

**God & Man #2**  
**God's Covenants with Man**  
**Genesis 6:18a**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show how God created a relationship with man through covenants.

- Intro:
1. God has a unique relationship with man.
  2. The first time you find the word covenant (in the NKJV) is in **Gen 6:18**.
  2. One way God created a relationship with man was by the use of covenants.

I. God's covenants with man.

A. God's chosen way to do deal with man.

1. Man being a free-will creature. God determined the best way to have a relationship with man was through covenants.
2. God used the covenant method to bring about the redemption of man from sin. He also uses this method to have fellowship with Him.

B. What is the meaning of the word "covenant"?

1. Covenant is defined as an agreement between two parties.
2. Though covenant and testament are closely related terms, a testament refers more to a will, an instrument indicating a person's desires of how he wants his estate handled upon his death.
  - a. **Hebrews 9:16-17** is an example of the correct rendering "testament" because it deals with the death of Jesus.

II. Why use covenants?

A. Covenants of men

1. An ordinary covenant of which the parties are two men usually involves equal give and take.
2. A covenant with God is not your ordinary covenant.

B. A divine covenant.

1. Man is not consulted for any input he might have to contribute to the agreement.
2. God alone dictates the provisions of the covenant, delivers them to man, and man's only choice is to accept or reject as is.
  - a. The reason for this is simple: Sinful man is incapable of directing his own steps (**Jer 10:23**).
  - b. According to man's faithful or unfaithfulness to God's covenants a man may receive blessings or cursing(slide) in accordance to the old covenant (**Lev 26:3-4a, 14-16a**).

C. A covenant is a binding agreement.

1. Once ratified it cannot be added to or diminished from.
2. This is true of any covenant man's or God's (**Gal 3:15**).

### III. The covenants made with man.

#### A. The early & old covenants

1. The early covenant - One of man's early covenants with man is that God would never again destroy the earth with flood waters (**Gen 9:11**). To indicate this agreement God caused a rainbow to be set in the sky (**Gen 9:13**).
2. The old covenant – Covenant given at Mt. Sinai to Moses (Exodus 20; **Deut 5:2-3**), the old covenant also contained the law God gave Israel through Moses in addition to the 10 commandments (**Deut 29:1**).

#### B. The New covenant

- a. Christ ratified the New covenant in His blood (**Matt 26:28**).
1. Christ introduced the New covenant. With the new covenant God had in mind an everlasting covenant, as the old covenant had a determined time frame (**Heb 8:8-10**).
2. The new covenant included within it much of old covenant teachings; also in the New covenant was the necessity to have one's sins washed away in the sacrifice given by Christ- His blood.
3. Since a covenant has provisions to be kept, it is a blueprint that is to be followed without any revisions, changes or "updates".

#### Application & Conclusion:

1. God's covenant relationship with man is one that is dependent upon Man's faithfulness to God's covenant (laws/commands). (**slide**)
2. Thus if we are to have a relationship with God even today, we must be faithful to the new covenant (God's law/commands) found within the New Covenant (testament) today.
3. God desires to have a close relationship with man, are we willing to be faithful to His covenant (law/commands) so that we can have a relationship with Him?
4. If we are to be found faithful and not faithless we must follow the covenant of God (**Deut 31:20**). Man breaks the relationship with God by transgressing His law, thus if we think God has abandoned us we need to examine ourselves – God never abandon's the faithful-only the unfaithful (**Deut 7:9**).
3. Full Invitation