

# The Week of Millenniums



Lesson Three:  
The First Covenants

God's relationship with his people is founded upon the covenants he makes with him.

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;



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I will do this thing for you  
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### CONDITIONAL:

I will do this thing for you  
if you honor these conditions.

### UNCONDITIONAL:

I will do this thing for you  
no matter what you do.



God's first covenants were made with the patriarchs Adam and Noah.





The first two covenants were made with Adam.

One was *before* man's fall,  
and the other was *after* his fall.

The first covenant was made while man was still in innocence in the garden of Eden. Obedience to this covenant assured him of life while establishing man's dominion over all other living creatures.

## The Eden Covenant


ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE FALL





### **Genesis 1:27-28**

- <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.



This was a **CONDITIONAL** covenant,  
and the consequence of breaking it  
was very severe.

### **Genesis 2:15-17**

- <sup>15</sup> And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
- <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
- <sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.



The CONDITION:

### Genesis 2:15-17

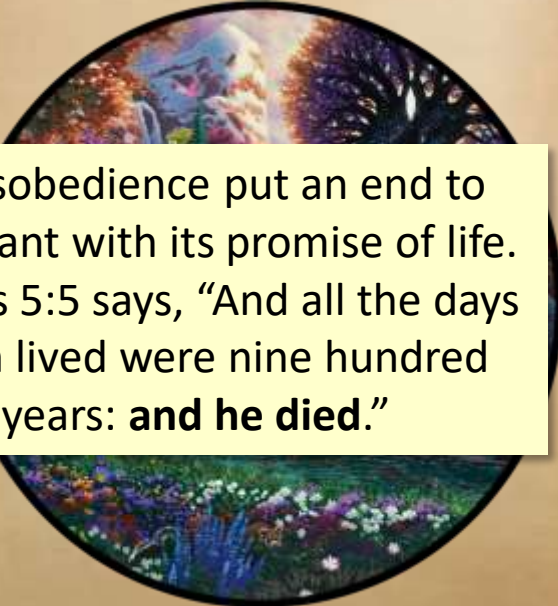
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The CONSEQUENCE:

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**for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**



Adam's disobedience put an end to this covenant with its promise of life. As Genesis 5:5 says, "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: **and he died.**"

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Except for Job 31:33 and the lineages of 1 Chronicles 1 and Luke 3, the Scriptures did not speak of Adam again for 4,000 years, when the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul the fullness of what happened that day in Eden.

**Romans 5:12, 18a**

- <sup>12</sup> Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- <sup>18</sup> Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation ...

Adam's disobedience brought sin and death into the world. Mankind was now condemned to eternal death with no hope of redeeming himself. But even before the angel of God drove Adam and Eve out of Eden, God established a new covenant with Adam and promised to send a Savior who would do for man what he could not do for himself.

