

Covenants

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4.

SALVATION through Jesus Christ, is according to “the determinate counsel, and foreknowledge of God.”¹ He was pleased to make known to the fathers, his purposes in this behalf, in the form of *covenants*, which were of different characters, and revealed at various times.

These covenants enter into the very nature, and pervade with their peculiar qualities, the whole system of divine grace. A perfect knowledge of the Gospel therefore, involves necessarily, a correct comprehension of the covenants.

But by whom among us, are these covenants clearly understood? To most men, you need only to speak on this subject, and you will at once perceive that “Even unto this day, the vail is upon their heart.”² They fail to perceive what the covenants are in themselves, in their relations to each other, and consequently in their bearings upon the designs of God in the Redeemer!

This darkness is lamentable in all its aspects, since falling short of the knowledge of these, —“the rudiments of the doctrine of Christ,” —obscurity must necessarily rest upon the whole Gospel system. How can he who does not perceive “the first principles” of any specified science, ever become a master of that science?

But why should obscurity rest upon a knowledge of the covenants? Are they in themselves, difficult to comprehension? Far from it. No part of the word of God is more plain, and simple. The causes of their perplexity, and embarrassment, are to be sought for in other quarters. Nor are they problematical.

(The Covenants by R. B. C. Howell, Conrad, MT: Triangle Press, [1855], 1-2, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)

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¹ Acts ii: 23.

² 2 Cor. iii: 15.