

By Joel Settecase

Welcome to Catakids.

GOALS

- A religious primer to help parents teach their young children the essential and primary doctrines of biblical Christianity, in the hope that the Lord will use it as a means to bring our children to repentance and faith in Christ Jesus, and equip them to walk in the Spirit and love the Lord their God with their whole selves.
- To lay out a comprehensive overview of the Christian worldview that is in accord with what Scripture teaches.
- As much as possible, to correct some of the errors that exist in children's catechisms.
- 100 questions.

RATIONALE

I have been catechizing my children since the spring of 2014, starting with my son Jakob, when he was two. I searched high and low for an age appropriate, theologically sound catechism, and found some that were very good. However, the ones I found were problematic in at least one of three ways:

- 1. They were mostly from a Covenant Theological (CT) background, and I ran into problems when they got to some of the CT distinctives (such as the Christian's relationship to the Ten Commandments, the supposed extra-biblical covenants, etc.).
- 2. They were theologically in agreement with my beliefs, but they were aimed at adults and not age appropriate for young children.
- 3. They were antiquated in their language.

With Catakids/The New Covenant Catechism for Little Ones, I want to draw on what's excellent in the old catechisms while making adjustments to fit what I believe to be the more biblical interpretive strategy of New Covenant Theology.

SOURCES AND INSPIRATION

- "Catechism for Babes"¹
- "First Catechism"²
- "A Puritan Catechism" ³

¹ Jessey, H., "Catechism for Babes," Reformed Reader, 1652,

http://www.reformedreader.org/ccc/acfblo.htm.

² "First Catechism," Great Commission Publications, 2003/2004,

http://www.opc.org/cce/FirstCatechism.html.

³ Spurgeon, Charles H., "A Puritan Catechism: With Proofs," The Reformed Reader, 1855, http://www.reformedreader.org/ccc/puritan_catechism.htm.

- "A New Covenant Theology Catechism"⁴
- "New City Catechism"⁵
- "The New Covenant Confession of Faith"⁶
- "The 1644/1646 First London Baptist Confession of Faith"7

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Try to ask the questions, and give the answers, in a sing-songy, rhythmic way, in order to aid in memorization. The goal is rote memorization, not total comprehension. However, the head of the family should talk through the answers with the children after the answer is memorized. Feel free to work through one question each week or tackle up to five a week— one each week day, and then review and discuss on Saturday.

THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVES

The author believes the Bible to be the inerrant, infallible and sufficient word of God. I do not consider myself confessional, but I intended this document to be in agreement with the 1644/1646 First London Baptist Confession of Faith, insofar as it agrees with Scripture.

As the title indicates, Catakids/New Covenant Catechism for Little Ones is in line with New Covenant Theology, which some have called a midpoint between Covenantalism on one side and Dispensationalism on the other. Additionally, the hermeneutic reflected here is Redemptive-Historical, interpreting the whole Bible as pointing to Jesus and His redemptive work. Further, I am working from a viewpoint that is Baptistic (believing only professing believers should be baptized), Presuppositionalist (with respect to apologetics), Calvinistic (regarding soteriology), Young-Earth (as a view of creation) Amillennialist (eschatologically), and somewhere between Continuationist and Cessationist (in terms of Spiritual gifts). If none of the above paragraph makes much sense to you, do not worry about it. It is all just to say that my own theology will undoubtedly be reflected in this catechism. However, it is not necessary to hold to these positions to use and find agreement with this catechism.

The reader will find my theology best expressed in the "Five Solas" of the Reformation:

- Sola Gratia We are saved by grace alone...
- Sola Fide Through faith alone...
- Solus Christus In Christ alone...
- Sola Scriptura According to the Scripture alone...
- Soli Deo Gloria To the glory of God alone!

⁴ Senenko Jr., Walter, "A New Covenant Theology Catechism (Revised), 2015,

https://books.google.com/books/about/A_New_Covenant_Theology_Catechism_revise.html?id=-xg8BgA AQBAJ.

⁵ Keller, Timothy and Shammas, Sam, "New City Catechism," The Gospel Coalition, 2012, www.newcitycatechism.com.

⁶ Elders of New Covenant Bible Fellowship, "The New Covenant Confession of Faith," New Covenant Bible Fellowship, http://ncbf.net/pdf/confession.pdf.

⁷ "The First London Baptist Confession of 1644," Reformed Reader, http://www.reformedreader.org/ccc/h.htm.

