

STEP 1

The Edenic covenant

KEY WORDS: EVERYTHING BEGAN IN EDEN... INDEED, IT WAS VERY GOOD!



**How did the Edenic Covenant begin?
With whom did the Lord establish this covenant?
What is the central element of this covenant?**

God bless you! Today, we will begin with Step 1 of this discipleship on biblical covenants. And we will start with the first one, THE EDENIC COVENANT. In the introduction, we asked several questions; let us remember them:



How many days did God take to create everything?

Six days

What did God do when He finished creation?

He rested

The Bible teaches that God took six days to accomplish creation, and that on the seventh day He rested.

Read Exodus 31:17 (Underline: *"in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed"*):

¹⁷...It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

The Lord established the Edenic Covenant with the man, with Adam; therefore, he is the head of the covenant.

With whom did the Lord make the Edenic Covenant?

With Adam



Read Genesis 2:15-17, underline "Then the LORD God commanded the man" and "you shall surely die", and answer the questions below:

¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die [héb. מוֹת *mûth*]."

Questions and answers:

- Whom did the Lord call and give the commandment to? To Adam, the man.
- What was this commandment? Obedience: not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- What was the consequence of disobeying the commandment? Physical, spiritual, and eternal death.
- Write synonyms for "surely." Certainly, with full certainty, undoubtedly.
- Why do you think God did not say only, "you shall die," but first said "surely"? To express the truthfulness, certainty, and infallibility of His commandment and its consequences.

As you may have noticed, God called Adam and gave him a commandment that involved preserving the eternal life, the immortality God had granted him. Adam fully understood what God was telling him about death. Answer the following question:

- How did Adam know what God's warning about dying if he disobeyed meant? (To answer,

review Step 25 of Discipleship "The King's eternal promises"): Because he was surrounded by life and filled with life, and by contrast, by opposition, he understood what it meant to lose the life he possessed, experienced, and saw around him. Adam understood that the Lord was telling him, "You will surely lose your life."

The Lord's commandment was to obey; Adam must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because disobedience would bring death—that is, the loss of the eternal life and immortality that Adam possessed. This commandment is the first part of the Edenic Covenant; it begins with it.

When the Lord used the word "surely," He was indicating the undeniable certainty that death would result from disobedience. Let us now examine the Hebrew expression for "you shall surely die":

The expression the that New King James version translates as "you shall surely die" is, in Hebrew:

*מִוֶּתֶם מִוֶּתֶם *mûth mûth**

The word "die" is repeated twice: "You will die, you will die."



This repetition, "you shall die—you shall die," is a reiteration. However, it also conveys emphasis and certainty, referring to a double death that points to the second death in hell or the Lake of Fire. We will expand on this when we study the Adamic Covenant, after Adam had already disobeyed.

Now, let us continue answering the questions from the introduction:

On which day did God create man?

On the sixth day

Based on the days of creation and what God did when He finished, when do you think He could have made the Edenic Covenant?

On the sixth day



When God made the first part of the Edenic Covenant with the commandment of life, had He already created Eve?

No

God created man on the sixth day; this is confirmed in Genesis 1:27 and 31:

²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- On which day did the Lord create Eve? On the sixth day.

To answer the second question in the illustration, and based on the previous answer, let us read Genesis 2:15-18 and 21-22; read, underline verse 18, and answer the following questions:

¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

- When the Lord gave Adam the commandment that inaugurates the Edenic Covenant, had the woman already been formed? NO.

Indeed, when the Lord made the covenant with Adam, Eve had not yet been formed from Adam's rib. It was on that same sixth day that God inaugurated the Edenic Covenant. On that same day, after the holy commandment had been given, the Lord formed Eve.

Now read the following verses from Genesis 1, underline the expression that appears in all of them, and answer the questions below:

¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- Write the expression that is repeated in verses 10, 12, 21, and 25: And God saw that it was good.

- What is the difference between those verses and verse 31, even though it also repeats the expression? In verse 31, the expression "very good" is added.

As you have observed, brother, sister, the expression repeated in verses 10, 12, 21, and 25 is "Then God saw that it was good," and in verse 31 this statement is reiterated, but with additional emphasis, especially the phrase "very good":

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." Now, read the following verse from Genesis 2:18 again:

¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

- What is the difference between this verse and those you read earlier (Genesis 1:10, 12, 21, 25, and 31)? In verses 10, 12, 21, 25, and 31 it is declared that everything was good, whereas in Genesis 2:18 God says, "It is not good."

As you can see, brother, sister, the difference between Genesis 2:18 and the other passages in Genesis 1 is that God declares, "It is not good," while earlier He had said, "Then God saw that it was good," and at the end of the sixth day He declared that everything was "very good," when creation was completed.

Why did God say "It is not good" during declarations that everything was good? And why, at the end of creation, does the Lord say that everything was "very good"? We will resolve these questions in the next Step.

LET US PRAY TO OUR GOD!

*God of glory,
how much love You poured out from the beginning!
Your hands made me and formed me;*

Ferrer, G., & Rodríguez, Y. (2026). The Lord's eternal covenants. Berea Christian Church (Special Legal Status No. 6026, Ministry of the Interior; Tax Identification Number [TIN] 900403853-0). Barranquilla.

*You put eternity in my heart
and enabled me to understand the way of salvation.
How great are Your power, Your grace,
and Your mercy!
Beloved King, my soul praises You and blesses You.
Lord Jesus, come, come; I long for You with all my heart.
AMEN!*

LET US WORSHIP OUR GOD!

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