

I. Read Luke 16:16-17

- A. What is the significance of the reference to John in verse 16? (Read Matthew 3:1-3.)
- B. Discuss the significance of this statement: “The New Testament is in the Old concealed; the Old Testament is in the New revealed.”

How does Matthew 5:17-18 further explain the concept of a progressively unfolding revelation in Scripture?

- C. In order to grasp a proper understanding of the continuity of the Old and New Testament revelation, one must learn to recognize the presence of the Covenant of Grace in both. Another way to look at this concept is that all who have been saved, in Old *or* New Testament times, *have been saved by grace!* Read Romans 4:1-18 and explain how the Apostle Paul views salvation.
- D. What has been described above is known as Covenantal Theology. It has several strengths to commend itself over alternate systems of interpreting Scripture. A strong case can be made that it has been the dominant view for understanding Scripture since the Apostolic Era. Only recently has it been seriously challenged as the dominant system for viewing Scripture within evangelicalism. What are some strengths of Covenant Theology?

E. Read Genesis 3:15 and discuss what is being inaugurated.

F. Were believers saved differently during the Old Testament administration of the Covenant of Grace than they are during the time of the New Testament?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Covenantal Theology:

The Covenantal Perspective is the biblical framework in which those of the Reformed Faith understand the first three distinctives above. One author put it this way.

"The drama of redemptive history, on which the biblical revelation focuses, is essentially the progressive unfolding of God's great covenant with His people. God has sovereignly chosen to administer His grace and to commit Himself to acting on behalf of His people within a covenantal framework. It is the doctrine of God's covenant, spanning the entirety of biblical history, which provides the organic unity of the Bible, tying together the various redemptive eras."

All of Scripture is viewed as an unfolding covenant relationship between God and His people, in which God's dealing with man is based **consistently** on His sovereign grace. God's covenants come to fulfillment in the glorified Body of Christ, comprised of believing Jews and believing Gentiles, in a new heaven and new earth.

The Structure of the Bible – Throughout the Old and New Testament Scripture we hear the refrain: *"I will be your God, and you will be My people."*

Bible References: Genesis 17:7; Exodus 6:5-7; Leviticus 25:9-12
Matthew 26:28; Acts 2:39; 2 Corinthians 1:20

Genesis 3:15	Genesis 9	Genesis 17	Exodus 19-20	2 Samuel 7	
<i>Adam & Eve</i>	<i>Noah</i>	<i>Abraham</i>	<i>Moses</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Christ</i>
God's seed will crush Satan.	Creation will be preserved for new Creation.	God's people will be numerous and have an eternal inheritance.	God's people are shown His Holiness and are to gratefully obey their Redeemer.	God's kingdom will be ruled by a Messiah who is David's son over God's house.	<i>The New Covenant in His Blood.</i>