

History and Deeper meaning of Covenant

L. Berkof: Systematic Theology (although some disagree)

OT Hebrew	NT Greek
“berith”	“diatheke”
“To cut” and pass between flesh/blood”	disposition/testament
This covenant idea came from God in the original language	A newly created word for the Greek influenced mind. The only word similar in meaning was “Suntheke” based on the legal equality of two parties. The idea of God being the priority in covenant was absent in the Greek language.

Hebrew & Greek were translated to Latin, to King James English as “Covenant”

Today we use “Covenant” or “Promise” interchangeably, and some even use “testament” in it’s place, although there is a difference to the Hebrew or Greek influenced mind.

Modern English: Covenant or promise is made by the living

Modern English: “Last will & Testament” are directions to be carried out on behalf of the dead.

The need for “De-Greecing” the Church:

OT was finished by 400 BC Although not all canonized until 100 BC with Malachi being the last prophet with writings of “Thus saith the Lord”	God is now silent for 400 years between the OT & NT. During this time the Greeks wrote much to influence the world with their philosophy. The Apocrypha also written during this time.	The entire NT is written beginning with James in AD 40 to Revelations AD 80-90’s as God once again speaks through man.
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400 years of silence between the Testaments, The Influence of Greek Philosophy

Socrates	Plato	Aristotle
Accused of corrupting the youth with his teachings. Condemned to death by drinking hemlock. Waxed eloquent upon dying, that death was a great release.	Wrote down much of his teachings and opened a school.	Wrote his teachings in about 400 books

Affects on our Culture and Philosophy by the Greeks vs. God’s Word

Greek Architecture	Portico’s	God: As a man thinks in his heart so is he.	The Hebrews worked 6 days, rested on the 7th.
Democracy	Democracy in America		Democracy is not mentioned in Bible.
Sport	Obsession of Greeks	Our thoughts shape our behavior, lifestyle and character.	Bodily exercise profits little. To the Hebrews, death is an enemy.
Entertainment	Debates, Theatre, Liesure		
Values	Moral Values		

What influences your thinking?

Study to show yourself approved. A workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. II Timothy 2:15