## The Adam Covenant

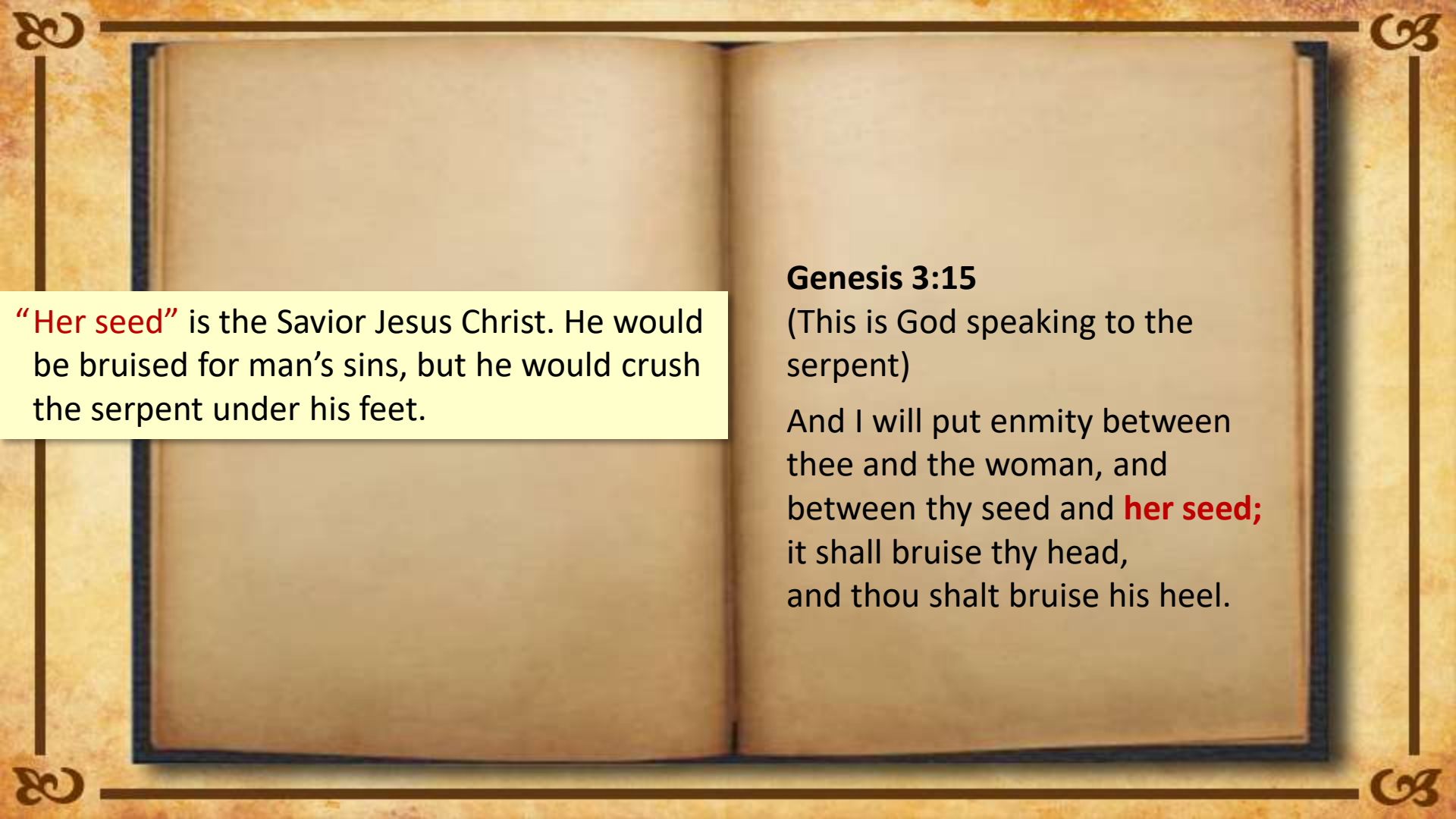
ESTABLISHED AFTER THE FALL

**Genesis 3:15**

(This is God speaking to the serpent)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.



