

THE ROAD TO THE NEW COVENANT

The Primordial Covenant

Genesis 1:28; 2:15 (HCSB)

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." . . .

15 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

The Failure

Genesis 3:6 (HCSB)

6 Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

The Result of the Failure

Genesis 3:23-24 (HCSB)

23 So the Lord God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. **24** He drove man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

God Ruminates

Genesis 6:5-7 (HCSB)

5 When the Lord saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, **6** the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. **7** Then the Lord said, "I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them."

God Strikes Back with the Old Covenant

Exodus 19:5-6 (HCSB)

5 Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, **6** and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites."

The Failure

2 Kings 17:15 (HCSB)

15 They rejected His statutes and His covenant He had made with their ancestors and the decrees He had given them. They pursued worthless idols and became worthless themselves, following the surrounding nations the Lord had commanded them not to imitate.

The Result of the Failure

2 Kings 17:18 (HCSB)

18 Therefore, the Lord was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained.

Why Did God Persevere?

John 3:16 (HCSB)

16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.