The Plan of God

Campus Crusade says:

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life

I say:

God loves you and has a wonderful plan—__________________________.

History is ____________.

What is God’s overall plan?

♦ _______________________

♦ _______________________

♦ _______________________

♦ _______________________

How has God revealed that plan to us?

-through the Bible primarily in the form of ____________.

The Covenants

Another word for covenant is ____________.

The first time we see the term “covenant” used in the Bible is with regard to Noah—and the flood.

Genesis 9:11-13 (NASB95)

11 “I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations;

13 I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

The Purpose of God establishing Covenants with man.

God’s holy nature requires __________ for sin.

Man’s __________ ensures that he will continually fall into sin.

Man would always be in danger of the wrath of God falling upon him.
God establishes covenants with mankind to enter into relationship with mankind. It is a revealing of divine intentions—and it reveals elements of God's plan for dealing with sin.

Noahic covenant = __________

The Four Redemptive Covenants:

♦ _________________
♦ _________________
♦ _________________
♦ _________________
♦ _________________

KEY POINT...
Mankind inevitably falls into sin and God continually demonstrates that He is the only solution to that problem.

**The Abrahamic Covenant**

Here God chooses Abraham to be the conduit of blessing to the world.

*Genesis 12:1-3 (NASB95)*

1. Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;
2. And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;
3. And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

The first statement of the Abrahamic covenant.

*Genesis 13:14-17 (NASB95)*

14. The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;
15. for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.
“I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

Here we are going to see a treaty ratification ceremony.

Genesis 15:14-17 (NASB95)

5  And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

6  Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7  And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

8  He said, “O Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it?”

9  So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

10  Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.

11  The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.

12  Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.

13  God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.”

14  “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

15  “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.

16  “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

17  It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.

18  On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying,

To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

The Abrahamic covenant is an ________________________________.

The Mosaic Covenant

There were two different types of treaties in the Ancient Near East:

♦ ________________________________

♦ ________________________________
Leviticus 26 (NASB95)

Blessings for Obedience

1 ‘You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.

2 You shall keep My sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD.

3 If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out,

4 then I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit.

5 Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

6 I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making you tremble. I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass through your land.

7 ‘But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword;

8 five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.

9 ‘So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you.

10 You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new.

11 Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you.

12 I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Penalties for Disobedience

14 But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments,

15 if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant,

16 I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up.

17 ‘I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you.

18 ‘If also after these things you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

19 ‘I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.

20 Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.

21 ‘If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins.

22 I will let loose among you the beasts of the field, which will bereave you of your children and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that your roads lie deserted.
And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me,
then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins.
‘I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands.
When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied.
Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me,
then I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you seven times for your sins.
‘Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.
‘I then will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you.
‘I will lay waste your cities as well and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your soothing aromas.
‘I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.
You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.
Then the land will enjoy its sabbaths all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths.
All the days of its desolation it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your sabbaths, while you were living on it.
As for those of you who may be left, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall.
They will therefore stumble over each other as if running from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have no strength to stand up before your enemies.
‘But you will perish among the nations, and your enemies’ land will consume you.
So those of you who may be left will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their forefathers they will rot away with them.
If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me—
also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies—or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,
42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My
covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the
land.
43 For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths
while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for
their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My
statutes.
44 ‘Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject
them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them;
for I am the LORD their God.
45 ‘But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I
brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I
am the LORD.’
46 These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the LORD established
between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai

In the Mosaic covenant, blessings were dependant upon______________.

“The Mosaic covenant was an administrative compact setting forth, for a limited
period of history, the terms of obedience for receiving the blessings of the promise.”

The Mosaic covenant provided the structure for that period of time in which Israel
experienced the _________________.

The Davidic Covenant

In the Davidic covenant God narrows the focus of the _________________.

The primary concept inherent in the Davidic covenant is the intention of God to
fulfill the promise to Abraham specifically through _________________.

II Samuel 7:4-17 (NASB95)

4 But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,
5 “Go and say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Are you the one who
should build Me a house to dwell in?
6 “For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel
from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a
tabernacle.
7 “Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of
the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why
have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ’ ” ’
God’s Covenant with David

8 “Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

9 “I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

10 “I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,

11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.

12 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” ‘”

17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

The Abrahamic and the Davidic covenants comprise ________________________.

Israel was ________________________.

The church is a group of people ________________________.

So God, through the prophets, promised a ________________________ that would replace the “old” Mosaic covenant and enable God’s newly reconstituted people to experience His blessing in whatever nation they lived.

The New covenant is the structure in which the church experiences the __________ during this time period.
The New Covenant

The New covenant, while replacing the Mosaic covenant as the administrative covenant for the people of God, had a very similar purpose as the Mosaic covenant. It was to bring the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant back into the present experience of a generation or generations of Israel.

Jer 31:31-37 (NASB95)

31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name:

36 “If this fixed order departs From before Me,” declares the LORD, “Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.”

37 Thus says the LORD, If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done,” declares the LORD.

To whom is this New covenant promised? 

The church is grafted into the family of God—a family whose original and primary member was and continues to be Israel.

Ezek 36:16-28 (NASB95)

16 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

17 “Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity.

18 “Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols.

19 “Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.
20 "When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD; yet they have come out of His land.'
21 "But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

Israel to Be Renewed for His Name's Sake

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.
23 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.
24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.
25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.
26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.
28 "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

The key components of the New covenant:

1) ____________________________.
2) ____________________________.
3) ____________________________.
4) ____________________________.

The salvation of God that flows from the cross is given to all mankind through the New Covenant. In both the Old and New Testaments it is the provisions of the New Covenant that ultimately provide the solution to the human problem of sin and bring those in the covenant into a final perfect fellowship with God as His sons and daughters.

The Mosaic covenant and the New covenant work in similar ways. They both serve as terms of obedience enabling God's people to experience the promised blessing. The Mosaic covenant was an ____________________________ prompting obedience.
from the outside—the New covenant is an _________________prompting obedience from within, through the witness and ministry of the H.S. enabling us to obey like those in the old covenant never could.

THE BIG WRAP-UP

♦ God promises to bless the world (salvation) through the Abrahamic covenant.

♦ God then gives the terms by which His people, Israel, would be able to experience that blessing—through the Mosaic Law, the Mosaic covenant.

♦ As the human-king form of the kingdom began with David, God then clarified this promise made to Abraham, giving the people a better understanding of what the coming kingdom was all about.

♦ Then through the prophets God promised a New administrative covenant, one which would once and for all take care of the problem of sin and enable His people to obey the law of God and would enable God’s Spirit to actually dwell within them.