

THE COVENANT IN JUDAISM AND PAUL

A Study of Ritual Boundaries as Identity Markers

BY

ELLEN JUHL CHRISTIANSEN



E.J. BRILL
LEIDEN · NEW YORK · KÖLN
1995

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
I. Why Covenant?	4
II. Covenant and Covenants	8
III. Determination of Boundaries	11
IV. Why Ritual Boundaries?	13
V. Choice of Texts	18
VI. Conclusion	20

PART A THE OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND FOR COVENANT IDENTITY AND ITS BOUNDARIES

Chapter One: Some Old Testament Aspects to Covenantal Identity and Boundaries	25
I. Interpreting the Old Testament	27
II. Covenantal Identity and Boundaries: Born to Belong	29
1. Divine Presence Guarantees Covenant and Boundaries	30
a. One Covenant with Noah	30
b. God's Covenant Oath to Abraham	32
c. The Divine Presence at Sinai	33
2. Covenant Promises: Land and Posterity	37
a. A Double Promise to Abraham	37
b. Promises to David	43
3. The Obligatory Covenant of Sinai	46
4. Broken and Restored Covenant Relationship	52
a. Covenant Restoration	52
b. Renewal and "New Covenant"	54
c. Covenant and Newness	59
III. Conclusion	61

PART B
PALESTINIAN JUDAISM: COVENANT IDENTITY AND
ECCLESIOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES

<i>Introduction to Part B</i>	65
Chapter Two: Covenant Consciousness in the Book of Jubilees	67
I. Identity and Covenant Consciousness	70
1. God and Covenant Validity	71
2. Covenant Consciousness and Identity of Israel	77
a. Past relationships	78
b. Marks of Israel's Present Identity	82
c. Orientation Towards the Future	85
II. Israel's Boundaries	87
1. Election Means Exclusion	88
2. Circumcision: Rite of Affirmation?	96
III. Conclusion	101
 Chapter Three: Covenant Conditions and Ritual Boundaries in the Temple	
Scroll and the Damascus Document	104
I. Covenantal Identity	108
1. Conditions for Covenant Validity	108
2. Covenant Obedience	113
a. The "Eternal Inheritance of the Land" in 11QTemple	113
b. The "Land of Damascus" in CD	117
3. "Broken Covenant" and "New Covenant"	122
a. "Broken Covenant"	122
b. "New Covenant" in CD	128
II. Ritual Boundaries	131
1. Return and Entry	132
2. Covenant Markers	138
a. Circumcision	138
b. Oaths	139
3. Ritual Purity and Washings	141
III. Conclusion	143

Chapter Four: Ecclesiological Awareness and Covenant Ritual in the Community Rule	145
I. Covenantal Identity and Ecclesiological Awareness	145
1. A Priestly Eschatological Covenant	147
a. The Lack of Continuity with the Past	147
b. "Eternal Covenant"	152
2. Ecclesiological Consciousness	158
II. Priestly Boundaries and Entry	162
1. Purity and Impurity	162
2. Entry into the Community	169
a. Entry into the Covenant or Covenant Renewal?	170
b. Entry for Novices	173
c. The First of the Ritual Washings	177
d. Dependency on Proselyte Baptism	178
e. Qualifications for Entry	179
<i>Excursus: Marginality</i>	181
III. Conclusion	184
 Chapter Five: An Invalid Covenant Identity - a Symbolic Boundary . .	186
I. Does "Children to Abraham" Presuppose a Covenant Identity?	187
II. A Baptist Community?	192
III. John's Baptism: A Symbolic Boundary?	199
1. Initiation	199
2. Purification	201
IV. Conclusion	204

PART C

PAULINE CHRISTIANITY

COVENANT IDENTITY AND RITUAL BOUNDARIES

<i>Introduction to Part C</i>	209
Chapter Six: Covenant and Covenants in Paul's Letters	211
I. Perspective on Paul	211
II. Covenant and Israel in Romans	214
<i>Excursus: Romans 9-11</i>	215
1. The Validity of God's Covenant	217

2. Covenant and Identity in Romans	228
III. "Children" and "Mothers" of the Covenant in Galatians	232
1. From Promises to Promise. Galatians 3:15,17	234
2. Children of the Two Covenants. Galatians 4:24	239
a. Covenant of Freedom and Slavery	242
b. Identity of the Covenant Mothers	244
IV. From New to Old Covenant in 2 Corinthians	249
1. A New Covenant or a New Dimension?	253
2. Power of Death and Life	259
3. Covenant and Glory	263
V. Conclusion	270
Chapter Seven: Boundaries Redefined - Boundaries Replaced	272
I. Previous Research on Baptism in Its Relation to Circumcision	273
II. Circumcision: A Redefined or a Replaced Rite?	279
III. Baptism as Boundary Rite	291
1. Baptism: A Ritual of Identification. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17	294
2. Baptism: A Ritual of Liberation. 1 Corinthians 10:2	301
3. Baptism: A Ritual of Incorporation. 1 Corinthians 12:13	305
4. Baptism: A Ritual of Changed Identity. Galatians 3:26-29	311
IV. Conclusion	318
Summary and Conclusion	321
I. Summary	322
II. Concluding Reflections on the Necessity of Baptism	325
Bibliography	329
Indices	361
Index of Passages	361
Index of Modern Authors	385
Index of Subjects	391