



Continuity from OT to NT: Covenants

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Is the OT important to us?



What scriptures did the Bereans search?

Act 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to **Berea**. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Act 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the **Scriptures** daily to find out whether these things were so.



Q: What is a Covenant in the Bible?

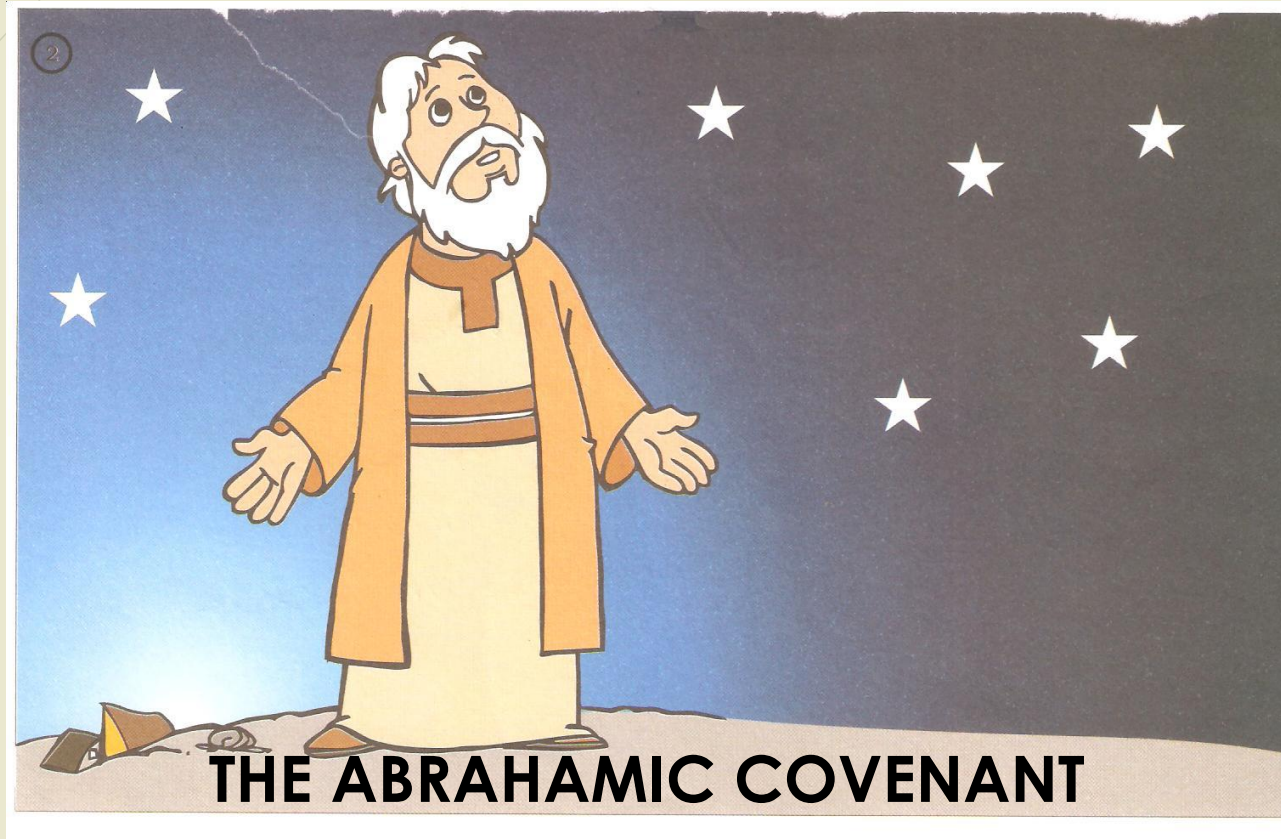
- A: A covenant is an **agreement** made by God with humans.
- A covenant specifies a **relationship** with God.
- Can you name some covenants?



Covenants Activity

- **5 minutes**
- **Please flip your Bible and fill out the sheet (practice being a Berean!)**

1, Abrahamic Covenant



Online clip art

Q: What did God promise to Abraham?

