



A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture

Scott Hahn

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Hahn explores the "covenant love" God reveals to us through the Scriptures and explains how God patiently reaches out to us—despite our faults and shortcomings—to restore us into relationship with his divine family. Join Hahn as he follows the high adventure of God's plan for the ages, beginning with Adam and Eve and continuing down through the generations to the coming of Christ and the birth of the Church. You'll discover how the patient love of the Father revealed in the Bible is the same persistent love he has for you. A Servant Book.

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A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture Details

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Author : Scott Hahn

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Kennedy says

Informative and educational. Nice connection to the bible.

Di Taylor says

I had been an apathetic person towards the Catholic Church after leaving it when I became an adult and pretty much was ticked off at God. A dear friend shared this book as my husband fought a serious form of cancer and I suddenly found myself no longer angry, but hungry for God's Word. I had all sorts of questions, doubts and fears. Our friend who is Catholic and is a Scott Hahn aficionado gave this book to me for Christmas and I found myself for the first time truly understanding God's amazing love for His children and the richness of a timeless story - The Old Testament. I have found myself reaching back to this book to better understand the rich and deep history of the beginning of time. This book changed my views on a great deal of troubling issues and struggles for me. I am working my way through all of Scott Hahn's books.

Irene says

In this book by this well-known Catholic apologist, Scott Hahn narrates and explicates the biblical account of salvation history. I found his use of scripture to be quite problematic, ignoring the best in Catholic biblical scholarship from the past 50 years. Although he makes it clear that the entire Hebrew Scripture is, for him, a mere pre-figuring of the Christian Scripture, he does not address the Paschal Mystery until the final 2 chapters, and that is almost exclusively dealt with through the Catholic sacraments of Eucharist and Matrimony. I read this book because it was a gift from a friend who wanted to make me a fan of Scott Hahn. It did not succeed. I doubt I will read any further titles by him.

Jordan says

Kev was right.

Kris says

This is the beauty of Scott Hahn's books: interesting, intelligent and readable. A good Lenten selection and his companion Lenten devotional is worthwhile.

Patrick Gruber says

In this wonderful book, Scott Hahn traces God's covenant love through the old testament and right down to the new covenant. He reveals the truth of the scriptures and of God's covenant, that God is a father that loves his children (us), and relentlessly pursues us so that we might be a part of his covenant, his very family.

It tells the story of how God lovingly formed the world for Human habitation, placing his creation Adam in the garden who was to defend and guide God's handiwork and offer it all up to God as a sacrifice of loving praise. But Adam failed and plunged the human world into sin. Dr. Hahn follows the thread all through the OT, through Abraham the father of the faithful, and through Moses the mediator.

Along the way, he shows how the design behind all of God's actions is to build the human race into a family, the family of God. Indeed, reality is a love story. The story of God pursuing sinful man to draw him into his covenant relationship.

Finally, he brings the whole story to a conclusion by examining Jesus and the new covenant. He shows how Jesus Christ brought in the greatest stage of God's plan, his worldwide family, the catholic church. He accomplishes this by dying for the sins of men and giving his perfect life as a eternal offering of love to the father. Indeed, the very act of the sacrifice was a fulfillment of the Passover liturgy, as he turned the third cup of blessing into the Eucharist and the fourth cup of consummation into his bloody death, one single sacrifice which is given for us to accept and consume, to unite ourselves with God and his covenant love.

This book is about God's covenant love - the Gospel. And what is that Gospel specifically? Hahn spells out the Gospel message on page 240-243:

1. God is more than a wise creator, he is our loving father.
2. God has established a sacred covenant with us from the start - a sacred family bond of communion.
3. We have all broken God's covenant.
4. We desperately need our Father's mercy and Grace.
5. The solution to this came when God became Man in Jesus Christ. Jesus took on our weak nature to perfect us and give us a share in the divine life of God.
6. Jesus seals the New Covenant through his sacrifice that began in the upper room and ended on Calvary.
7. Jesus was raised from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit is his gift to us.
8. Jesus gives us this Spirit through the sacraments. And his own body through the eucharist.
9. Jesus gives us the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as our family, and Mary as our mother.
10. We are on a pilgrimage to heaven where we will be with God forever beholding his awesome beatific vision.