PART 1: CREATION

1. Who is God?

The Lord is God. Deut. 6:4; Psalm 100:3; 118:27

- Is there any true God besides the Lord? No! Deut. 6:4; Psalm 100:3; 118:27; James 2:19
- How many persons are in the Godhead? Three! Matthew 28:19
- 4. Who are the persons in the Godhead? The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 15:26; 17:1-5; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4
- How much does God know? God knows everything. Deut. 18:22; Psalm 139:1-6; Isaiah 42:9; 44:7; 46:10; 48:3-7; Matt. 11:21; John 16:30; 21:17; 1 John 3:20

6. What did God make? God made me and everything. *Gen. 1:1; John 1:3; Heb. 11:3*

7. How did God make everything? Out of nothing, by His word. *Genesis 1; John 1:1-3*

 How could God make everything from nothing? God can do everything He wants to do. Mark 10:27; Luke 1:37; Luke 18:27

In how many days did God make everything? God made everything in six days. *Gen. 2:1-3*

10. What did God do on the seventh day? God rested, and then he blessed it. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:10-11

11. Who were the first people that God made?

Adam and Eve, our first parents. Gen 1:26-27; 2:18-25; 3:20; Mark 10:6; 1 Cor. 15:45

12. What were Adam and Eve like when God made them?

Happy and holy, male and female, in God's image. *Gen. 1:27; Gen. 5:2; Eccl. 7:29*

13. Did God make everything good or bad?

God is good, and He made everything good. Psalms 119:68; Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 1:4; Gen. 1:31

14. What does God do with everything?

God holds it all together, and makes things happen the way he wants. Heb. 1:3; Neh. 9:6; Prov. 16:9, 33; Amos 3:6; Isa. 40:26; Psalms 47:2; 103:19; 135:6; Psalm 36:6; Matt. 10:29-30; Eph. 1:11

15. Why did God make you and everything?

To serve and glorify Him. *Psalms 100:3; Eccles. 12:13; Luke 1:74*

16. If God is in control, must we still choose?

Yes, we must choose to serve and glorify Him! Gen. 50:15-20; Ex. 4:21; 8:15; Josh. 11:19- 20; Judges 14:1-4; 1 Sam. 2:22-25; 2 Sam. 24:1; 24:10; Acts 2:23; 2:36-37

17. Shouldn't you learn to know God then, so you may serve Him the right way? Yes, I need to learn to know God.1 Chron. 28:9

18. What are the two ways we learn to know God?

By His works and by His word! *Psalm 19:1-4; Acts 28:4; Rom. 1:18-20, 32; 2:14-15; 13:3-4; 1 Cor. 5:1; Gen 1:28; 15:1; Num. 12:6; Deut. 4:10; 1 Kings 3:5; Luke 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb 1:1-2; 2:1-4*

19. What do we call the word of God?

The holy Bible is the word of God. Luke 24:44; John 6:45; Rom. 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 2:6; 2 Pet. 3:15-16

20. What are the two parts of the Bible?

The Old Testament and the New Testament.

21. What is the first book of the Bible called, and what's the last book?

The first book is called Genesis, and the last book is called Revelation. *Gen. 1:1; Rev. 22:18-19*

22. What does the Old Testament teach us about God?

God is good, God's never wrong, God is kind and God is strong, God's the holy judge of everyone, God will send us His own Son! *Gen. 18:25; Prov. 13:16; Luke 24:44; John 5:39, 46; Acts 26:22-23; 28:23*

23. What does the New Testament teach us about God?

God sent Jesus, His own Son, to reveal Himself to everyone! *Matt.* 1:22-23; *Matt.* 8:17; *Matt.* 27:9, 35; *John* 14:7; *Acts* 13:33; *Col.* 1:15; *Heb.* 1:1-2

24. How do we know what the Old Testament means?

The New Testament helps us know what it means. Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-2; Deut. 18:15; Acts 7:37; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:14-21; Mal. 4:5; Matt. 11:13-14

25. May we also talk to God?

Yes. We talk to God by praying. Gen. 4:26; Gen. 13:4; Phil. 4:6; John 15:7; 1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 11:9; 1 Tim. 2:1-4.

26. What does Jesus teach us to say, when we pray?

Our Father in heaven, your name is to be honored. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth just as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us when we're naughty, just as we forgive others for being naughty to us. Lead us not into temptation, but rescue us from evil.