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

1) The promise of blessings

Q: What did God promise to Abraham?

Gen 13:14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

Gen 13:15 for all **the land** which you see **I give to you and your descendants forever.**

2) The promise of a land

Q: What did God promise to Abraham?

Gen 15:4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but **one who will come from your own body** shall be your heir."

Gen 15:5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**"

3) The promise of a son and sons.

God's promises to Abraham

➡ God does not specifically say:

- 1) How will all nations be blessed through Abraham?
- 2) How will Abraham and his descendants inherit the land forever?
- 3) How will God make a nation for Himself out of Abraham?

Q: What was Abraham's obligation?

Gen 15:5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Gen 15:6 And he **believed in** the LORD, and He **accounted it to him for righteousness.**

Q: How did God make the covenant with Abraham?

Gen 15:17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and **a burning torch that passed between those pieces.**

Gen 15:18 On the same day the LORD **made a covenant** with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Q: What is the sign of the Covenant?

Gen 17:9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, **you and your descendants** after you throughout their generations.

Gen 17:10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **Every male child among you** shall be **circumcised**;

Gen 17:11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be **a sign of the covenant** between Me and you.

Summary of the Abrahamic Covenant

- Who: God and Abraham (and his offspring)
- Provisions: God promised blessings, a land and a son (sons)
- Obligations: faith
- Ritual: sacrifice of animal blood
- Sign: circumcision

Q: Is the covenant still in effect today?

Gen 17:7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your **descendants** after you in their generations, for **an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as **an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God."



Sharing



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2, Mosaic Covenant



Online Arts

Q: What did God promise in the covenant?

Exo 19:3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

Exo 19:4 ...

Exo 19:5 Now therefore, **if** you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then** you shall be **a special treasure to Me** above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests** and **a holy nation.**' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."



Q: What is Israel's obligation in the covenant?

“ if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant”

- **Obedience to the Law (Torah)**
- **Torah teaches us God's holiness**
- **By faith,** they obeyed the Law (Moses, Aaron, Joshua, David, Elijah, Hezekiah, John, ...)

Q: How did God make the Covenant with Israel?

Exo 24:4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built **an altar** at the foot of the mountain, and **twelve pillars** according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Exo 24:5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered **burnt offerings** and sacrificed **peace offerings** of oxen to the LORD.



Q: How did God make the Covenant with Israel?

Exo 24:6 And Moses took half the **blood** and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

Exo 24:7 Then he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "**All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.**"

