

Copeland, KennethOur Covenant With God

3. Abraham's Covenant

This chapter traces how humanity lost its authority to Satan and how God won a way back in. God gave Adam dominion over the earth, but Adam's disobedience handed that authority to Satan. To reclaim access to the earth, God made a blood covenant with Abraham—an unbreakable agreement that becomes the backbone of His dealings with Israel.

Key takeaways

- God created Adam in His own image and gave him dominion over the earth, meaning to father a human race that lived in fellowship with God.
- The 'law of genesis': every creature reproduces after its kind, and man takes on the nature of his spiritual father. When Adam obeyed Satan, he swapped fathers and handed over his God-given authority.
- Satan had no authority of his own—he stole man's. That is why he could truthfully offer Jesus the kingdoms of the world; it had been 'delivered' to him.
- The 'death' God warned of was spiritual: Adam took on Satan's nature that very day, though he lived on physically for centuries.

- Jesus went to the cross to destroy the devil's works and take back the dominion Satan held over mankind. Making Jesus Lord reverses the Fall—you are born from death into life.
- God needed a man as His avenue back into the earth, so He offered Abram a covenant. Abram freely accepted, giving God access to man and man access to God.
- A covenant means 'to cut where blood flows'—the strongest bond there is, sealed here by circumcision and unbreakable. God swore by Himself.
- The covenant's power is shown later: God delivers Israel from Egypt and even relents from destroying them, because He remembered His promise to Abraham.

Passages worth keeping

“All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me.”

Satan's real offer to Jesus—proof he actually held the authority Adam surrendered.

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

States the whole reason for the cross: undoing what happened in Eden.

How it connects

The chapter frames the whole Bible as a legal recovery story: authority lost in Eden, reclaimed through a blood covenant, and finally restored at the cross where Jesus becomes the new Lord a person can choose.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 1:26-27** -- Man made in God's image, given dominion
- **Genesis 2:17** -- The warning of death—spiritual, not physical
- **Luke 4:6-7** -- Satan's authority over the earth's kingdoms
- **Genesis 17:1-5** -- God's covenant with Abram
- **1 John 3:8** -- Jesus came to destroy the devil's works
- **Exodus 32:11-14** -- God relents for Israel because of the covenant