This is an incredible book and I recommend it to everyone who wants to understand God's covenant love, just what the Old Testament is about, and how it all fits together. This book is a masterpiece.

Chad Judice says

This is a great book to read while doing Bible study on salvation history. Hahn shows the oaths taken by humans with God starting with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, King David, and leads the reader through the fulfillment of that exchanges of persons between God and a couple, a family, a tribe, a nation,

and the world through Christ. A riveting read that shows we are not any different than those who walked the earth over 2,000 years ago. God loves us as much as he did them.

Jen says

Awesome ! It gave me a whole new perspective of the bible, especially the Old Testament, which is the hardest for me to relate to. This answered so many difficult questions that bugged me since I started reading the bible years ago.

The answers are not as simple as you might think-these are all about how God was keeping his original covenant with his people. Why is there a whole book with so many rules in the Old Testament? Why did God have to start over so many times with other Covenants (rainbow, circumcision...)? What were the animal sacrifices about? Who is high priest Melchizedek? Why was God so angry in the Old Testament but so forgiving in the New Testament? What did Jesus mean by "it is finished" when he is on the cross?

And most of all - why is a covenant so important, and why did it require God's son to die on the cross to allow us the privilege of heaven?

Biblical scholar Scott Hahn explains all this with humor!! It is wonderful to read.

Jen says

This book unpacked the Old Testament and God's covenants with humanity in a profound yet approachable way. The insights Hahn shared have changed the way I understand Scripture and engage with my faith.

Wanda says

Excellent! I am a big fan of Scott Hahn and once again he has amazed me with his grasp of Scripture and his ability to "spoon feed" ignorant persons like myself.

booklady says

An excellent retelling of Old Testament historical theology. Listened to this on a drive to and from St. Louis this past week-end and I'm sure I will listen to it again many times. Hahn sets the record straight against claims that there were/are two Gods, the vengeful O.T. Jewish God and the Loving Abba Jesus introduces. After reading/listening to this book, you will come to *know* God the Father and how very much He loves you. Beautiful!

John Prejean says

One of the best books that I've read to help me in my spiritual journey. Great stories on how God has made covenants with our families through the years and how we've messed them up. I learned so much about the Old Testament by reading this book in conjunction with my bible. We are currently using this book as our reading material for the men's group at my parish. Highly recommend this book.

Yvonne Innes says

A father Who Keeps his Promises was one of a series of books recommended by our OP. I liked the title and wanted some more insight on how to better understand God's plan through scripture. What an experience!

As the author explains, his book is in no way an abridged replacement for reading the Bible. I have to admit, however, that I was secretly hoping that it would be. This is not because I avoid scripture, but because the Old Testament has never really spoken to me in the way that the four canonical Gospels have. Having acknowledged that I was in for a big surprise.

For me there has always been a conflict with what to take literally and how to interpret passages within their appropriate context. One problem with this approach is that you have to do quite a bit of research (or get help from someone who has). A worse problem, or consequence, can be that in the process you lose the bigger picture.

I didn't live in Egypt. I wasn't personally involved in all these events. Sure, I can learn about them in a historical, detached way, but why should I care about the old covenants? The Old Testament sometimes feels like a long series surreptitious events. It can feel like a soap opera: a type of entertainment I generally avoid or reject. It makes me very uncomfortable. Although I'm not sinless, I'm a victim of such behaviors and have spent many years coming to terms with them and finding ways to forgive both the perpetrators and myself. Save it to say, I can't easily stomach infidelity, divorce, polygamy, slavery, racism, and murder.

So why bother with the Old Testament? Why not just content yourself with some of the more comforting stories or stick with the children's Bible? While Dr. Hahn does not directly address my personal concerns, he does lay everything out in a manner that is very enlightening. There exists a chronological structure in the Bible beyond the historical nature of its individual books. It depicts a family legacy (ours essentially), one that takes many generations to unfold.

