

“Reformed Basics”

4. Christ

Jesus Christ as Mediator and Savior

- Christ as the center of all the history of redemption
- Christ as God and man in one Person

Creator first makes the Covenant of Works

Conditioned on their complete obedience

- Adam and Eve are placed in the Garden
 - With a blessing
 - With a general command: “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it”
 - With a specific command: “You shall not eat.” “On the day you eat of it, you shall die...”
- They choose disobedience, and bring a curse
 - On their relation to God
 - On their relation to each other
 - On their own bodies
 - On their relation to the earth

God responds with a Covenant of Grace

God promises a Savior

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen 3:15)

...that Savior will be a “second Adam”
who will fulfill the Covenant of Works on behalf of his people

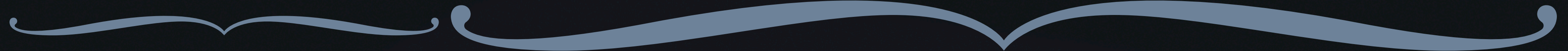
History of Redemption is the Covenants of Works and of Grace

This is the whole Bible

Gen 1:1

Gen 3:15

Rev 22:21

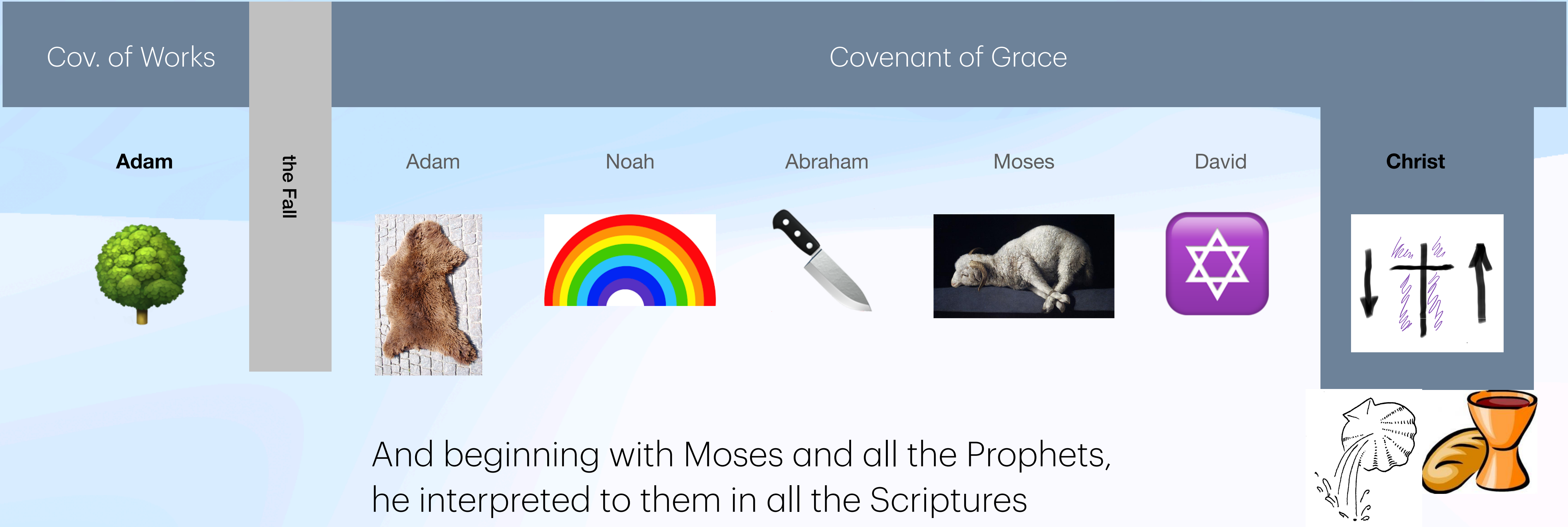


Covenant of Works

Covenant of Grace

Covenant of Grace: Various Administrations

Christ is the central Actor in each administration



Christ's Ministry

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...

