



Covenants, Priests, and Prophets

Covenants

Through it all, God repeatedly commits Himself to His people through binding promises called covenants. (**Deuteronomy 11:13-21**)

The Covenant of Creation

- **ADAM** - Genesis 1-2 (Implicit)

The Covenants of Grace (Each is explicit.)

- **NOAH** - God promises to preserve his creation and never again destroy it by a flood. Genesis 9:9-13, unilateral.
- **ABRAHAM** - God promises a great nation, Canaan, and blessing (both to and through.) Genesis 12:1-3, 7 and 17:1-14, unilateral.
- **MOSES** - God promises the Israelites that they will be His special people. They are commanded to obey his law, with consequences. Deuteronomy 11:13-21, bilateral.
- **DAVID** - God promises a future king far greater than King David upon whom the future of God's Covenant will depend. **2 Samuel 7:9-16**, unilateral.

Priests

Priests were to TEACH God's law and OVERSEE the sacrificial system.

"(The Levites) shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar." Deut. 33:10

Prophets

Prophets spoke primarily to the PRESENT and secondarily to the FUTURE.

- They declared how God's people were to live in light of their covenant with him and repeatedly called them to return to Him.
- They announced ahead of time events like the Messiah's coming and the final day of judgment (the Day of the Lord.)
- Examples: **ISAIAH** (Isaiah 6:1-13) and **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

There is one more covenant: The **NEW** Covenant. Promising hearts "*made of flesh*" with God's law written on them. God's Spirit poured out, salvation for all who call upon the name of the Lord. **Jer. 31:31-34 et al**, unilateral.

A New Covenant Promised To God's People

Jeremiah 31:31-34, A New Covenant Will Come

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ **For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Ezekiel 36:24-30, I Will Put My Spirit Within You

²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ **And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.** ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Joel 2:28-32, The Lord Will Pour Out His Spirit

²⁸ **"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.** ²⁹ **Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.** ³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ³² **And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Activity of the Writing Prophets during the Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah

Timeline	King of Judah // Event	Prophet to Judah		Prophet to Israel		King of Israel // Event
780 B.C.						Jeroboam II (781–753)
770						
760	Uzziah (Azariah) (767–740)			(c. 760) Amos	(c. 760) Jonah	
					(c. 755) Hosea	
						Zechariah (753–752)
750	Jotham (750–735)					Shallum (752)
		Micah (c. 742)	Isaiah (c. 740)			Menahem (752–742)
740						Pekahiah (742–740)
	Ahaz (735–715)					Pekah (740–732)
						Hoshea (732–722)
730						
720						Fall of Samaria (722)
710	Hezekiah (715–686)					
700						
680	Manasseh (686–642)	Nahum (c. 660–630)				
660	Amon (642–640)					
640	Josiah (640–609)	Zephaniah (c. 640–609)				
		Habakkuk (c. 640–609)				
620		(c. 627) Jeremiah				
600	Jehoahaz (609)					
	Jehoiakim (609–597)		(c. 605) Daniel			
	Jehoiachin (597)					
	Zedekiah (597–586)				(c. 597) Ezekiel	
	Fall of Jerusalem (586)	Obadiah (after 586)				
580						
560						
540						
520	1st return of exiles (538)	Haggai (c. 520)				
	Temple rebuilt (516/515)	Zechariah (c. 520)				
500						
480						
460	2nd return of exiles (458)	Malachi (c. 460)				
440	3rd return of exiles (445)					

Major prophets

Minor prophets

Joel is not displayed as the dates are uncertain and estimates range from the 9th to the 4th centuries B.C.

Micah's prophecy was likely directed toward both Judah and Israel.