



Session 6

Chapter 7 Of God's Covenant with Man

Session 6 Overview

- ▶ Westminster Confession of Faith

- Chapter 7 Of God's Covenant with Man (1)(2)

- ▶ Catechism

- **Q. 30. Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? (WSC Q.20)**
 - Q. 31. With whom was the covenant of grace made?
 - Q. 32. How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?
 - Q. 33. Was the covenant of grace always administered after one and the same manner?
 - Q. 34. How was the covenant of grace administered under the old testament?
 - Q. 35. How is the covenant of grace administered under the new testament?
 - **Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace? (WSC Q.21)**

WCF Chapter 7 Of God's Covenant with Man

- ▶ The distance between God and the creature is so great and obedience on mans part is so impossible that **God condescended to man by way of covenant** (or an agreement). (WCF 7:1)
- ▶ The first covenant was a covenant of based upon condition of perfect and personal obedience or "**The Covenant of Works.**" (WCF 7:2)
- ▶ Man in his fallen state is **incapable of fulfilling** the "Covenant of Works." (WCF 7:3)
- ▶ God made the "**Covenant of Grace**" where sinners are saved by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.(WCF 7:3)
- ▶ This "Covenant of Grace" is frequently set forth in Scripture by the name of a testament, in reference to the death of Jesus Christ. ie. **Old Covenant and New Covenant.** (WCF 7:4)

This is **not the same as standard "Covenant Theology."** The doctrine in the WCF is a **precursor** to "Covenant Theology." Standard covenant theology views the history of God's dealings with mankind **as a framework** of three overarching "theological covenants": of redemption, works, and grace which are split into the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Moabite, Davidic, and New Covenant.

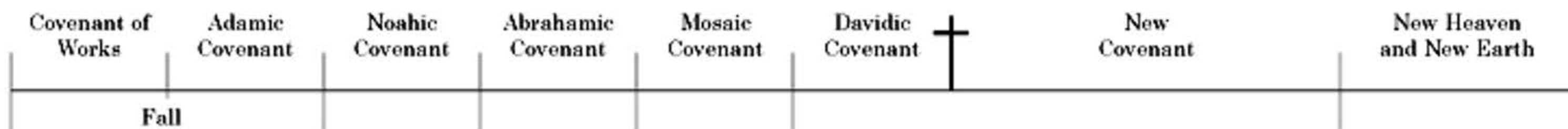
Comparison of Theological Systems

Covenant Theology

Primary objective of God: To develop an "elect People."

Important features:

1. Common "covenant of grace."
2. Singular "People of God."
3. Unity and Uniformity of God's People and Bible.

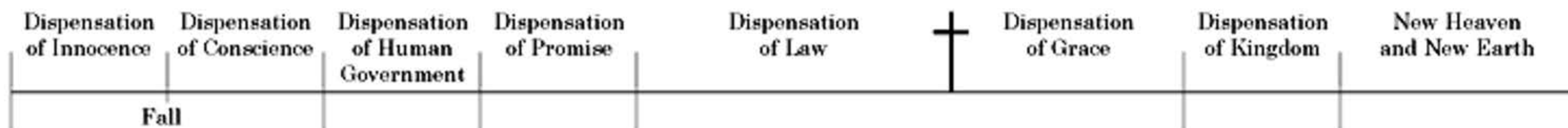


Dispensational Theology

Primary objective of God: To develop a Kingdom for

Important features:

1. Distinct dispensations of time.
2. Dichotomy of Israel and Church.
3. Unconditional covenant of God with Israel.



Christocentric Theology

Primary objective of God: To restore His divine presence in man.

Important features:

1. Messianic promises fulfilled in Christ.
2. All God's activity centers in Christ.
3. God continues to act in grace by the



Covenant/Dispensational Theology

The idea of covenants separating the covenant of Grace or dispensations as a number of successive administrations of God's dealings with mankind is **not taught in the WCF**.

Covenant Theology

- Developed by Dutch Reformers.
- Johannes Cocceius (c. 1603-1669) and Herman Witsius (1636-1708)
<http://www.theopedia.com/covenant-theology>

Dispensational Theology

- John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) was an Anglo-Irish evangelist from the Plymouth Brethren movement.
- Teaches the Church and Israel as two separate entities.
<http://www.theopedia.com/dispensationalism>

The **WCF is a Christocentric viewpoint** from Augustine and John Calvin. Christ is the center of the Old and New Testament message.