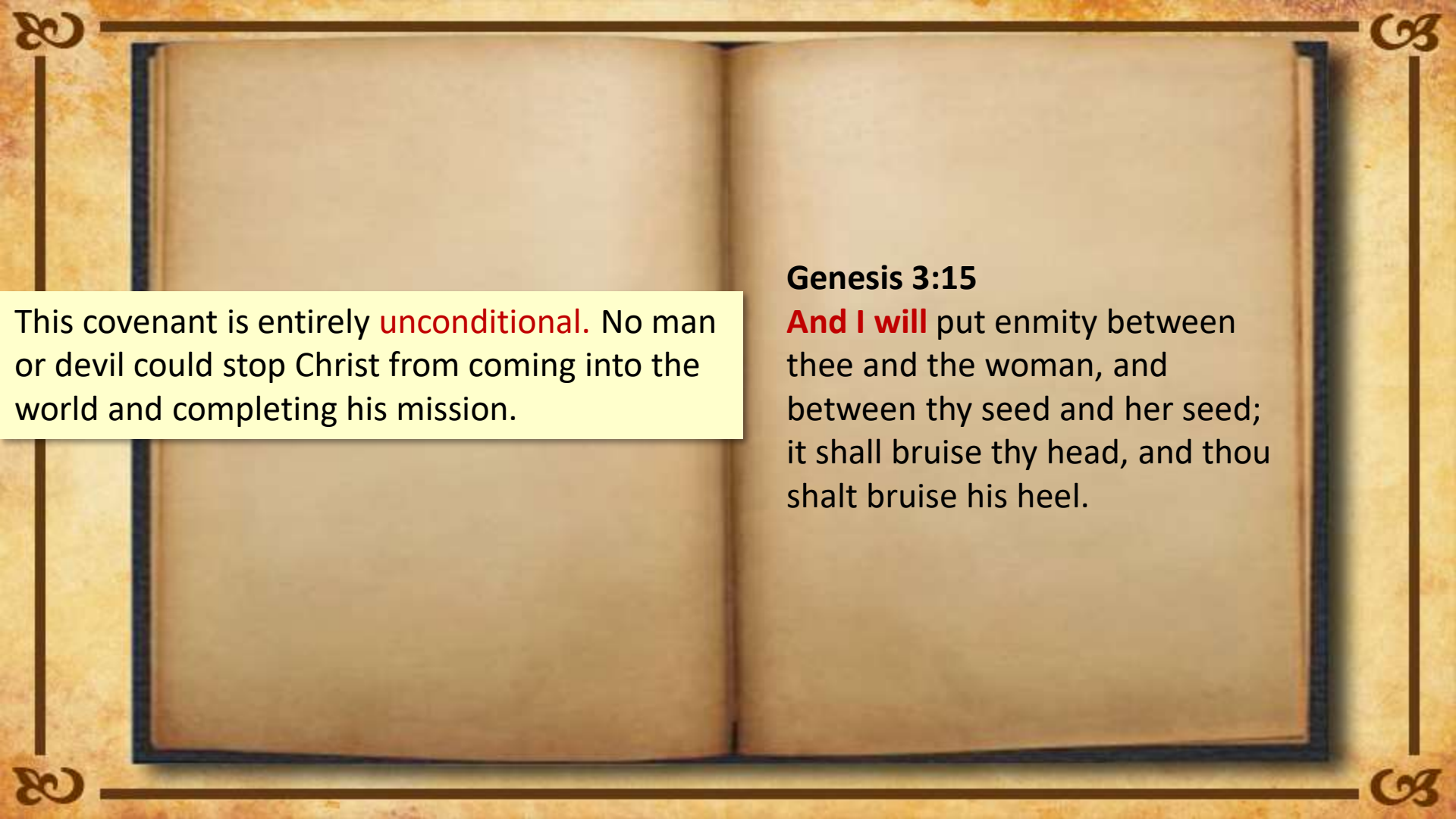


“Her seed” is the Savior Jesus Christ. He would be bruised for man’s sins, but he would crush the serpent under his feet.

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(This is God speaking to the serpent)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.



This covenant is entirely **unconditional**. No man or devil could stop Christ from coming into the world and completing his mission.

**Genesis 3:15**

**And I will** put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

About 700 years later, God made a covenant with Noah and his sons.



# The Noah Covenant

ESTABLISHED AFTER THE FLOOD

This covenant was made after the Flood. It confirmed a key part of the Eden Covenant – man's dominion over all other creatures.



## The Noah Covenant

ESTABLISHED AFTER THE FLOOD

## Genesis 9:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

This promise was **unconditional**. Man's dominion would continue as long as the planet existed.

God also promised that the earth would never again be destroyed by a flood.

