

One Story One King

Week Eighteen:4 -26-2026

A Covenant for a Nation: Israel's Way of Life Under the Law

The Unifying Story

There is a central idea— "**One Story**"—that runs through the pages of Scripture. God used "**One King**," the Lord Jesus, to redeem, rescue, and restore creation and humanity so that his kingdom might return to earth and man might rule and reign with him forever.

Session Theme – Israel & Covenants

From a People to a Nation

- At Mount Sinai Abraham Isaac and Jacob's descendants go from being a people group into a nation.
- Every nation has their own set of rules, values, laws etc. and that makes the culture of each country distinct.
- Israel is the only nation to be under a theocratic rule. Although many nations aim to be under GOD, Israel was the only one to have an actual agreement with GOD.

From the Abrahamic to the Mosaic Covenant

- GOD's promise to Abraham is the reason his descendants had the opportunity to become GOD's nation.
- The agreement at Sinai (Mosaic covenant) does not replace the covenant made in Genesis 12.
- The Mosaic Covenant governed the religious, social and legal life of the Nation of Israel. (Exodus 19-24).
- The Mosaic Covenant is conditional and temporary unlike the Abrahamic Covenant which is unconditional and eternal.

Life Under the Law

- The Mosaic law contained 613 laws that dealt with worship, social interactions and morality. Obeying the law of Moses would determine the nation's quality of life in the promised land.
- The Israelites made a non coerced promise to GOD and He holds them to it throughout history, and He also lives up to his end of the bargain when they follow his laws.
- It is an error to interpret the Law of Moses as a means for salvation or righteousness because salvation has always been by grace through faith.
- Abraham teaches us that eternal and everlasting blessing comes by faith in YHWH, the Law teaches us that our quality of life/ blessedness is determined by how well we follow God's plan for our lives.
- Most nations rise and fall based on their policies and political climate, but Israel went up and down based solely on their obedience to GOD and obeying the covenant between them and GOD.

Faith and Works

- The comparison of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant gives us a picture of what faith and works being done together looks like.
- The people of Israel could and would only follow the law because of their relationship/ faith in GOD.
- This is a beautiful picture of what life in Christ is like as well. We don't obey because we are trying to be saved, we obey because we are already saved and want to please the master.
- The law of Moses gave the Israelites the guidelines to expressing their love and appreciation for GOD. Remember what JEsus tells us in John 14:15 and what the Father says in 1Sam 15:22.
- Israel was put in a special position to show the whole world what living for GOD would do for a nation, they had everything they needed to do it and when they obeyed they shined bright, but when they disobeyed they were no different from the rest of the world.
- The distinction between salvation and covenant blessing is important to make, salvation was never exclusive to the Israelites. Salvation is only exclusive to having faith in YHWH alone
- GOD's call for Israel was to obey him and keep his commands first, do you think it's practical to do that when you have all the issues of running a nation to consider?

Storyline Focus

“The Mosaic Covenant defines Israel’s national life, calling her to holiness and obedience while preserving GOD’s promises throughout the ages.”^[2]

Reflection^[3]

What key differences set apart the Mosaic Covenant from the Abrahamic Covenant, and why is this distinction important?

How can GOD’s call for Israel to live as a holy nation inspire you to pursue holiness and obedience in your life today?

Student Q&A

[1] The title of this lesson is taken from Michael J. Vlach, *The Bible Storyline: God’s Unstoppable Plan to Defeat Evil, Restore Creation, and Establish His Kingdom on Earth*, (Cary: Theological Studies Press, 2025), 20.

[2] Vlach, *The Bible Storyline*, 50.

[3] Reflection questions taken from Vlach, *The Bible Storyline*, 51.