Definition of Grace and Covenant

Grace:

"the love and mercy given to us by God because God desires us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it", "the condescension or benevolence shown by God toward the human race"

Covenant:

Literally, a contract. In the Bible, **an agreement between God and his people**, in which God makes promises to his people and, usually, requires certain conduct from them. In the Old Testament, God made agreements with Noah, Abraham, and Moses.

Q. 30. Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? (WSC Q.20)

- ▶ **God's love and mercy delivers his elect out of sin and brings them to salvation** by the second covenant (the covenant of grace)
- ▶ This comes from Genesis
 - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
(Gen 3:15 NAS see also Gal 3:16-19)
 - "A gracious promise also is here made of Christ, as the deliverer of fallen man from the power of Satan. By faith in this promise, our first parents, and the patriarchs before the flood, were justified and saved; and to this promise, and the benefit of it, instantly serving God day and night, they hoped to come." (John Calvin Commentary on Genesis 3:15)
- ▶ Speaking of Christ Isaiah says: "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And **I will appoint you as a covenant to the people**, As a light to the nations" (Isa 42:6 NAS)
- ▶ And **I will make a covenant of peace with them**; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever (Eze 37:26 NAS)

Salvation has always been by faith through grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (Eph 2:8 NAS)

Heb 11:4-31 NAS

- By Faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain
- By Faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death
- By Faith Noah...prepared an ark for the salvation of his household...
- By Faith Abraham...went out, not knowing where he was going...an alien in the land of promise...
- By Faith Even Sarah herself received ability to conceive...
- By Faith Abraham...offered up Isaac...
- By Faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.
- By Faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph....
- By Faith Joseph...made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.
- By Faith Moses...left Egypt...
- By Faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient..

Q. 31. With whom was the covenant of grace made?

A. The **covenant of grace was made with Christ** as the second Adam, **and in him with all the elect** as his seed.

- ▶ But **Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** (Gen 6:8 KJV)
- ▶ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: **the LORD will give grace and glory:** no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psa 84:11 KJV)
- ▶ **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love **He predestined us to adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (Eph 1:4-5 NAS)
- ▶ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, **because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2Th 2:13-14 NAS see also Tit 3:4-7)



Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace? (WSC Q.21)

- ▶ A. **The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ**, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever. (See Session 7)
 - But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as **He is also the mediator of a better covenant**, which has been enacted on better promises. (Heb 8:6 NAS)
 - And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (Heb 9:15 NAS)

Q. 32. How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant (Covenant of Grace)?

He freely provides and offers to sinners

- **A Mediator**
 - “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1Ti 2:5 NAS)
- **Life and salvation** by Him, requiring faith as the condition to interest them in him
 - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (Joh 3:16 NAS)
- Promiseth and **giveth his Holy Spirit to all his elect** to work in them faith
 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8 NAS)
- All **other saving graces**, enabling them unto all holy obedience
 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10 NAS)

The covenant of grace was not always administered after the same manner, but the administrations of it under the old testament were different from those under the new.(Q. 33)

