

**Emmaus Essentials**  
**The London Baptist Confession of 1689**  
**Chapter 7 - Of God's Covenant**  
**For Distribution the Week of 02/02/2014**

**Chapter Outline**

**Taken from ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines by Dr. Renihan**

Introduction

Chapter 7 presents the basis upon which chapters 8-20 are built. It is a linchpin chapter.

Remember the overall structure of the confession

1. First Principles (Chapters 1-6)
2. The Covenant (Chapters 7-20)
  1. Basic Principles (Chapters 7-9)
  2. Covenant Blessings - Chapters 10-13 (Indicative)
  3. Covenant Graces - Chapters 14-18 (Imperative)
  4. The Means of Receiving the Covenant - Chapters 19-20
3. God Centered Living - Freedom and Boundaries (Chapters 21-30)
4. The World to Come (Chapters 31-32)

1.\_\_\_\_\_ The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to him as their creator, yet they could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.  
( Luke 17:10; Job 35:7,8 )

I. The Necessity of Covenant

A. The Creator/Creature distinction

1. The basis for the need of the covenant is in the creator creature distinction.
2. God is all sufficient creator of all things, we are the creatures
3. He is incomprehensible
4. He has the right to decide how (or if) he will reveal himself to us
5. Creatures *must* obey their Creator
6. *Natural* obedience is not meritorious
  - a) Obedience is required for rational creatures. We owe him obedience because he has created us.

(1) Potter and clay in Romans 9

## B. The Reward of Life

### 1. Voluntary condescension necessary

- a) Accommodation - God must condescend to human ways of understanding in order for man to know God.

### 2. This is covenant - *the chosen vehicle of revelation is covenant*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Moreover, man having brought himself under the curse of the law by his fall, it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace, wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved; and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life, his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

( Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10; Romans 3:20, 21; Romans 8:3; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:16; Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 6:44, 45; Psalms 110:3 )

## II. The Complication of Sin

### A. The result of the Fall

1. Moreover
2. Man brings this on himself
3. The curse of the Law

### B. The Covenant of Grace

1. The Lord's Pleasure
2. His act: The Covenant of Grace
  - a) Freely offers life and salvation
  - b) By Christ (see Chapter 8)
3. His object: Sinners
  - a) Necessity of Faith (see Chapter 14)
  - b) Result is salvation

(1) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, ESV)

### 4. His promise (Covenant)

- a) To the elect (see Chapter 5)
- b) The Holy Spirit in Effectual Calling (see Chapter 10)
- c) To change their wills
- d) So that they believe (see Chapter 15)

(1) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— (John 6:44–45, ESV)

3. \_\_\_\_ This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament; and it is founded in that eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect; and it is alone by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam that ever were saved did obtain life and blessed immortality, man being now utterly incapable of acceptance with God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocence.  
( Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 11:6, 13; Romans 4:1, 2, &c.; Acts 4:12; John 8:56 )

### III. The Revelation of the Covenant

#### A. Revealed in the Gospel (Special revelation - see Chapter 1, 10, 14, 20)

- 1. Against Socinianism, Arminianism, or any theology that would say that man can be saved by living up to the light made available to them.

#### B. Revealed in historical stages

##### 1. Protevangelium

- a) 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." (Genesis 3:15, ESV)
- b) A word spoken to the serpent as a curse

##### 2. Farther steps

- a) Historical covenants of the Old Covenant
- b) Any other events of the Old Testament

##### 3. Full discovery/historical manifestation in Jesus Christ the Son

a) New Covenant = Covenant of Grace

b) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Hebrews 1:1–2, ESV)

c) Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (Hebrews 4:1–2, ESV)

C. Eternal foundation: Covenant of Redemption (see Chapter 8)

1. "...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (2 Timothy 1:9, ESV)

2. "...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2, ESV)

D. Only this grace can bring salvation

E. Man cannot stand as did Adam in innocency - cannot be saved by the law as Adam might have

Thank God for the Gospel!