

**Introduction:**

- *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Matthew 26:28, NKJV) It was a blood covenant that Jesus declared was the New Covenant He was making!
- My heart in this series of messages is to encourage us with understanding of covenant. I think many people are scared of covenants because they are afraid of breaking them. IE. HOAs
- We have looked at: What is covenant? And we have studied the covenants with Adam and Noah. Tonight we want to look at the Covenant with Abraham.
- As we look at these covenants, one man described them as skeletal structure that must be assembled accurately.

**I. Truths to Recall**

- A covenant is a **binding agreement** between two people or parties. God in making covenant with us, literally puts himself into a binding agreement with us.
- God determines the terms of the covenant. It is not a mutual agreement.
- The covenants that God makes with man **is for man's benefit!** They declare the goodness and kindness of God towards us.
- Covenants are all about relationship! God wants relationships with us. That is why He initiates covenant! They are meant to bring people together, by ending strife and conflict.
- Covenants are about the stronger person providing covering/protection etc. for the weaker.
- In the Adamic and Noahic covenants: God initiates the covenant, sets the terms, blood is shed to activate/ratify the covenant, and man is the recipient of the covenant if he so chooses.
- In the Abrahamic Covenant: God establishes a people called to himself. This covenant was renewed with Isaac and after him, with Jacob. Israel experiences 400 years of slavery and a dormant promise and then, God renews the covenant with Moses.

**II. The Mosaic Covenant**

- God had told Abraham what would happen to his offspring.
  - "Then the Lord said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years."* (Genesis 15:13, NLT)
  - Out of their pain, they cry out to God. Ex 3:7
  - God sends Moses, a Hebrew raised by Pharaoh's daughter. A prince of Egypt to deliver His people. They are freed! Cross the Red Sea. Make a three month journey to Sinai and God reaffirms His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- God Makes a Covenant With Moses
  - Ex 19:3 Moses makes his first trip up Sinai. God gives him the general terms of the covenant in vs. 5 and 6. *"Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation." This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.*" (Exodus 19:5-6, NLT) Moses goes down the mountain and presents the Word of the Lord to the people. They agree and Moses goes back up the mountain. NOTE TO SELF: There is no negotiation just agree or disagree.

2. God says He will speak to Israel. And for Moses to consecrate the nation (Ex 19:10-15). Have them dedicate themselves to Me.
  3. Moses goes down the mountain. God descends upon the mountain in fire and thunder etc.
  4. God calls Moses back up the mountain vs 20. And God tells him to go back down the mountain vs 21, and tells them not to cross the boundary of the mountain or they will die. They hear the voice of God and beg Moses to speak to God for them...so back up the mountain he goes. 20:21. He gets the rest of the instructions chapters 21-23.
  5. Now he is told to go back down the mountain. 24:1-2, but first the people accept the terms. Moses goes up again and brings the priests to the mountain; and Elders and sons half way up mountain and he writes in a book the instruction. He builds an altar, makes a sacrifice seals the covenant with blood.
  6. He goes back down the mountain brings his sons and elders half way up the mountain. And he goes higher within the cloud 24:7 and receives from God the tablets written in stone.
  7. He goes back down the mountain and the people are worshipping a golden calf. Moses shatters the commands to prophetically show what the people have done.
  8. The Levites kill 3,000 men. God strikes Israel with a plague. But the nation as a whole was saved.
- C. So what happens to the covenant?
1. If this covenant were based on works or on strict justice alone Israel would be dead. But to show that the covenant is based on grace, God renews the covenant and uses words which make this gracious foundation clear.
  2. God calls Moses to chisel out the two stone tablets and calls him back up the mountain.
  3. God reveals himself to us on the basis of renewed covenant. *"The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.""* (Exodus 34:6-7, NLT) Moses responds by crying out for pardon.
  4. 34:10 God makes a covenant with Moses and the people.
  5. Moses comes down off of the mountain...face shining!

### III. Mosaic Covenant Promises and Conditions

- A. Promises
1. We will be His special treasure. *"Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be **my own special treasure** from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me."* (Exodus 19:5, NLT) We will be his prized treasure if we obey and keep covenant. It was what was required of Abraham. Gen 12:24 and Heb 11:8.

2. We will be a kingdom of priests. *"And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."* (Exodus 19:6, NLT) Intimate access with God.
  3. We will be a holy nation. 19:6 Two facets: 1. Set apart to God. 2. A moral nation that is like God in character. To keep covenant with God is to be like Him–Holy.
  4. God will be our defender. *"But if you are careful to obey him, following all my instructions, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and I will oppose those who oppose you."* (Exodus 23:22, NLT)
  5. We will find God merciful, gracious and forgiving. This is the foundation of all He is and does. *"The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected– even children in the third and fourth generations."* (Exodus 34:6–7, NLT)
    - a) The fact that these come from Sinai and not calvary–show they are the same grace between Moses and Christ.
    - b) They are prior to the 10 command and to Romans –show they are the same grace found in Moses covenant and in Christs.
  6. The five promises reiterate the covenant of Abraham.
- B. Conditions
1. The covenant is founded on grace and offers forgiveness. No man is perfect. It is not about perfection but about keeping the heart in a place to receive grace and forgiveness.
  2. Loving God and not earning grace. Out of a heart that values God obedience naturally flow. It is not about obeying to earn grace but about loving to express grace.
  3. Faith is the foundational response to all that God presents us. Covenant is renewed by grace on the basis of faith. Believe is what Abraham is noted for!

#### IV. How can there be so much grace and forgiveness in this covenant?

- A. Same God
- B. The answer lies in the future. In Christ. It is what Isaiah saw in Is 53.
- C. God himself looked forward to His Son's coming and releasing of such great grace, forgiveness and mercy!

#### Conclusion:

- Covenants are made for the benefit of man.
- It pays for us to see that and in humility walk in obedience.