

Theology of the Covenant



The Covenant as a key to Biblical Theology

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The Covenant

- Testament = Covenant (Federation)
 = διαθήκη = Γιαθήκη = Διαθήκη
- Vetus et Novum *Testamentum* (Vg)
 - → European languages
- ברית from בריה bārâ (<u>1 Sam 17:8</u>)
 - □ not ברא (creation)
 - Goliath: "Choose (ברה) a man for yourselves..."
- eng. "I will see to it"
 = decide, define



- A principle and criterium in front of our eyes, rule
 - □ 1. Regulation 2. Obligation 3. Covenant (Alliance)

New Covenant

 "This cup is the *new covenant* in my blood" (1 Kor 11:25=Lk 22:20)



The Last Supper, Pascal-Adolphe-Jean Dagnan-Bouveret, Private collection

- □ cf. Jr 31:31: ברית הדשה *b^erît hadašâ* (Heb 8:8)
- "I will make... with the house of Israel and the house of Judah..."
- "this is my blood of the covenant" (Mt 26:28; Mk 14:24)
 - **Cf. Exod 24:8** דם הברית *dam habb^erît* blood of the covenant
 - ם "that יהוה has made with you upon all these words."
 - On the Mount Sinai (Exod Numb)
- "The old Covenant" (2 Cor 3:14) with the veil
- ,a new covenant" (Hebr 8:13) ⇔ ,,the first covenant" (9:15)

Universal Covenant with Noah

- God is speaking in Gen 9:8-17
 how many times occures ברית?
- **7**x
- *qûm* (6,18 → 9:9.11.17)
- God is establishing: a trustworthy institution
 - Whose obligation? (בריתי b^erîtî 6:18; 9:8.11.15)
- *"my* obligation"
 - **The content of the obligation 9:11.15:**
- There is no more universal devastation



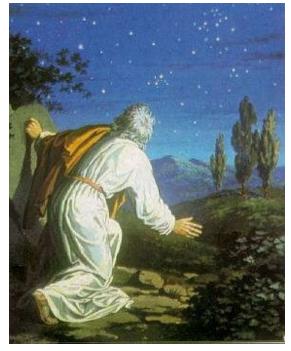
Divine generosity

- Covenant with whom? (cf. Gen 9:9.10.13)
- Noah and his descendants (9:9.11.12.15)
- Every living creature (v10.12.15s)
- The earth (v13)
- All flesh כל בשׂר (kol bāśār v15-17)
 - □ For how long? עולם (*`ôlam*) Gen 9:12.16
 - □ For *all future* generations (v12)
- the everlasting covenant (v16 \rightarrow Hebr 13,20)
 - □ A sign in Gen 9:13:
- "I have set my bow in the clouds"
- \rightarrow "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27)



The Covenant with Abraham (Post 15)

- **•** When in Gen 15:1?
- after these things..." cf. 14:13.22
- Human alliances have troubles (v13)
 - Eshcol i Aner, allies of Abram in war
 - **God** his shield (15,1)
- יהוה is *El El-yon* God Most High, Maker of heaven and earth (14,22)
 - God his reward (15,1)
 - Because he didn't take the loot (14,23)
 - Covenant in 15,18 after v2:
- "Lord" (v2) Abrahams first prayer



The rite of Covenant

- **Experience in Gen 15:1.4:**
- The word of the Lord came
- A look toward heaven (v5)
- → Faith (v6)
 □ Rite in v10.17?
- Animals cut in two (v10.17)
- Threat or worship?cf. Jer 34:18-20
- "like the calf when they cut it in two and passed between its parts..."



