

THE MOSAIC COVENANT – PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1. Why did God choose Abraham and his family to be a blessing to the world?

2. What reason therefore did Israel have to serve God?

THE CONTEXT OF THE COVENANT

The promise of oppression and affliction

3. Read Gen 15:13-16 What did God make know to Abraham would happen before his family received the full inheritance of the land of Canaan?

4. Read Exodus 2:23-25 What was about to expire?

The promise of liberation and fulfilment

5. Israel was currently slaves in Egypt the promise of the covenant was for the people to inherit the land of Canaan. What needed to happen?

6. God sent a deliverer to his people. How was Moses to reintroduce God to the People?

7. Read Exodus 6:1-5. What is the reason God gives here for His coming deliverance of Israel?

8. Why did Israel have a right and title to these promises?

9. Read Psalm 77:11-20. From what did God redeem his people and through what did he lead them?

10. How would such events change Israel's view of their God?

THE KIND OF COVENANT

Its laws

11. To enjoy the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant Israel needed to keep the covenant through circumcision. Read Exodus 19:3-8 how is the keeping of the covenant extended in the Mosaic covenant?

12. How did the people respond to God's demand for loyalty?

13. Read Exodus 20:1-2. What is God's demand for loyalty based on?

14. Read Exodus 24:3-8. Remembering back to the Abrahamic Covenant, what does the sprinkling of blood here add to the people's pledge of obedience?

15. Read Heb. 9:18-23. What else does the blood signify?

16. Israel very quickly proved unfaithful in the golden calf incident. Moses smashed the first set of commandments, so God ordered him to write another. Read Ex. 34:27-28. What is the foundation of the covenant with Israel?

Its promises

17. Read Deut. 28:1-14. How do the promises of the Mosaic covenant compare to the Abrahamic covenant?

18. Read Jer. 7:3-7. How do these promises apply corporately to the nation of Israel and how to they apply individually to the people? Can you think of any examples of this?

Its threats

19. Read Deut. 6:20, 24-25. What are parents to tell their children about the covenant?

20. Read Deut. 11:26-28. What happens if Israel does not obey the commandments?

21. Read Deut. 29:22-28. What does God say will happen to Israel? What would be the cause?

22. Read Deut. 30:15-20. What does unfaithfulness to the covenant result in?

THE MOSAIC COVENANT – PART 2

THE KINDNESS OF THE COVENANT

23. The Mosaic Covenant is a covenant of obedience for life in the land of Canaan. How does this differ from the original covenant of works with Adam?

The absolute dominion of God

24. Covenants create a relationship where man can work for a reward. As absolute sovereign was God obligate to offer Israel a covenant?

25. How much more is this kindness and grace seen in covenants made with sinners?

25. The blessings of the covenant were available through civil obedience. Could this be achieved by an unbeliever?

The promises to Abraham

27. Very quickly after the 10 commandments are given the people make a golden calf. Read Ex. 32:13-14. In judgement some died by sword, some by plague. Moses asked for mercy based on the Abrahamic promises. What lesson was God teaching here?

The sacrificial system

28. Neither the Abrahamic covenant nor the Mosaic Covenant provided any help with obeying God's law. But God did provide a system for forgiveness to cover over, to atone for sin. What was it?

29. How was this system a kindness to sinners who had no help to keep the law?

30. Read Lev. 16:21-22, 30-34. God never changed his standard of justice but forgiveness can be obtained how?

31. Read Heb. 9:12-14. The sacrificial system could not provide an eternal inheritance only an earthly one, Canaan, through purification of the flesh. What else could the sacrifices not do?

The history of Israel

32. Read Deut. 4:25-31. All of this came true yet God could not fully and finally disinherit Israel because one promise was yet unfulfilled. What is it?

33. Read Neh. 9:7-8, 13, 29-33. How is God's kindness evident in Israel's history?

THE FUNCTION OF THE COVENANT

The Covenant governs the people

34. Read Deut. 4:1-2. What did Moses tell the people they are not to do?

35. The Mosaic covenant governs the kingdom of Israel through moral and positive laws, what is the difference? Rom. 2:14-15

The covenant governs the priesthood

36. Read Ex. 40:12-16. How does the Mosaic Covenant regulate the priesthood?

37. Read Lev. 10:1-2. What happen when the priests deviated from God's law?

The covenant governs the kingship

38. God's delegated dominion is never a handing over of His sovereignty. What is the implication for Israel's kings?

39. Read Deut. 17:14-20. Here a set of laws are established for the kings. How is the king to best lead the people?

The covenant governs the prophets

40. Read Num. 12:6. How were true prophets identified?

41. Read Deut. 13:1-5. How are the prophets accountable to God's law?

The covenant governs blessing and cursing

42. Read Deut. 27:9-10, 26; 28:1-2. What will result from the actions of Israel regarding the law?

43. Read Deut. 31:9-13. What are the available means ensuring obedience?

CONCLUSION

The Mosaic Covenant controls everything. It governs the people in its various kinds of laws; it governs the priests, the kings, and the prophets. Everyone lives by the law of God. If they do, they will be blessed. If they don't they will be cursed. As God had told Abraham that he and his descendants must keep the covenant or be cut off, so also the Mosaic Covenant expanded the very same relationship, controlling the enjoyment of the very same blessings. If the children of Abraham obey the law of Moses, they will enjoy the blessings of Abraham. If they disobey, they will lose them. The Abrahamic Covenant established the kingdom of Israel and lays out basic obligations. The Mosaic Covenant expanded and implemented covenantal government over the kingdom as it arose and flourished in Canaan.

Though this will be discussed in greater fullness later, the Mosaic Covenant advanced the mystery of Christ in monumental ways, the priesthood and the sacrifices being chief among all. The blessing for the nations will emerge not just within Canaan and the circumcised offspring of Abraham, but also within this complex of laws and statutes, within this system of priests and sacrifices, within this system of blessings and curses. Hebrews 10:1 declares that "the law has but a shadow of the good things to come." Its shadowy status was its great privilege. In the promise of a nations-blessing descendant, the Abrahamic body placed a body in the future, a body casting a shadow backward. The Mosaic Covenant began to delineate the lines of the Saviour's silhouette. Without righteousness, there is no blessing. Without the spilling of blood, there is no remission of sins. Without the High Priest, there is no sacrifice.

The Davidic Covenant focused this typological mystery into one very specific person.