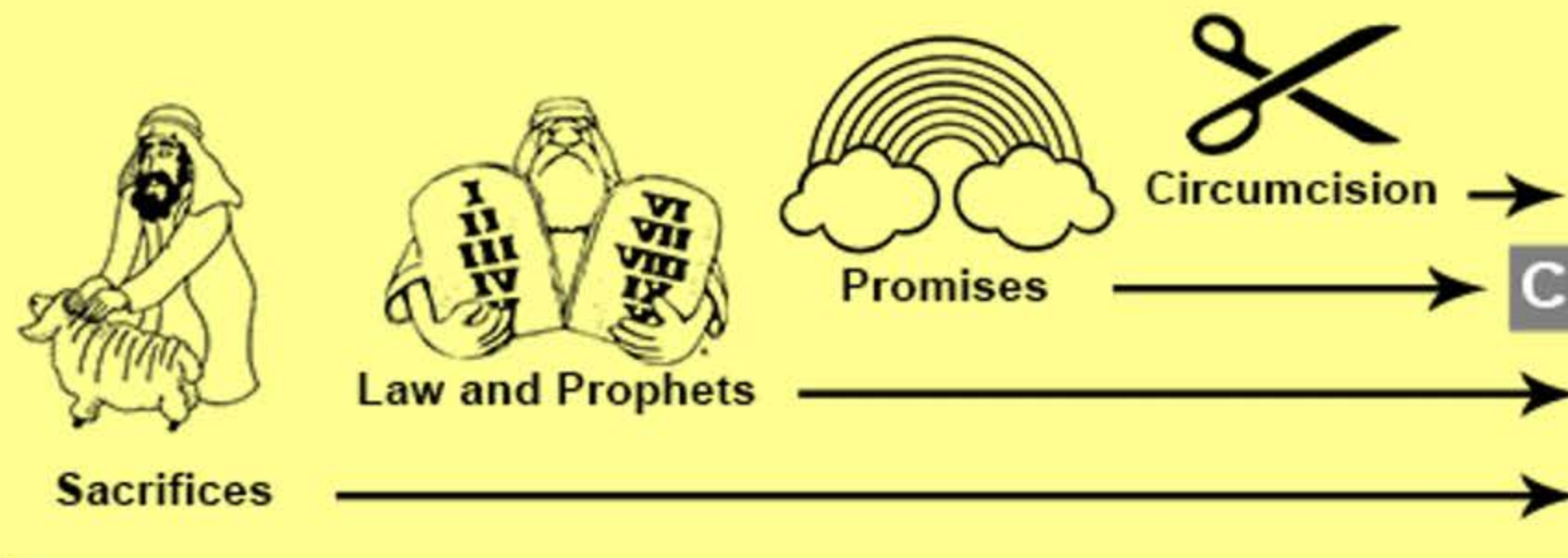
Q. 34. & 35. How was the covenant of grace administered under the old and New Testament?

- ▶ Grace under Law or the old testament by
 - **Promises** (Rom. 15:8; Gen. 3:15; 12:1–3; 15:5)
 - **Law and Prophecies** (Acts 3:20, 24)
 - **Sacrifices** (Heb. 10:1)
 - **Circumcision** (Rom. 4:11)
 - the **Passover**, and other **types** and **ordinances** (1 Cor. 5:7)
 - **Looking forward to Christ.**
- ▶ Grace under Gospel or the new testament by
 - The **preaching of the Word** (Luke 24:47–48)
 - The administration of the **sacraments of baptism** and **the Lord's Supper**; (Matt. 28:19–20; Matt. 26:28)
 - **Looking back to the cross.**
- ▶ **There are not therefore two covenants of grace**, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations. (WCF 7:6)

Time of the Law

This covenant of grace is frequently set forth in Scripture by the name of a testament, In reference to the death of Jesus Christ the Testator, and to the everlasting inheritance, with all things belonging to it, therein bequeathed.
Westminster Confession 7.4

