

Living in Covenant with God
Lesson Five: God's Covenant with Moses
Day 1

As you begin to study today please take a moment to pray that God would grant you the grace to know and understand His law; that it would be sweeter than honey to your mouth! (Psalm 119:97-104).

The fourth covenant that we are going to explore is the **God's Covenant with Moses**. Today we are going to read over some of the passages that relate to the Mosaic covenant (also known as the Covenant of Law) and make some foundational observations. The Mosaic covenant spans Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy; therefore, we will not be exhaustively covering this covenant. In order to understand the *main points* of the covenant, we will be studying passages in each of these three books.

Let's begin by reading Exodus 19-24.

- What is the historical context of this passage?
 - From what has God just delivered Israel?

 - Read Exodus 2:23-25. What motivated God to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt?

Many scholars and Bible teachers have insisted that "the Law" is contrary to God's covenant of grace (established with Abraham), and thus must be a revisit to the covenant of works. This is not true. The foundation for God's covenant with Moses is the *already established* covenant he made with Abraham. It is an *elaboration* of the covenant of grace. We, sinful man, have already irrevocably broken the covenant of works but God is not making a covenant with us that is hopeless. This will become more clear as we study, but it is important to talk about what the Mosaic covenant is *not*, before we address its true nature.

Make some general observations about these six chapters:

- Who is in this passage?

Read chapter 19

- What does God tell Moses to communicate to the people of Israel?

- How did they respond?
- God tells Moses to get the people ready to hear from the LORD. What do they have to do? What does this reveal about God's character?
- Why is it necessary for God and man to be separated?

Read chapter 20

- Exodus 20:2 forms the backbone for the giving of the law. What does it say God has already done?
 - Why did God deliver the people out of Egypt? Did they do anything to merit this favor?
- What does God say to the people?
- How do they respond?

Read Chapters 21-23

- What is God giving the people?
- Why is God doing this? What is He establishing?
- What does He promise them?

- Is this a familiar promise? If so, where have we seen it before?

Read Chapter 24

- When Moses told the people the words of the LORD how did they respond?
- What did Moses do with the words?
- What is the significance of the ceremony that follows?
- In verse 12 God tells Moses to follow Him so that He can give Moses something. What is it? What is significant about it?
- At the end of chapter 24 we get a vivid description of God's glory dwelling on Mount Sinai. Draw a picture either literally or with words of what the Israelites would have seen that day.
- In conclusion, write down any additional observations that seem significant to you, and any questions that you have about the passages you have studied today.

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Day 2

As you begin to study today please take a moment to pray that God would grant you the grace to know and understand His law; that it would be sweeter than honey to your mouth! (Psalm 119:97-104)

Today we are going to look at the **character** of God's covenant with Moses. To review the explanation of character of covenants review day 3 of our introductory lesson.

Remember that a covenant is a relationship that is plural, personal, and purposeful.

Let's look at Exodus 19 & 20.

- Who initiates the covenant bond between God and Moses? Where do you see this?

- Look closely at 19:5. What is the significance of God saying, "keep my covenant"?
 - Is God creating a new covenant or elaborating on a covenant that he has already made? Are there any other verses that would lead you to this conclusion?

- Is this covenant between God and Moses only? Who else benefits from this covenant?

Read Exodus 24:12 and 32:15-16

- How does God act personally in this covenant?

There are 5 main purposes that we see in the Mosaic Covenant. Read the following verses and write down the purpose that you see.

1. Exodus 6:7, Exodus 19:5-6, Deut 7:7
(Hint: in the Abrahamic covenant God sets aside a family for himself, in the Mosaic covenant He is expanding it to a _____.)

2. Exodus 19:5, Exodus 20:6

_____ motivated by _____

3. Exodus 20:2-6, Exodus 20:22-26, Exodus 32:7-10
(Hint: Who sets the terms for how we are to worship God?)

4. Exodus 19:6, Leviticus 11:44
(Hint: What character trait of God does He encourage us to imitate through the giving of the law?)

5. Exodus 23:20-33, Deuteronomy 4:5-8

To bring Israel in to _____.

- Do these purposes persist today? Is so, how? If not, why?
- Take a moment to meditate to contemplate what it would have been like to be an Israelite during this time. What would you know about God's character and involvement in your life?