Matt. 6:9-13

PART 2: FALL

27. What is sin?

Sin is disobeying God. Gen. 6:5; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 14:23; Gal. 5:19-21; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4; 5:17

28. Since God made everything good, why are people naughty, and why do people hurt and die?

Death came in through Adam's sin. Everyone dies 'cause everyone sinned. *Romans* 3:23; 5:12-15; 6:23

29. What do we call the sin of Adam?

Adam's sin is called the Fall.

30. How did Adam come to sin and fall?

Eve, his wife, was tempted by the evil one, and they both ate the fruit God said not to eat.

2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; Gen. 3:1-2; Gen 3:3-14

31. What bad things happened when Adam sinned?

Woe, death and sin came to all his children. *Romans 3:23; 5:12-15; 6:23*

32. Can we escape God's wrath and curse by being good?

No. No one can be good enough for God. Job 22:2-3; Rom. 11:35; 1 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 3:9

33. Then how can we escape God's anger and curse?

We must be saved by the Savior God sent. John 3:16, Matt. 1:21-23; Heb. 7:22-25; Gal. 3:13; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 9:10

34. Did God promise a Savior to Adam and Eve?

Yes. The serpent would strike the Savior's heel, but the Savior would crush the serpent's head.

Gen. 3:15

PART 3: REDEMPTION

35. How many plans does God have for the world?

God has one plan to save His people, and He revealed it in many covenants. Gen. 3:21; 6:8; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; 4:2-6; Gal. 3:8; Heb. 4:2; Rom. 8:28; 9:4; Gal. 4:25; Eph. 1:11; 2:12; 2 Tim. 1:9

36. What is a covenant in the Bible?

God makes a special deal with His people. Gen. 9:1-17; Gen. 12:1-3; 15:7-21; Ex. 19:3- 6, 8; 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Jer. 31:31; Matt. 26:28; Gal. 4:24-26; Heb. 9:15; 12:24

37. How were people saved before Jesus came?

By God's free gift, through faith in the promised Savior. Gen. 3:21; 6:8; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; 4:2-6; Gal. 3:8; Heb. 4:2

38. How are people saved in the New Covenant?

By God's free gift, through faith in the Savior Jesus Christ. *Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13; Acts 2:21*

39. What was the Abrahamic Covenant?

God promised Abraham land, offspring and blessing. *Gen.* 12:1-3; 15:18-21

40. What was the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant? Circumcision.

Gen. 17:9-14

41. What is the Old Covenant?

The Law God gave to Israel through Moses. *Ex.* 20:1-20; 21:1; Jer. 31: 31-34; John 1:17

42. What did the Old Covenant do?

The Old Covenant woke up sin, and sin brought death and condemnation. *Rom.* 7:7-13; Cor. 3:6-7, 9

43. Why did God give the Law to Moses?

To show how holy God is, to show how sinful we are, and to show we need a Savior. *Gen.* 3:21; 6:8; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; 4:2-6; Gal. 3:8; Heb. 4:2

44. Did God divide His commands into three different kinds?

No. God gave Israel His commands and said to obey them all.

Lev. 18:5; 19; Deut. 30:15-16; 2 Chron. 33:8; 1 Kings 2:3; Neh. 1:7; Ezek. 20:11; 1 Cor. 9:9; Rom. 10:5; Gal. 3:10; 3:12; 5:3; Eph. 2:15; James 2:10

45. What is the summary of God's Law?

To love the Lord and love your neighbor as you love yourself. *Matt.* 22:37-40; *Rom.* 13:9

46. Did the Old Covenant make people right with God?

No, the Old Covenant didn't take away anyone's sin or make anyone right with God. *Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:20-22; 5:20; 7:5-11; 8:1-4; Gal. 2:16, 21; 3:2-6; 4:24; Heb. 7:19; 8:6-9; 10:4; 10:11*

47. What was the sign of the Old Covenant?

The Sabbath, a day of rest Ex. 16:23; 20:8; 31:15-17

48. What is the New Covenant?

God forgives and saves His people, making them righteous, by the death of Jesus Christ.

Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20; Heb. 8:6. 8-13; 10:2, 22

49. What does God do for believers in the New Covenant?

He justifies them, sanctifies them and glorifies them, saves them, and takes care of them.

