



Class outline

Essence of the Sinai covenant

Conditional aspects of the covenant

Unconditional aspect of the covenant

Lecture 3: Mosaic Covenant

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Instructor: Raphi Forrer

Raphael.forrer@outlook.com

Kingdom of Covenants

Essence of the Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 19:3-6, Ex. 24)

- God establishes his trustworthiness after 400 years of slavery (Ex. 19:3-4)
- God demands obedience and heart devotion (5a).
 - Just as God brought Abraham and Jacob to the point of true and total devotion he now desires to do the same with the nation.
- God promises that they will be a treasured people (Gen. 17), priestly people (Mal 2:6), and a holy people (Lev. 11:44).
 - Purpose of blessing: To make Israel a righteous instrument which he can bless and through which the world can be blessed (Abrahamic Covenant).
 - Thus, this covenant answers when God's plan will find its fulfillment.

Features of the Covenant (Lev. 26:3-39 Deut. 28:1-68)

- The blessing is conditional: "If you walk in my statutes"
- Promise: God promises physical (Lev. 26:4-10) as well as spiritual blessings to Israel if they obey him.
- Punishments: If they disobey, it will have severe consequences (Lev. 26:14-39, Deut. 28:15-68). The purpose of the punishment is to bring them to the point of repentance (Lev. 26:40-41).

Unconditional aspect of the Covenant (Deut. 4:29-31)

- Moses prophesies that they will fail in their task of being devoted to God. Punishment and exile will come for certain (Deut. 4:29, cf. Deut. 30:1).
- However, they will also reach repentance (Deut. 4:30) because God himself will bring them to this point (cf. Zech. 12:10, Deut. 30:6).
- As a result of them being fully and whole heartedly devoted to him, God will bless Israel (Deut. 30:1-10).

Discussion Questions

- God asked Israel to agree to his covenant without giving them any indication as to what this covenant looks like (Ex. 19). Which situations have you had where God asked you to step out in faith?
- Does the Mosaic Law still have a benefit for us as believers today?
- God used both, promises and punishment in order to bring Israel back to him. Does God still use both of these tools to bring us to the point of obedience and full hearted devotion?