Revelation and trust

- **Experiences in Gen 15:12.13-16.17:**
- תרדמה *tard^emâ* deep sleep (v12)
 - **Cf. Adam (2,21); contemplation in 15,5**
- = revelation (15:13-16):
 - Slavery in Egypt and the Exodus foretold
 - **The sign of God's presence in v17:**
- Fire (torch, cf. Exod 3)
- The sacrifice received? (cf. 1 Kr 18)
 How is the covenant made? (Post 15,18)
- Ie 'mor "saying" = by means of word
- "To your descendants I give this land..."
 - **•** the size of the land is significant



The confirmation and the sign (Gen 17)

- "Covenant" in 17:2.4... who is speaking?
- in God's speech
 - New names in 17.1.5:
- el shadday God almighty (v1)
- אברהם \leftarrow Abram \rightarrow Abraham (v5)
 - **•** Father of a multitude of nations (cf. Rim 4,17)
 - How long in 17:7.13.19 ברית עולם b^erît 'olam?
- ,everlasting covenant" (cf. Gen 9)

sign of the covenant (17:11)?

- Circumcision (v11) for whom (v27)?
- Foreigners also (v27);
 - □ Cf. Exod 12:38: "a mixed crowd"

Israeli biblical museum: Abraham



The obligation of the whole nation

- Formula in <u>Exod 6:7a</u>:
- "to take" לקח laqaḥ:
 my people, your God
 - Straitforward offer in Exod 19:5:
- Listen to the voice "indeeed obey"
- Keep "my oblitagtion"
 - keep the garden (Gen 2:15)
 - □ Whose decision (Exod 24:3.7)?
- The choice of the people 2x
 - Obeying: action of the heart (24:7)

- Liturgy (24:5 cf. 3:18)
 - Blood of the *covenant* (24:8)
- The book of the covenant (24:7), reading at the altar



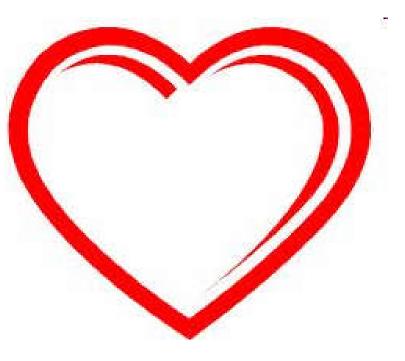
The king and the Covenant

- □ King Josiah u 2 Kings 23:2s; 2 Chron <u>34:30-32</u>
- 1. Reading of the *Book of the Covenant* to all the people
 - The Book found
 (2 Kings 22:8.10; 2 Chron 34:14)
- 2. Making a Covenant (2 Kings 23:3):
 - **•** The king (2 Chron 34:31)
 - And all present (2 Chron 34:32)
- 3. All serve the Lord during king's lifetime (2 Chron 34:<u>33</u>)
 - **•** Feast? when, what kind of celebration in 2 Chron 35:1.18?
- Passover according to the Law on 14th of 1. month (v1)
- Such celebration first time since Samuel (v18)



The covenant in Jer 31:31–34

- A Text in the "Book of Consolation" (Jer 30s)
- b^erît hadašâ (31:31)
- "a new covenant"
 - □ Mark: נאם יהוה (4x v31-34)
 - Word of the Lord
- Family space:
 - bêt "House" of Israel (v31.33) of Judah (v31)
 - brother: אה 'ah (v34) "each other",
 - neighbour רע réa' (v34) "one another"
 - ם The people: עם 'am (v34)



God's favor

- New: God's activity in Jer 31:33?
- He will write on their hearts the Instruction (Law = תורה)
 - **Contents of the Covenant in v33s?**
- **1.** *the Covenant formula* (v33)
 - God accepts the people and belongs to them
- 2. "They shall all know" (v34)
 - Close knowledge: ידע yada' (v34)
- Ground for covenant: סלה salah (v34)?
- "I will forgive their iniquity"



The covenant in Ezekiel

- What kind of Covenant in Ez <u>16:60</u>; 37:26 (ברית עולם); <u>34:25</u>; 37:26
- I. everlasting C. (16:60; 37:26)
- **2.** C. of peace (34:25; 37:26)
 - Formula: "my people, your God" 11:20; 14:11; 34:30; 36:28; 37:23.27
 - New in <u>36:26b</u>?
- "I will remove the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"
 - A "notebook" to be changed



- God fulfills a demand from 18:31:
- *"make yourseleves* a new heart"
 - Third level in 36:26:
- Sprinkling of water(36,25a)
- Cleaning from idols (25b)
- Heart and spirit (26)