

binding, but in a sovereign constitution, imposed by the Creator upon the creature, these "conditions" are better expressed as (1) promises on the part of the Creator suspended upon (2) conditions to be fulfilled by the creature. And (3) an alternative penalty to be inflicted in case the condition fails.

The *Scofield Reference Bible* in footnote 6 on Genesis 1:28, states:

The Edenic covenant, the first of the eight great covenants of Scripture which condition life and salvation, and about which all Scripture crystalized, has seven elements. The man and the woman in Eden were responsible:

(1) To replenish the earth with a new order -- man; (2) to subdue the earth to human uses; (3) to have dominion over the animal creation; (4) to eat herbs and fruits; (5) to till and keep the garden; (6) to abstain from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; (7) the penalty -- death. See, for the other seven covenants: Adamic (Gen. 3:15); Noahic (Gen. 9:1); Abrahamic (Gen. 15:18); Mosaic (Ex. 19:25); Palestinian (Deut. 30:3), Davidic (2 Sam. 7:16); New (Heb. 8:8).

B. Outline of the Covenant

1. The parties to the covenant

The parties are the triune God and Adam (as head and representative of the human race)

A distinction should be made between the results of God's action in creating mankind and the results of His action in establishing a covenant relationship with mankind.

As a creature, Man owed his existence to God, was completely dependent on God, was responsible for complete obedience to both the Law of God written in his heart and all commandments which God gave him, and was the natural father of the whole human race.

As a covenant party to a legal compact, Adam was constituted the representative for the human race, was temporarily placed on probation in regard to the test which would confirm or disconfirm his character, and was given the opportunity to earn, by his own obedience, the blessing of eternal life, both for himself and for all of his natural descendants.

2. The benefit of the covenant

The benefit promised was continuing and unending spiritual and physical life.

This is implied from the penalty threatened upon disobedience: "for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." If Adam would refrain from eating of the forbidden tree, not only would he not die, but would be raised above the possibility of sinning and dying. He would be confirmed in his righteous nature.