As parents we may have plans (hopes) for our children. We may even tell them what they are and prepare them to those ends. If we are immigrants, we may even go so far as to explain to them, that the realization of our ancestors goals may take generations to be realized. Some Immigrants settle a new country with nothing (no money or relatives to float them in emergencies.) Their struggles and sacrifices are lovingly made in order to offer their children and grandchildren a better life, one with more opportunities to pursue dreams. If you can understand this concept on a small family scale, then you should be able to appreciate your heritage as God's children. Do we speak to our children of their heritage? Maybe we should. How is that different from reading the Old Testament? It's just on a larger scale, with a bigger picture.

Dr. Hahn reiterates this bigger picture, God's plan for our salvation, in the context of a series of covenants. Within this perspective, I found it so much easier to approach the Old Testament. Don't sweat all the details. Not to say that they should be discarded, but rather understood as humanity's stepping stones toward an ultimate goal. Life is messy, but we shouldn't give up.

I have always instinctively understood that Jesus came to save all of us, but I never really understood how that had expanded from the chosen few (first sons) to everyone. Dr. Hahn explains this very clearly in terms of progressive scripture.

I'm called to church, so I go. And like all good habits for maintaining your health (brushing your teeth and such), they need to be repeated regularly. I always understood the necessity of this structure, hence the Universal Church and mass. What had been less clear for me up to now was our particular commitment in terms of the New Covenant. Yes, Jesus is present in the Host. Yes, it is part of our penance and must be repeated regularly. It is right and just and we need it... but how does it work exactly and why?

While we can't comprehend all that God has planned for us, Dr. Hahn helps us to understand through scripture how God works with us to bring us home. Most of all Dr. Hahn repeatedly shows us how God keeps his promises despite our bad judgments and weaknesses. What a father! Shouldn't we too make an effort to keep the New Covenant?

Thank you, Dr. Hahn, for your wonderful insight. I'm always fascinated by how enlightened people who actively join or return to the church are. The journey itself seems to be the best part.

Richard Grebenc says

Each time I present the St. Paul Center's Bible study, "Genesis to Jesus," I re-read this book (it is the recommended supplemental book for this study). So that's at least three readings. Each time, I'm reminded of aspects of the covenant understanding of salvation history that I have forgotten or I become aware of some deeper meaning or nuance that eluded me previously. Whether one has paid attention to the author for a while or is new to his work this book is a must read. It really is the interpretive key to his biblical theology written in a way accessible to even the merest Bible novice, but of value to readers of any background (his later book "Kinship by Covenant," based on his doctoral thesis, is a much deeper and more scholarly treatment).

Almost everyone in my Bible studies who reads the book has said that it is a helpful and accessible supplement to the study. Short sections with clever titles keep the reader engaged, but allow the material to be absorbed in bite-sized chunks. And, of course, hardly a page goes by in which a quote from scripture or an explicit reference (e.g., "Ex 1:7") to it isn't provided (God's Word is very powerful!). There are only a few diagrams and tables -- which are very helpful -- but they are something of which there really should be more of throughout the book.

For beginner or scholar, this book will provide perspective on the "big picture" of salvation history in a memorable way.

Jerry DePyper says

Having recently read two other very disappointing books from DynamicCatholic.com, I was not expecting much from this one. But in sharp contrast to those aforementioned disappointments, A Father Who Keeps His Promises by Scott Hahn does a very good job of presenting authentic Catholic Faith. Dr. Hahn is a true Bible scholar, and his honest and intelligent scholarship is revealed in this work.

Hahn begins by giving a Scriptural definition of a covenant relationship, and then traces this idea through the entire history of salvation as revealed in Sacred Scripture. This culminates in his examination of the relationship between the Jewish feast of Passover, the Last Supper, Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross, and the continuing sacrifice of the Eucharist. The inseparable connection between these was a big part of Hahn's own conversion to Catholicism.

Some of the book's ideas were new to me. For example, I had never before realized the connection between Seth and Melchizedek, nor the significance of the various 'cups' mentioned in the Gospel narratives of the Last Supper and Passion. Most of the principles were already familiar to me but presented here in a way that was refreshingly true to Scriptural principles and to Catholic teaching.
