

1. Covenant Review -

- an agreement
 - enacted between two parties in which
 - one or both make promises under oath
 - to perform or refrain from certain actions
 - stipulated in advance.¹
- Covenants define relationships. God is not a capricious god who needs to be appeased.
 - He provides the stipulations/obligations and blessings/curses in advance.
 - Israel was the only nation to have a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with their national god.

2. Plan of Redemption is Executed through Covenants –

- Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus.

3. Covenant with Adam

- God is a metaphoric King who provides a **Land Grant** to humanity.
- Adam and Eve are to be “fruitful and multiply” and care for the garden (Gen. 1:28).
- Stipulation – do not eat from the “tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil” (Gen. 2:18).
- Blessings – Relationship with God’s presence.
- Curses – loss of relationship with God.

Noah	a renewal of God’s covenant relationship with all humanity .
Abraham	one people group through which God will bless the world.
Moses	one nation to display the kingdom of God for the world to see.
David	establishment of an eternal kingship
Jesus	manifestation of the “Eternal King” – the Christ – through which all humanity can enter a covenantal relationship with God.

4. Noah Story:

- A **de-creation** event.
- The waters separated during creation (Gen. 1:6-7) are now reversed.
- The water from above comes down, and the water below bursts forth (Gen. 7:11).

¹ Mendenhall, George E. and Heroin, Gary A. 1992. “Covenant” in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by David Noel Freedman. First edition. New York: Doubleday (pp. 1179-1202).

5. Noahic Covenant –

- Humanity is to be “fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 9:1)
- Obligations to honor life:
 - No meat with “lifeblood in it” (Gen. 9:4).
 - God will demand an accounting for the murder of a human being (Gen. 9:6).
 - Genesis 9:6 is the basis for Capital Punishment and a “Measure for Measure.”
 - Measure for Measure – what you do to another shall be done to you.
 - Reiteration that humanity is created in the “image of God.”
- God’s promise to “never again will the waters of a flood destroy all life” (Gen. 9:11).
- God provides a “sign” of His covenant (Gen. 9:12).

6. The Sign of the Covenant – “I have set my bow in the clouds” (Gen. 9:13).

Hebrew	Meaning
<i>Qesbet</i> (קֶשֶׁת)	- a WARRIORS BOW (72 times in the OT) and carries the sense of war, victory, a victorious weapon of attack, power, and might.

- In the ancient Near East, many gods and kings were depicted in reliefs carrying a bow.
- When conquering the enemy, the reliefs show a drawn bow and arrow.^{2 3}
- An inverted weapon was a sign of peace.

7. God’s Bow in the Clouds – Which direction does the bow face?



or



- Nachmanides (Ramban) – (1194-1270)⁴

“It is indeed the way of warriors to invert the instruments of war which they hold in their hands when calling for peace from their opponents. Moreover, that the bow has no rope upon which to bend the arrows.”

8. God is not angry –

- The ancient people, including the Israelites, were always concerned about appeasing the gods when storms arose, or things were not going well.
- God provides his Torah – His teaching – for what is needed when people sin – no more or less. God is not angry and doesn’t leave his people guessing!

² Pharaoh Ramses at Battle of Kadesh - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Kadesh

³ Neo-Assyrian Warriors - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_the_Neo-Assyrian_Empire#

⁴ Nachmanides, Commentary on the Torah: Genesis (New York, 1971), pp. 136-7.