

What is Reformed Theology
Covenantal Theology (Federal Theology)
Nov. 9, 2025

Genesis 15:5-10, 17-20

⁵ And [the Lord] brought [Abraham] outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

Big Question: How does the Old Testament relate to the New Testament, and how should we understand who we are in relation to them?

I. Continuity vs. Discontinuity

A. Roman Catholic

B. Anabaptist

C. Reformed/Lutheran

II. What is a Covenant?

A. Covenant vs. Contract

1. Who initiates it?
2. Who sets the terms?
3. How long does it last?

III. The Three Covenants

A. "Covenant" of Redemption

B. Covenant of Works (Adam as head)

C. Covenant of Grace (Christ as head)

IV. Unfolding Covenants

A. Noah (Genesis 8:20-9:17)

B. Abraham (Genesis 12-17)

C. Moses (see Deut. 28)

D. David (2 Samuel 7)

E. New Covenant (Christ)