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As you begin to study today please take a moment to pray that God would grant you the grace to know and understand His law; that it would be sweeter than honey to your mouth! (Psalm 119:97-104)

Today we are going to look at the **conduct** of God's covenant with Moses. To review the explanation of conduct of covenants, review day 4 of our introductory lesson.

Remember that all covenants have parties, conditions and consequences. These three components make up the conduct of a covenant.

Read Exodus 19 & 20.

- Who are the parties involved in this covenant?

- Look closely Exodus 19:5, 20:6, and Deuteronomy 6. God gives the Israelites many commandments in this covenant, but they can be summed up in a few words. According to the verses above what does God ask Israel to do?

- What promises does God make to the Israelites?

Read Exodus 19:5-6 & Deuteronomy 28.

- What are the blessings for obedience?

- What are the curses for disobedience?

- What did the Israelites have to do in order to meet the terms of the covenant?

* Did the Israelites meet the terms of the covenant? Where do you find evidence of this?

- Does this covenant follow the pattern of a suzerain-vassal treaty or a royal grant treaty?
- Why is that important?

Read Exodus 24:1-8.

- This is the ratification ceremony of this covenant. What is significant about it? How is it evident that God is making a bond with the Israelites?
- What is the sign of this covenant? (Hint: read verse 7)
- What does it symbolize?
- What is its purpose?
- How is grace foundational to God's covenant with Moses?

Look back over what you have studied so far this week. In your own words, write an explanation of God's covenant with Moses.

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Day 4

As you begin to study today please take a moment to pray that God would grant you the grace to know and understand His law; that it would be sweeter than honey to your mouth! (Psalm 119:97-104)

Today we are going to study **Christ** in the Covenant with Moses. In this covenant we are *pointed toward Christ*, given a picture *of Christ* and see a model of life *in Christ*.

First let's look at how the Mosaic covenant **points us** toward Christ.

Read Exodus 24:3.

- When Moses reads the word of the LORD to the Israelites, how do they respond?

Read Exodus 32.

- What happens while Moses is on the mountain with the LORD?
- How does this reveal the condition of the Israelites' hearts?
- What does this show about their ability to keep the law?
- How does this point us toward Christ?

Read Exodus 34.

- How do we see God's commitment to His covenant in spite of Israel's continued failings?
- How does this point us toward Christ?

Read Matthew 5:17-20.

- What is Christ's relationship to the Law?
- Why is that significant?

Now let's look at how in the Mosaic covenant we see a **picture** of Christ.

Read Exodus 19 concentrating specifically on verses 21-25.

- Why are the people unable to draw near to God's presence?
- What role does Moses play on behalf of the people of Israel?
- How does Moses give us a picture of Christ by fulfilling this role?

Finally let's look at how the Mosaic covenant provides a **model** of life in Christ.

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

- How does God describe Israel in these verses?
- Why does he choose them to be his people?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

- What similarities do you see between these verses and the verses above?

- To whom is Peter speaking in these verses?
- Based on this, how does God's relationship with Israel foreshadow what is to come in Christ?
- In both the nation of Israel and in the Church we see a common motivation for God choosing a people for himself. What is this motivation?

In conclusion, write a summary of how Christ is displayed in God's covenant with Moses.

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As you begin to study today please take a moment to pray that God would grant you the grace to know and understand His law; that it would be sweeter than honey to your mouth! (Psalm 119:97-104)

Today we are going to spend our time reviewing what we have learned and exploring how it applies to our lives.

- In the Mosaic covenant what are God's purposes for Israel?

- In the Mosaic covenant, what did God promise to Israel?

- What was Israel's responsibility under this covenant?

- What are the blessings for obedience?

- What are the curses for disobedience?

- Is this a covenant of works or grace? How so?

- According to the verses we studied this week, what does God desire from His covenant people?
 - Is this true for us today?

- How is the Mosaic covenant an elaboration of the Abrahamic covenant?

- What is highlighted about God's character in this covenant?

- Why is this covenant significant to us? Specifically, consider the significance of the 10 commandments for the 21st century Church. Why are these words of the Mosaic covenant so important to us today?

Take a moment to summarize what you have learned and write down any questions that you would like to ask your leader.