- Conceived by the direct action of the Holy Spirit on his mother
- Grew up in a poor family; worked as a carpenter. But was aware of his identity and mission from an early age
- Three years of public ministry: announcing the Kingdom; healing; teaching



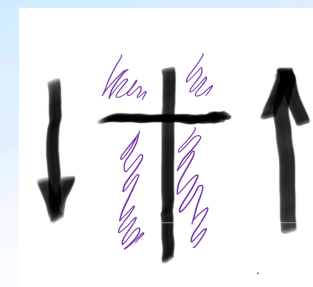
Climax: Christ's Death and Resurrection

- Christ repeatedly instructed his disciples that he was to die and rise again
- When the time had come, he allowed himself to be arrested, tortured, and condemned as a criminal. He was fully in control of these events
- On the third day after his death, his body was not to be found in his tomb
- The risen Christ appeared at various times to various groups of disciples
- These appearances lasted forty days. Then Christ returned to the Father in glory
- Christ now reigns from heaven for the good of his Church, until he returns

Christ fulfills, completes the Covenant of Grace

...and fulfills the Covenant of Works on our behalf!

- Second, obedient Adam
- the promises to Abraham
- the new prophet like Moses
- the Priest acc. to Melchizedek
- great David's greater Son



One people:
Jew and Gentile

Who is the Christ?

How do we understand Christ as a Person?

How Christ Accomplished His Mission

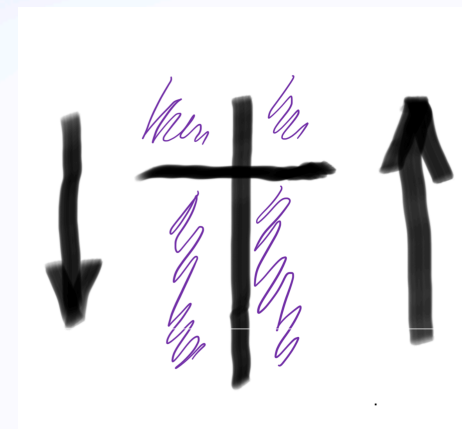
Divine Son

eternal blessedness;
no created beginning

Son of Man

glory and honor:
one Person in 2 natures
no end

humiliation:
active & passive
obedience,
obedience Adam
should have shown



exaltation

The Covenant of Redemption: Father and Son agree that the Son should die for a people that the Father will give him. The Holy Spirit applies Christ's work.

It took the
Church several
centuries...

There were many false starts
to work through.



A fresh new theological
perspective no one's
thought of



A heresy that's
been around since
the second century

The “Cappadocian Fathers”



Gregory of Nazianzus



Gregory of Nyssa



Basil of Caesarea

Christ our Mediator: the “Chalcedon box”

“God alone can save us”

*“God did not
descend onto Jesus”*



*“inseparably joined
together in one person,
without conversion,
composition, or
confusion.”*

“That which is not assumed is not healed”

Christ Came to Offer His Life

...to redeem his people

- To offer his life
 - Born without sin
 - His human life lived in perfect obedience: thought, word, deed
 - Yet he died as a condemned sinner
- To redeem his people
 - Redeem: to buy back from slavery
 - Propitiate: to appease God's wrath
 - Reconcile: to remove the enmity between God and a sinful people

Summary

- Jesus Christ came:
 - to fulfill the Law on our behalf
 - to die in our place, so that we could be accounted righteous.
- Christ was from all eternity the Divine Son. He took to himself a full human nature
 - Is Christ's sacrifice good enough to atone for your sins? He is fully God.
 - Is he powerful enough to save you and defeat your enemies? He reigns as the divine Son.
 - Does he sympathize with your weaknesses and difficulties? He was and remains fully human.
 - Can my humanity be perfected? He is the "firstfruits" that guarantees my eventual perfection.