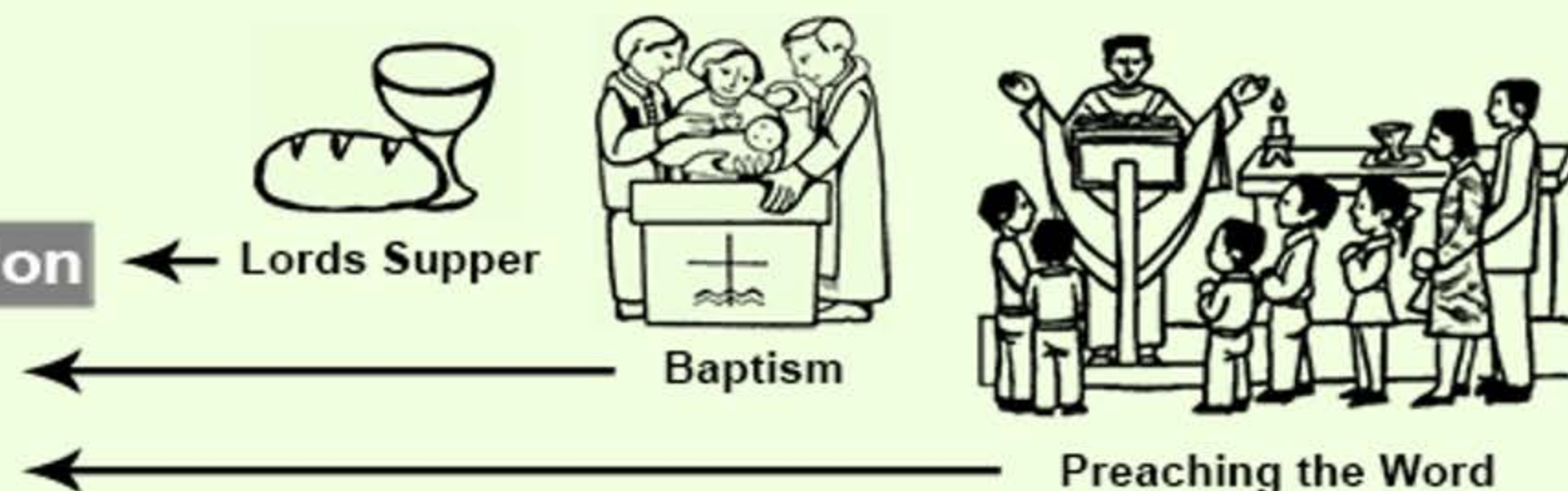
Old Testament



Time of the Gospel

The "Covenant of Grace" was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel:

