

Week 7: The Covenant of Redemption

A. What is the Covenant of Redemption?

What is a Covenant? A relational agreement between two or more parties involving commitments guaranteed by an oath.

What is the Covenant of Redemption? The Covenant of Redemption is the eternal agreement made between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in which each Person made particular commitments pertaining to the work of salvation.

How is the Covenant of Redemption Unique from other Covenants?

1. It is established in eternity, not in time (Titus 1:2 ESV; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Pet 1:20; Eph 3:11)
2. It is between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not between God and people

B. The Parties of the Covenant of Redemption

The parties of the covenant are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Trinity makes certain commitments to one another in the accomplishment of redemption. In particular, the biblical passages involving Intra-Trinitarian dialogue make this clear.

- Isaiah 42:1-6 (cf. Isaiah 50:4-9; 61:1)
- Psalm 110:1-4 (cf. Hebrews 1:13)
- Psalm 2:7-9 (cf. Hebrews 1:5)

C. The Son's Commitments in the Covenant of Redemption

In the Covenant of Redemption, the Son commits to become incarnate in the body prepared for Him by His Father, perfectly obey the Law and fulfill the will of His Father, and die a substitutionary death in obedience to His Father. He commits to do all of this in the power of the Spirit.

- **Become Incarnate**
 - Psalm 40:6-9
 - Philippians 2:6-7
- **Do His Father's Will:**
 - John 4:35
 - John 5:46; 6:38-39
 - John 8:28-29
- **Die a Substitutionary Death:**
 - John 10:17-18
 - Philippians 2:5-8

D. The Father's Commitments in the Covenant of Redemption

In the Covenant of Redemption, the Father committed to help His Son and give Him the Spirit for the fulfillment of His mission, and also to reward His Son for His obedience and suffering.

- **Help the Son throughout His Mission:**

- Isaiah 42:6; 49:8; 50:7,9;
- John 8:29

- **Give the Holy Spirit to the Son for His Mission:**

- Isaiah 42:1; 61:1
- The incarnation was in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)
- The Holy Spirit descended at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16)
- Jesus received the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34)
- Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:27-28)
- Jesus offered Himself through the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)

- **Reward the Son for His Obedience in His Mission:**

- Resurrection and Exaltation:
 - Isaiah 53:10-12
 - Philippians 2:8-11
 - John 17:1-5
- A Kingdom:
 - Psalm 2:7-9
 - Psalm 110:1-2
 - Luke 22:29 [Lit. "My Father has covenanted to Me a kingdom..."]
- A Redeemed People
 - John 10:27-29
 - John 17:2,6,9,24
 - Ephesians 1:4-6

E. The Importance of the Covenant of Redemption

The Covenant of Redemption is the Foundation for the Covenant of Grace

- In the original *Covenant of Works*, Adam failed to obtain the eternal life promised upon perfect obedience, and because of His sin all of humanity became guilty with him and came under the curse of the covenant
- In the *Covenant of Redemption*, Christ commits Himself to perfectly fulfill all righteousness and satisfy God's wrath against sin on behalf of His people
- The *Covenant of Grace* is only possible because of what Christ has accomplished in the Covenant of Redemption.
 - We are *forgiven* by grace because of His suffering
 - We receive *eternal life* by grace because He earned it for us through His righteousness

The Covenant of Redemption is a covenant of works for Christ guaranteeing the Covenant of Grace for us

"As the last Adam, Christ obtains eternal life for sinners in reward for faithful obedience, and not at all as an unmerited gift of grace. And what He has done as the Representative and Surety of all His people, they are no more in duty bound to do. The work has been done, the reward is merited, and believers are made partakers of the fruits of Christ's accomplished work through grace." — Louis Berkhof