Psalm 33:20; 46:1; 89:18; Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 2:14; Col. 3:4; 1 Tim. 1:1; Exodus 15:2; 2 Sam. 22:2; Psalm 23:1; 27:1; Lam. 3:24

50. How are Christians justified?

God forgives, all my sins, and calls me righteous in Christ Jesus *Rom. 3:22; Rom. 1:17; Rom. 4:5-8; Rom. 5:17-18*

51. How are Christians sanctified?

[By Christ's work and through His word], God sets me apart and makes me more like Him.

Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; Heb. 2:11; Heb. 10:14

52. **How are Christians glorified?** God makes me like Jesus in this life, and prepares a home for me forever.

John 17:22, 24; 2 Cor. 4:17; Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:30 53.

53. What has God done to save sinners?

God loved us and sent His Son, to die for sinners just like me!

John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8

54. How can you be saved?

I must repent and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord! Mark 5:9; John 1:12; Acts 2:38; John 6:29

55. How long will the New Covenant last?

The New Covenant will last forever. *Heb. 5:9; 8:8-13; 9:12, 9:15; 13:20*

56. Is the New Covenant like the Old Covenant?

No. The New Covenant is not like the Old Covenant. *Jer.* 31:31-34

57. How is the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant?

Everyone in the New Covenant is free, forgiven and knows the Lord. *Jer.* 31:34; *Heb.* 13:20; *Gal.* 4:24-26; *Heb.* 8:6-13; 10:1-4

58. What does the New Covenant bring?

The New Covenant brings the Holy Spirit and righteousness. *2 Cor.* 3:7-9

59. Whose law must we obey in the New Covenant?

We must obey the Law of Christ *Matt.* 28:20; John 13:34; 14:15; 14:21; 15:10; Acts 15:5-11; 1 Cor. 9:20-21; Gal. 3:23-25; 5:18; 6:2; 1 Thess. 4:2

60. Can the Law God gave to Moses still help us today?

Yes, the Law of Moses can still help us today. Rom. 13:8-10; Eph. 6:1-3

61. When did God plan the New Covenant?

Before the world was made, the Father planned to send the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Isa. 42:6; 49:8; 61:1; Matt. 10:40; John 4:34; 5:30; 5:36-37; 6:37-40; 20:21; Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 10:7-9; 1 John 4:14

62. What is the mediator of the New Covenant?

The One who makes peace between God and man. *Gen.* 18:25; *Romans* 5:1; 1 *Tim.* 2:5

63. Who is the mediator of the New Covenant?

The man Christ Jesus, is the mediator of the New Covenant.

Rom. 5:1; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 8:6; 12:24

64. As mediator, whom Jesus forgive and save?

Christ forgives and saves forever, those the Father has given to Him. *John 17:6-9; Heb.* 7:25; 9:15

65. Who is Jesus' human mother?

Mary Matt. 1:20-23; Lk. 1:35; 1 Tim. 2:5

66. Did Jesus have a human father?

No, God is His Father, [Joseph was His adoptive father]. Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; ; Jn. 1:1-2, 14, 18; Heb. 1:8; 1 Jn. 4:2, 9

67. Why did Jesus come to Earth?

To die for our sins and come back to life. *1 Cor. 15:3-8*

68. Where is Jesus now?

With God the Father, reigning as king. *Ps. 110:1-2; Acts 1:9-11*

69. Will Jesus come back?

Yes. He will return to judge us all. *Matt.* 25:31-32; 2 *Tim.* 4:1

PART 4: RESTORATION

70. What does the Holy Spirit do in the New Covenant?

He changes sinners' hearts, gives us faith in Christ, and helps us live a Christian life. Ez. 36:26-27; Jn. 14:26; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:26; 2 Cor. 4:13

71. What should make you want to live a Christian life?

The love of Jesus and the grace of God Jn. 14:15, 23; 2 Cor. 5:14; Titus 2:11-12; Col. 3:13; Eph. 5:23-25; 1 Cor. 10:31

72. What does it mean to live a Christian life?

We live by faith in Jesus, walking with the Holy Spirit! John 15:4; Gal. 2:20; 5:16; Eph. 5:18

73. What does the Holy Spirit give to Christians?

The Holy Spirit gives Christians spiritual gifts! Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-10; Eph. 4:7-11

74. How can you know if you're walking in the Spirit? Your life is filled with the fruit of the Spirit! Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9

75. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

It is love, joy and peace. Being patient, kind and good. Being faithful and gentle with self-control!

