Story - Our Story
*God's Purposes and our
place in them*