



exploring the big picture

over

of the bible

view

from genesis to revelation

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A winding river or stream flows through the center of the forest, creating a path that meanders between the trees. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is natural and serene.

Throughout the Old Testament, God made six covenants with individuals or groups of people.

If the Bible is a puzzle, the covenants are the corner pieces.

Six Biblical Covenants



Noahic Covenant
(Genesis 9:8-17)



Land Covenant
(Gen 15:9-21 Deut 30:1-10)



Abrahamic Covenant
(Genesis 12:1-3; 15:9-21)



Davidic Covenant
(2 Samuel 7:8-16)



Mosaic Covenant
(Exodus 19-24)



New Covenant
(Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:24-38)

In addition to God's six covenants, he has chosen to work in different ways with different groups at different times.

These are called "**dispensations**" from the word *dispensatio*, which is the Latin translation of the Greek *oikonomia*. *oikonomia* means "**house law**."

Nine* Dispensations

Innocence

Creation to Fall

Moral Conscience

Fall to Flood

Human Government

Flood to Abraham

Abrahamic Promises

Abraham to the Exodus

Mosaic Law

Exodus to the Cross

Church

Acts 2 to the Rapture

Tribulation*

Rapture to Second Coming

Millennium

1,000-year kingdom

Eternal State*

Forever

Overview of the New Testament

1. Not the best name

- “testament” means “covenant”
- Old/New “testament” creates a confusion with the Old and New Covenants

Old Covenant = Mosaic Covenant with Israel

New Covenant = future covenant with Israel in the Kingdom

Overview of the New Testament

2. What happens?

- End of the Mosaic Covenant
- Fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, and New Covenants
- Includes Church, Tribulation, Millennium, and Eternal State dispensations

Chronology of the NT books

- **AD 45-50:** James, Matthew, Galatians
- **AD 51-55:** 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians, Romans
- **AD 56-60:** Mark, 1 Timothy
- **AD 61-64:** Luke, Acts, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 Peter
- **AD 65-70:** 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Peter, Hebrews, Jude
- **AD 90-100:** 1-3 John, John, Revelation

Timeline of the NT books by category


- **Gospels:** 6 BC – AD 33 (life of Jesus)
- **Acts:** AD 33–62 (beginning of church to the end of Paul's imprisonment in Rome)
- **Epistles:** AD 45–70; 96 (letters to churches and individual believers)
- **Revelation:** AD 95 – ∞ (current churches to the end of time)

Purpose of the NT books

- **Gospels:** To present Jesus; four perspectives
- **Acts:** History of the beginning of the church
- **Epistles:** To present new revelation, church doctrine, practical Christian life
- **Revelation:** “To show...what must happen very soon”; to warn the churches; to present new revelation completing the OT prophets

Why spend so much time in the New Testament?

- While all Scripture is useful “for” believers, the New Testament was written “to” churches
- The NT presents necessary information and doctrine not available in the OT
- Many short books, easy to read and memorize

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A winding river or stream flows through the center of the image, creating a natural path that divides the forest into two main sections. The water appears calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The trees are thick and cover the entire landscape, with some small clearings visible. The overall scene is serene and natural.

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