

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church January 22, 2017

The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace (Review)

The Covenant with Abraham

And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your **offspring** after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: **Every male among you shall be circumcised.**
(Genesis 17:9-10)

Abraham is a father in four different ways.

- 1. Physical offspring (Ishmael and Isaac)**
- 2. Special physical offspring tied to God’s electing/saving purposes (Isaac – Jacob – the twelve tribes, and so on)**
- 3. Promised offspring (culminating in Jesus)**
- 4. Spiritual offspring (All who trust in the Messiah)**

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The Covenant with Moses

There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. And the second and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. Afterward the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife." And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." For they no longer dared to ask him any question. (Luke 20:27 - 40)

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The Covenant with Moses

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Romans 2:12-16)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned - for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. (Romans 5:12 – 14)

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The Covenant with Moses (Exodus 19 – 24)

There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 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; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do. (Exodus 19:2-8)

***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9 – 10)**

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The Covenant with Moses (Exodus 19 – 24)

- **The Ten Commandments (20:1-21)**
- **The Law (20:22-23:33)**
- **Confirmation of the Covenant**

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)

- **In addition Exodus 25 – 30 contains detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle**

The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace

The Covenant with Moses

- The covenant with Moses is called the Old Covenant which will be replaced by the New Covenant.

But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, **not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.** For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** (Hebrews 8:6-10 cited from Jeremiah 31:31-34)

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The Covenant with Moses

- The Mosaic covenant was a set of detailed written laws given for a time to restrain the sins of the people and to point people to Christ.
- People were to receive the blessings of the covenants by fulfilling the requirements of the Law.
- The Law did at least four things:
 1. It taught the people that God had strict requirements and that **every one always** had to be **perfectly obeyed**.
 2. It revealed to the people their sinful nature because they could not perfectly obey the Law.
 3. It provided a “prototype” sacrificial system to cover their transgressions of the Law.
 4. Because of 1-3 it revealed the need for a Savior.

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The Covenant with Moses

Now the **promises were made to Abraham** and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your **offspring,**” **who is Christ**. This is what I mean: **the law, which came 430 years*** afterward, **does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void**. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Why then the law? **It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels*** by an intermediary. (Galatians 3:16-19)

* The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. (Exodus 12:40)

Note: The Septuagint says “The dwelling of the children of Israel in Egypt and Canaan was 430 years.”

* He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand. (Deuteronomy 33:2)

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The Covenant with Moses

- The sacrificial system in the Mosaic Covenant did not really take away sins but foreshadowed the sacrifice of Christ.

For since **the law has but a shadow of the good things to come** instead of the true form of these realities, **it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1-4)