

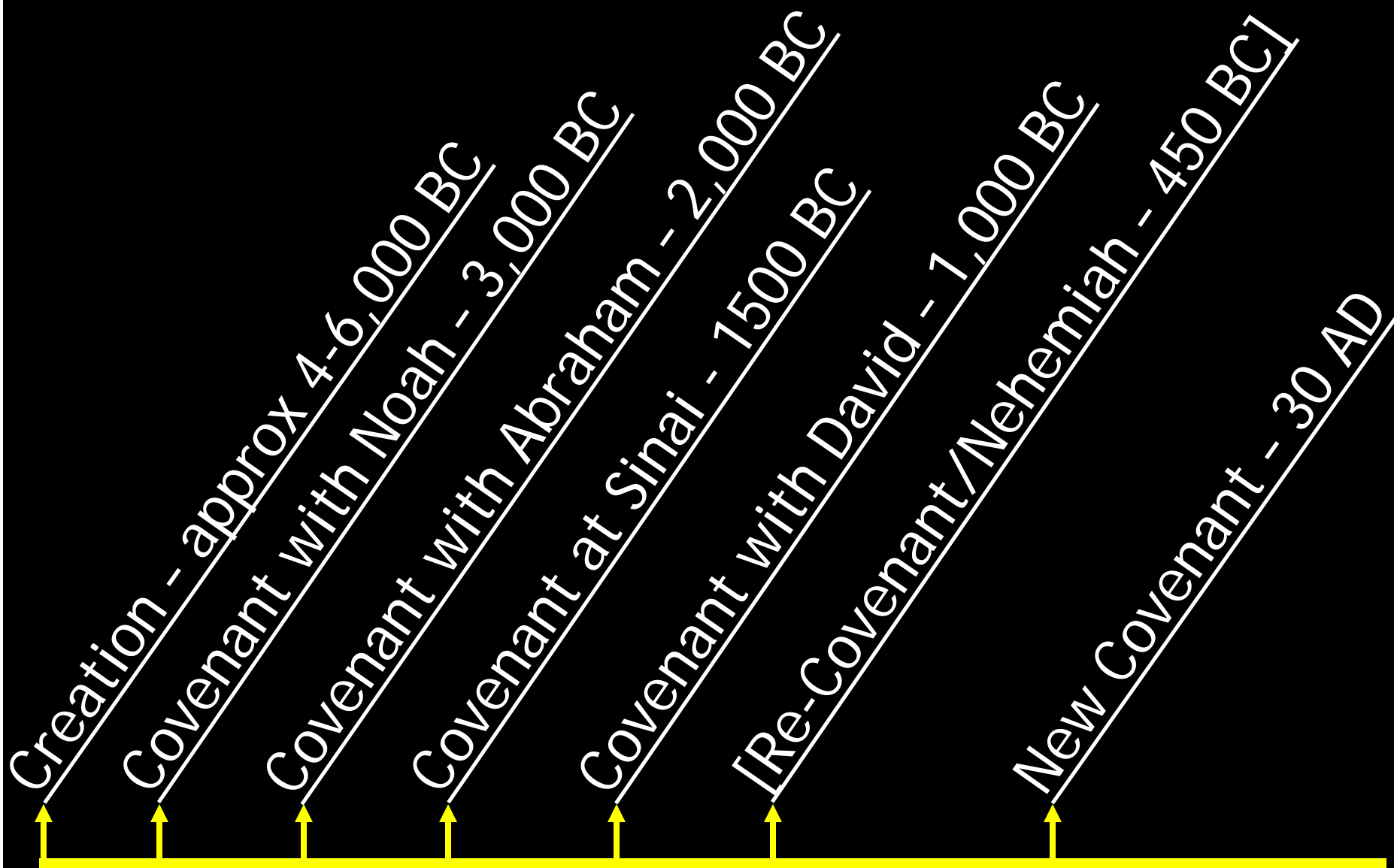
“The term covenant is used in Scripture for a diversity of oath-bound commitments in various relationships. It is used to refer to international treaties (Josh 9:6; 1 Kgs 15:19), clan alliances (Gen 14:13), personal agreements (Gen 31:44), legal contracts (Jer 34:8-10), and loyalty agreements (1 Sam 20:14-17), including marriage.”

—Peter Gentry,
The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology, 12/1:16

“A covenant is an enduring agreement which defines a relationship between two parties involving a solemn, binding obligation(s) specified on at least one of the parties toward the other, made by oath under threat of divine curse, and ratified by a visual ritual.”

—Daniel C. Lane, “The Meaning and Use of the Old Testament Term for ‘Covenant’

Overview of the Biblical Covenants



Covenant with Noah (Gen 9)

Parties:	God/Noah and all creatures
Promises:	Never worldwide flood
Gracious/ Conditional?	Gracious
Sign:	Rainbow

Covenant with Abraham (Gen 12ff.)

Parties:	God/Abraham and offspring
Promises:	(1) Promised Land, (2) countless descendants, (3) A Descendant to bless all humanity
Gracious/ Conditional?	Gracious
Sign:	Circumcision

Covenant with Israel at Sinai (Ex 19)

Parties:	God/Nation of Israel
Promises:	Israel to thrive in Promised Land
Gracious/ Conditional?	Conditional [and renewable]
Sign:	Keeping Mosaic Law

Covenant with David (2 Sam 7)

Parties:	God/David
Promises:	One of David's sons will rule eternally
Gracious/ Conditional?	Gracious
Sign:	David's sons will always have sons until ultimate Son is born

New Covenant (Jer 31/Luke 22/Heb 8)

Parties: God/Believers in Jesus

Promises: (1) Forgive sin, (2)
Indwelling Spirit, (3) Be
our God

**Gracious/
Conditional?** Gracious

Signs: Baptism & Lord's Supper

Gracious vs. Conditional Covenants

Gracious	Conditional
Noahic	Mosaic
Abrahamic	
Davidic	
New	

How the Covenants Point to Jesus

*Underlying Promise: Genesis 3:15 – First
promise of a coming Messiah
("Seed of the Woman")*

- **Covenant with Noah** – Ensures there will be a human race from which Messiah will come
- **Covenant with Abraham** – Identifies from what ethnicity Messiah will come

How the Covenants Point to Jesus

*Underlying Promise: Genesis 3:15 – First
promise of a coming Messiah
("Seed of the Woman")*

- **Covenant with Moses at Sinai** – Identifies what Laws and customs Messiah will follow
- **Covenant with David** – Defines the scope and duration of Messiah's Kingdom
- **New Covenant** – Defines what Messiah will accomplish for those who trust in Him

“Looked at from a purely external point of view, the volume [the Bible] is a rough bale of drift from the sea of Time, a conglomerate of debris brought down by the waters and cast in a heap together...[but] in spite of having been thus made up of such diverse parts, it forms but one organic whole. The parts are so linked together that the absence of any one book would introduce confusion and disorder...

...The same doctrine is taught from beginning to end, like a golden thread through the whole and stringing book after book upon itself like so many pearls...Unless we are prepared to allow to a man some fifteen hundred years of conscious existence and intellectual supervision of the work, we are shut up here to the admission of a superhuman origin for this book."

—Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield

“I take thee to my wedded wife/husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to
cherish, till death us do part, according to
God’s holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge
thee my truth.”

—“The Solemnization of Matrimony,” The Book
of Common Prayer