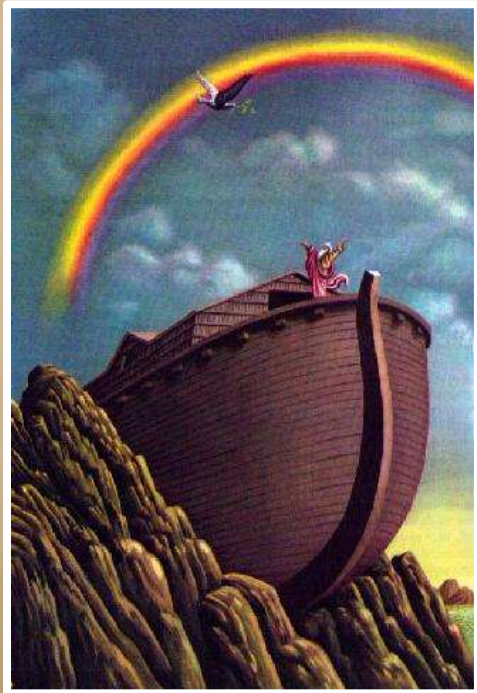
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### Genesis 9:8-11

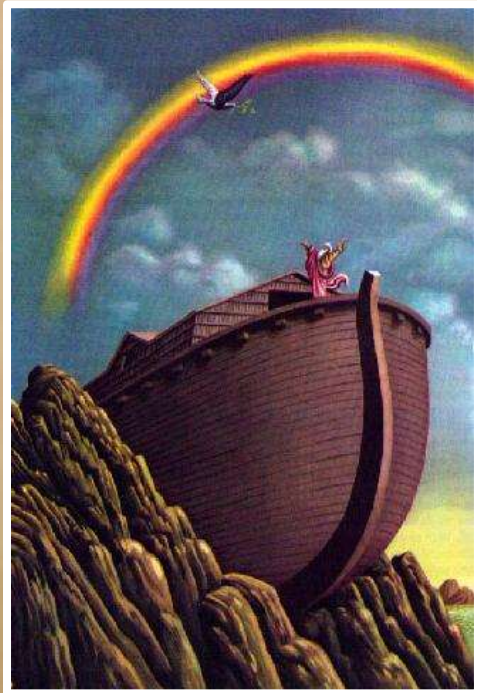
- <sup>8</sup> And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,
- <sup>9</sup> And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;
- <sup>10</sup> And with every living creature that *is* with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

- <sup>11</sup> **And I will** establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.




God sealed this covenant by hanging his bow in the sky for all to see.





### **Genesis 9:12-13**

- <sup>12</sup> And God said, This *is* the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations:
- <sup>13</sup> I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

A landscape photograph of a coastline. The sky is filled with dramatic, layered clouds in shades of blue, grey, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the sky, arching across the upper portion of the frame. The ocean is a deep blue-green, with white-capped waves breaking against a rocky shore in the foreground. The entire image is framed by a decorative border with ornate scrollwork in the corners.

The rainbow is a reminder of God's mercy  
and sovereignty.



For now, he has hung up his bow.

But it still there for all to see.



# The Week of Millenniums



The covenants God made with Adam and Noah  
were for the sake of all mankind.

# Our Covenant God

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Conditional  
"Thou shalt not"

Result: BROKEN

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But starting in the third millennial day, God's covenants would be exclusive to a particular people – a CHOSEN people he called **Israel**.

# The Week of Millenniums



UP NEXT: God's Covenant with Abraham  
and the RISE of Israel

## Questions to Test Your Understanding of this Lesson

1. What are the two kinds of covenants described in this lesson?
2. Read Genesis 2:16-17. What was the condition of the FIRST covenant God made with Adam? What happened when Adam broke this covenant?
3. Was the SECOND covenant that God made with Adam conditional or unconditional?
4. What was the “token” or sign of the covenant God made with Noah?
5. What was the promise of that covenant?
6. THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS NOT FOUND IN THE LESSON.  
Read John 3:16. Is there a condition to this covenant?  
If your answer is yes, what is the condition?



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