Galatians 5:22-23

76. If you live a Christian life, will only happy things happen?

No. Bad things will happen, but God will help me. Neh. 8:10; Phil. 4:13; James 2:5; 1 Tim. 6:5- 10; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:20 77.

77. Why do bad things happen to Christians?

They make us like Jesus, and help us trust God and comfort others. 2 Cor. 1:9; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:12-13; 2 Cor. 1:4; Rom. 5:3; Heb. 12:5-10; 1 Thess 3:3

78. Who is the Devil?

The Devil is a sinful, naughty spirit and the enemy of God. 1 Jn. 3:8; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9-12; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Cor. 11:14

79. What are angels?

Angels are good spirits who serve God and His people.

Heb. 1:14; Ps. 91:11; Rev. 19:10

80. What are demons?

Naughty spirits who hate God and try to hurt His people. *Matt.* 12:43-45; *Eph.* 6:11-12; *Luke* 9:37-42

81. How do we fight the Devil and demons?

We fight him with the Word of God! Eph. 6:11-12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 1 Pet. 5:8; Luke 10:19; 1 Jn. 5:4-5

82. When bad things happen, what is our hope?

After this life, we will live in His kingdom forever! 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Rev. 21:4; 1 Pet. 4:19; Jas. 1:12

83. Will we always live here in the world?

No. Someday this life will be over, and the next one will begin. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:3; Matt. 25:46; Heb. 9:28; 1 Cor. 15:51; Heb. 9:27

84. What must happen when this life ends?

We must be judged by Jesus Christ. Heb. 9:27; Matt. 12:36; Rev. 20:11-15; 1 Cor. 4:5; Rom. 14:10; John 12:48

85. How will God judge all the people?

God will judge all the people, by what their words and by their deeds. *Matt.* 12:36-37; *Rev.* 20:11-15; *Rom.* 2:5-12; 1 Pet. 1:17; John 12:48

86. Why does God judge word and deeds?

What we say and what we do, shows God what is in our hearts. *Jer.* 17:10; *Matt.* 7:2; *Luke* 6:45; *Prov.* 4:23

87. What will happen to naughty sinners, demons and the Devil when they all are judged?

They will be thrown away from God and punished in hell forever. *Rom.* 6:23; *Rev.* 21:8; *Rev.* 20:15; *Matt.* 25:46; *Matt.* 10:28; *Mark* 9:43-48; *Matt.* 13:50; *Rev.* 20:14

88. What will happen to God's people, who belong to Jesus?

They will be with God forever, happy as His people. *Isa. 65:17; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 21:1, 4*

89. Does God know who belongs to Him?

Yes! Their names are written in the Book of Life. *Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 17:18; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 3:5; Ex. 32:33; Rev. 21:27; Dan. 12:1; Heb.* 12:23; Luke 10:20

90. Will this world that we are in, really last forever? No. God will make a new world, after this one ends.

Rev. 21:1-27; Isa. 65:17; Rev. 21:4; 2 Pet. 3:7

91. Who makes up the universal Church?

Everyone ever saved by Jesus, all over the world. *Rev.* 5:9-10; *Eph.* 2:18-22; *Col.* 1:18

92. What is the local church?

Where we gather together to worship God, learn God's word and help one another. *Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47*

93. Who can belong to the local church?

Baptized Christians, who trust in Jesus. Acts 20:28; Rom. 12:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:5

94. What are the ordinances Jesus gave us?

The Lord's Supper and Baptism *Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:18-22; Luke 22:14-23; 1 Cor. 11:17-34*

95. What is baptism?

Being dipped in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21*

96. Who is baptism for?

Baptism is for those who confess repentance and faith in Jesus. *Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36; Acts 10:47-48*

97. What does baptism remind us of? We have new life in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again!

Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4-5 98.

98. What is the Lord's Supper?

We eat the bread and drink the cup, remembering Jesus' death. *Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Cor. 11:17-34*

99. What does the bread remind you of, and what does the cup remind you of? The bread reminds me of Jesus' body, and the cup reminds me of His blood.
1 Cor. 11:26; John 6:50-71; Matt. 26:26-39; 1 Cor. 11:23-30; Luke 22:19; 1 Co. 10:16-17

100. How should you take the Lord's Supper?

With respect, and remembrance that Jesus died for us. 1 Cor. 11:23-30; Matt. 26:26-39