

Lecture 6

Genesis 1-3

1. A Covenant with Adam?

**A. Arguments against the
recognition of a covenant
with Adam**

Against

**1) The term “covenant”
nowhere appears in Genesis
1-3**

Against

2) No recorded ratifying oath

Against

3) Adam, who is described as imitating God, does not enter into a covenant with anyone else

B. Arguments in support of a covenant with Adam

In support of a covenant

**1) The testimony of later
biblical texts**

In support of a covenant

a) Genesis 6:18; 9:9ff.
According to William J.
Dumbrell, *hēqîm* + *bərîṭ* implies
a pre-existing covenant

[*Covenant and Creation*, p.26]

In support of a covenant

b) Hosea 6:7

“Like Adam, they have broken the covenant - they were unfaithful to me there.”

In support of a covenant

c) Isaiah 24:5 [NASB]

“The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.”

In support of a covenant

2) Narrative analogy with 2nd Adam figures within the Pentateuch

- Noah**
- Abraham**
- Israel**

In support of a covenant

3) Implication of 2nd Adam figures elsewhere

- David
- Solomon
- Son of Man - Daniel 7
- The two-Adam scheme in the NT (Rom. 5; 1 Cor. 15; Phil. 2; Col. 1)

In support of a covenant

4) The contents of covenant

**Watch out for
the word-thing fallacy!**

“Covenant” = “an elective, as opposed to natural, [family-like] relationship of obligation established under divine sanction”

**All the necessary elements
are present for a covenant:**

a) two parties, one who is also the divine witness

b) historical prologue of past benefactions

c) stipulations

d) sanctions

e) a ratifying oath/oath-sign!

In support of a covenant

5) The principle of representation

- Typical of political covenants (suzerain-vassal)
- Obligations apply to Adam's household
- Failure implicates entire race

In support of a covenant

**6) Adam as a covenant-maker:
marriage**

**one more expected instance
of *imitatio dei***

C. What difference does it make that there was a covenant with Adam?

**a) A more coherent
understanding of the text**

**b) Needed explanation for the
representative function of
Adam (federal headship)**