New Testament



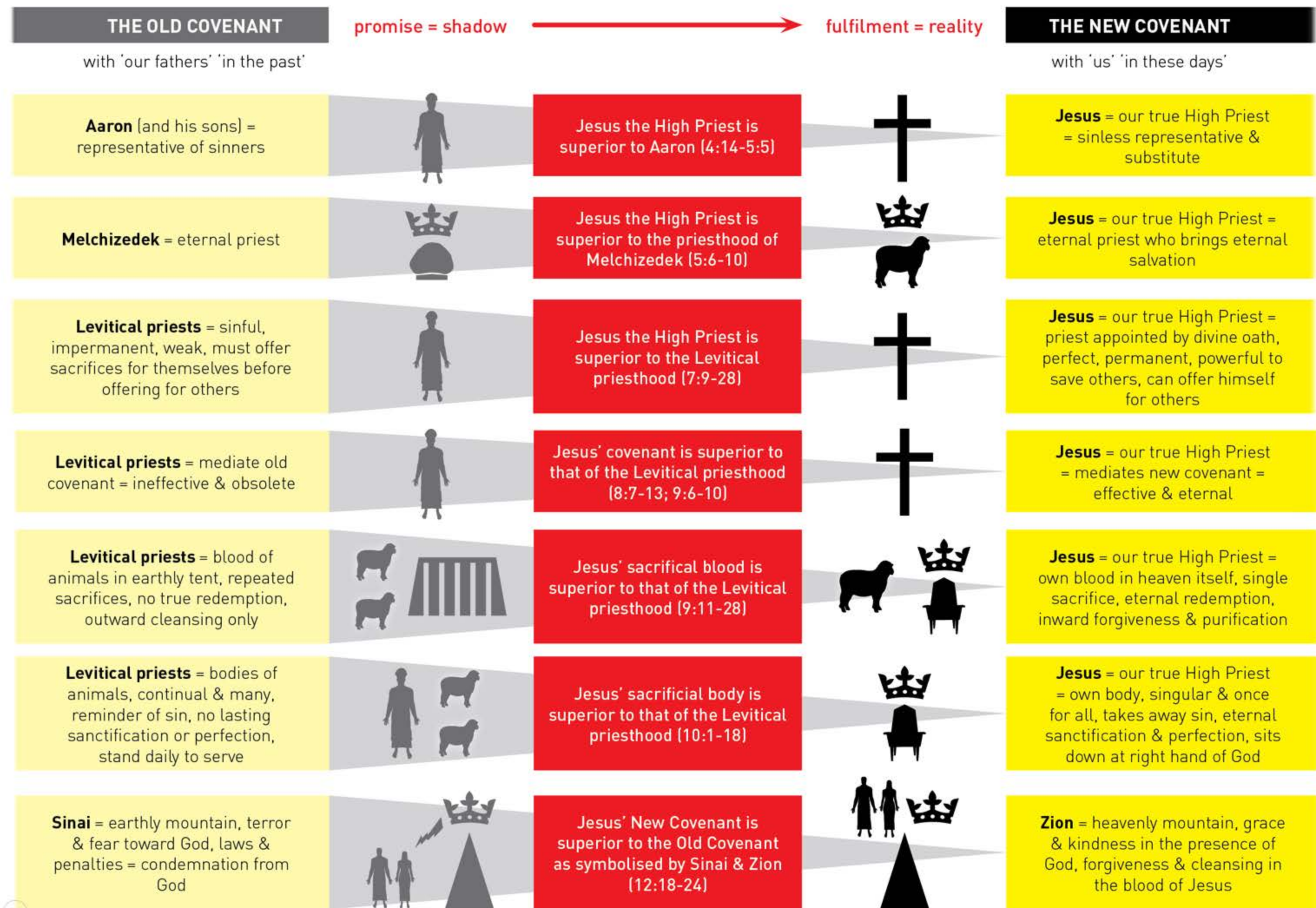
Covenant of Grace

Under the law, it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come.
Westminster Confession 7:5

Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper
Westminster Confession 7:6

Prophecy	Foretelling	Fulfilment
Isa 7:14	Virgin Birth	Luke 1:26-53
Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem	Matt 2:1
Hos 11:1	Flight to Egypt	Matt 2:14
Isa 7:14	Called Immanuel	Matt 1:23
Zech 9:9	Triumphal entry	Matt 21:1-11
Isa 53:2	Rejected by Jews	John 1:11
Psa 35:11	Falsely accused	Matt 26:59-68
Isa 53:7	Silent before accusers	Matt 27:12-14
Isa 50:6	Smitten and spat on	Mark 14:65
Isa 53:12	Crucified with thieves	Matt 27:38
Psa 22:16	Hands and feet pierced	John 20:25
Psa 34:20	No broken bones	John 19:33
Psa 22:18	Lots cast for cloths	John 19:23-24
Psa 22:1	“My God why have thou forsaken me?”	Matt 27:46
Isa 53:9	Buried in tomb of rich	Matt 27:57-61
Psa 16:10	His resurrection	Matt 28:9
Psa 68:18	His Ascension	Luke 24:50-51

	Old Testament	New Testament
Lamb	Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb , according to the house of <i>their</i> fathers, a lamb for an house: (Exo 12:3 KJV)	The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (Joh 1:29 KJV)
Blood Atonement	For the life of the flesh <i>is</i> in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. (Lev 17:11 KJV)	How much more shall the blood of Christ , who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14 KJV)
Priest Makes Atonement	And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them. (Lev 4:20 KJV)	And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. (Heb 7:23-24 KJV)
Sacrifice Without Blemish	Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish , or any evil favouredness: for that <i>is</i> an abomination unto the LORD thy God. (Deu 17:1 KJV)	But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ (1Pe 1:19 NAS)
Passover	And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye <i>are</i> : and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. (Exo 12:13-14 KJV)	For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us (1Co 5:7 KJV)



Next Lesson – Session 7

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 8 Of Christ the Mediator

Catechism

Q.37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man? (WSC Q.22)

Q. 38. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God?

Q. 39. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man?

Q. 40. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God and man in one person?

Q. 41. Why was our Mediator called Jesus?

Q. 42. Why was our Mediator called Christ?

Q. 43. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? (WSC Q.24)

Q. 44. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? (WSC Q.25)

Q. 45. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? (WSC Q.26)

Q. 46. What was the estate of Christ's humiliation? (WSC Q.27)

Q. 47. How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

Q. 48. How did Christ humble himself in his life?

Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death?

Q. 50. Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death?

Q. 51. What was the estate of Christ's exaltation? (WSC Q.28)

Q. 52. How was Christ exalted in his resurrection?

Q. 53. How was Christ exalted in his ascension?

Q. 54. How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God?

Q. 55. How doth Christ make intercession?

Q. 56. How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world?

Q. 57. What benefits hath Christ procured by his mediation?

Q. 59. Who are made partakers of redemption through Christ?