

Introduction:

- The covenant with Moses is the most detailed covenant of the Bible.
 - This covenant is referred to as the OT covenant.
 - Out of 286 references to the Word covenant in the OT 150 are used in reference to the Covenant with Moses.
- This covenant was designed to include everyone on the earth! Yet was made strictly for the people of Israel, the direct descendants of Abraham. This covenant is the first to be tied to or express salvation, therefor foreshadowing the New Covenant to come.
- It is this people, Israel, that God transforms into a nation.
- It was also a works based covenant unlike the others up to this point. In other words, "If, then..." It was conditional and it was greatly provisional. Both blessings and curses flowed out of this covenant to Israel based on their obedience.

- Garlow, pp 76-88.

I. God's Dream Unfolds

- A. God's desire from the beginning was to have a people for His own.
- B. The introduction to the great "IF". *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;"* (Exodus 19:5, ESV)
 1. God was calling Israel to a far more personal relationship using covenant language almost as in marriage. *"You shall be my treasured possession."* He told Abram, I will be your great reward. Now he is telling Israel you will be my great treasure.
 2. There were no 'ifs' with Adam, Noah, or Abraham.
- C. What was different with the covenant God was now offering?
 1. The people would have what was promised in the former covenants but now they would be established as a nation, led by the Spirit of God.
 2. They would be the intercessors for the nations of the earth as God's set apart people.
 3. They would serve to be the people through whom Messiah would come.
- D. Moses introduces God's offer to the Elders.
 1. They gladly accept! Having seen God:
 - a) Destroy a nation, Egypt.
 - b) Deliver them from Egypt
 - c) Miraculously feed them manna and quail.
 - d) Water from a rock.
 - e) And the destruction of the Amalekites.
 2. And God invites nearly two million people to gather at the base of Mount Sinai, before Him.

II. God On Mount Sinai!

- A. Why the lightning, dark clouds, thunder, and quaking of a mountain? This huge demonstration/display of the power of God was to get the attention of the people so they would know the seriousness of what they are about to enter into with God. DO NOT SIN AGAINST THIS COVENANT!
1. It was so overwhelming that the people cried out to Moses that he go speak with God. He would be their representative! They would be 'in him.'
 2. God was imploring them to remain faithful to Him! No covenants with others. *"They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."* (Exodus 23:33, ESV)
 3. In Chapter 24 Moses returns and tells the people what God has spoken. *"Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.'"* (Exodus 24:3, ESV)
 4. The Elders and Moses join God on the mountain and another amazing event occurs: They see God and they eat and drink with God. Covenant Meal!
 5. Shortly after this Moses goes to the mountain for 40 days and gets a 'hard copy' of the Ten Commandments, the initial terms.
- B. Why two tablets?
1. Most people think that God needed to balance things out so He put 5 commands on one tablet and 5 on the other.
 2. But through the 'covenant filter' one copy was Israel's and the other copy was God's. Meredith Cline writes that often the copies were kept in the presence of a god.
 3. The copies were placed in the Ark of the Covenant. The storage place before God.
 4. The commands appear to be negative but they are written much like a parent would teach a child. This is how they learn right and wrong. Romans 5:20 "When the law came, sin abounded." Therefore the mercy of Abrahams covenant is intensified.
 5. The only way sin is forgiven is for blood to be shed. The animals life takes our place. Now we can see looking back that Jesus would be the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

III. Summary of Moses Covenant

- A. Representative - Moses was the primary representative for Israel.
- B. Terms and Blessing and Curses: They are laid out in Deut 5-26,
1. Blessings, Exodus 19. Gives the specific blessings to Israel: treasured possession, kingdom of priests, holy nation.
 2. Curses, Deuteronomy 29:23-26

- C. Blood sacrifice: nothing like it since the beginning of time. The sacrifices were constantly being carried out personally and corporately. Exodus 24, where Moses reads the terms and they sacrifice and pour blood upon the people and throw blood against the altar and the pillars representing the 12 tribes.
- D. Oaths/Vows: Exodus 24:7 *"Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.'"* (Exodus 24:7, ESV)
- E. No specific exchanges are recorded.
- F. Meal: Exodus 24:11 Moses and the elders eat and drink with God.
- G. Memorials: Mount Gerazim (shout blessings) and Mount Ebal (shouted curses).

IV. The Rebellion:

- A. Within weeks of this grand ceremony they are sacrificing to a gold calf made by human hands.
- B. Korah leads a rebellion against Moses
- C. Israel begins to marry Moabite women
- D. Priests begin to ignore their holy calling.
- E. Israel demands a king and they get Saul.
- F. David reveals the mercy of God
- G. Jeremiah the prophet finally presents Israel with divorce papers. The curse is unleashed upon Israel.

Conclusion:

- God must preserve Israel because of his covenant relationship with Abraham. (permanent and unconditional).
- Yet Moses covenant was conditional and not permanent. Therefore God would punish her unfaithfulness yet redeem her in the end.
- Abrahamic covenant is permanent/forever. Therefore when Jesus comes, the old covenant is abolished/made obsolete and a new covenant replaced it. When God spoke of a new covenant He was declaring the old would be obsolete.
- "It is finished."
 - The curse of the Adamic covenant is over.
 - The curse of the Sinai covenant is over. He fulfilled it all.
 - Jesus said he would not abolish the law but Paul says Jesus abolished the law in His flesh.
 - Jesus used the word *Katalou* - to dissolve, demolish destroy
 - Paul used the word *luo* – meaning to loose or set free. *"Paul said that when Jesus died and rose again, he abolished or 'set free' from humanity the requirement to be right in God's sight by outwardly obeying the commands and the remainder of the law with all its necessary animal blood sacrifices."* Garlow p. 95.