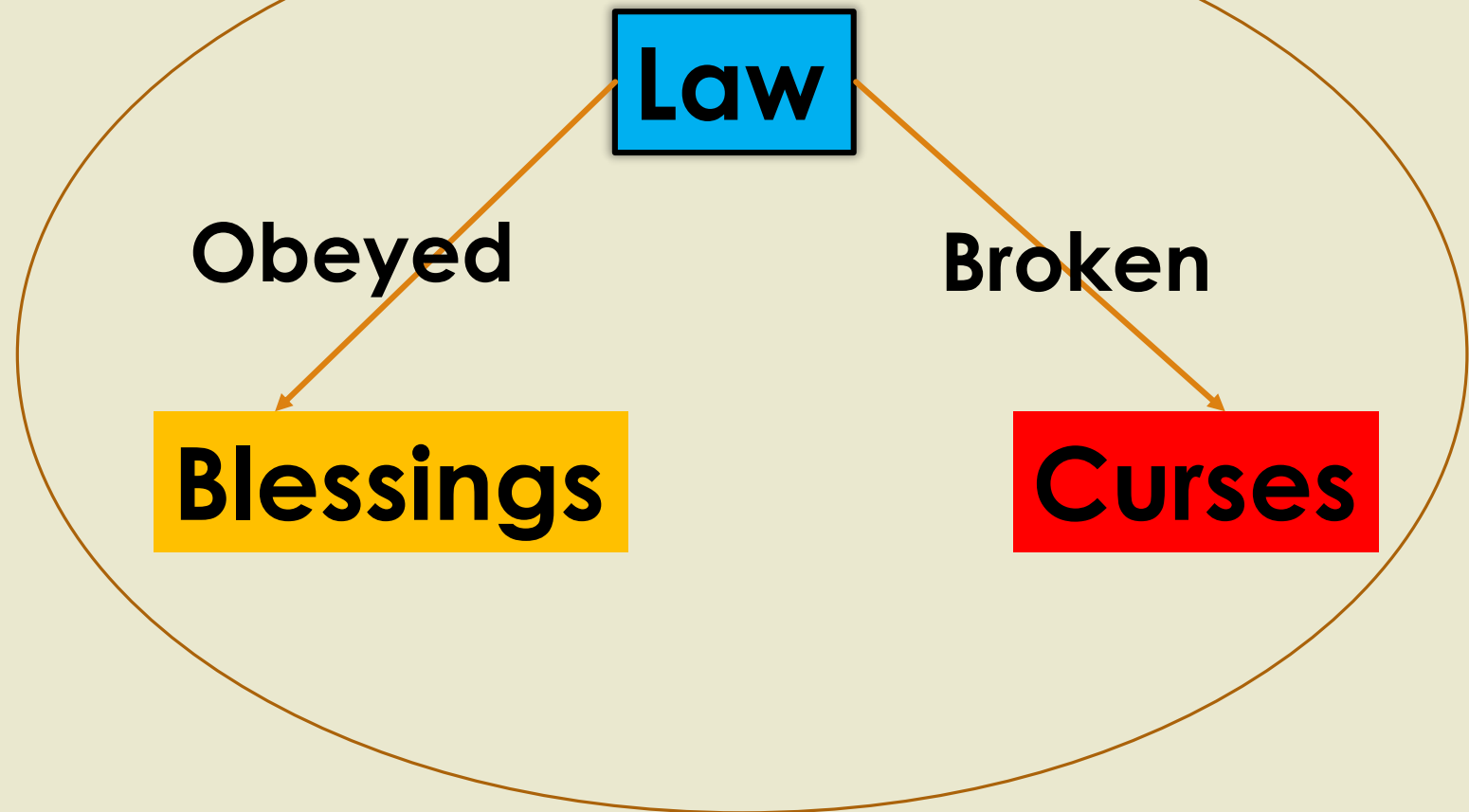
Q: What is the sign of the Covenant?

Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the **Sabbath**, to observe the **Sabbath** throughout their generations as **a perpetual covenant**.

Exo 31:17 It is a **sign** between Me and the children of Israel **forever**; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "



Covenant: Blessings and Curses (Lev 26)



Summary of the Mosaic Covenant

- Who: God and Israel
- Provisions: a special treasure to God, a kingdom of priest and a holy nation
- Obligations: faith in God and obeying His Law (blessed if they are obedient and cursed if not)
- Ritual: sacrifice of animal blood
- Sign: Sabbath

The Mosaic Covenant

- ▶ The Abrahamic covenant is the foundation to the Mosaic Covenant
- ▶ The Mosaic Covenant fulfills *how* God will make a nation for Himself out of Abraham, and *how* Israel can dwell with a holy God
- ▶ Problem: covenant was broken because people failed to keep it



Why did Israel fail?

- **Israel's failure indicates the failure of the entire human race**

3, New Covenant



Online Photo



Q: Whom did God make the New Covenant with?

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant with the house of **Israel** and with the house of **Judah**—**

Jer 31:32 not according to **the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.**



Q: What did God promise?

Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

Jer 31:34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will **forgive their iniquity**, and their sin I will remember no more."



Q: What did God promise?

Eze 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

Eze 36:23 ...

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and **bring you into your own land.**



Q: What did God promise?

Eze 36:25 Then I will **sprinkle clean water** on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you **a new heart** and put **a new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put **My Spirit** within you and cause you to **walk in My statutes**, and you will **keep My judgments** and **do them**.



God's promise in New Covenant

- 1) God will cleanse them and forgive their sins;
- 2) God will give them a new heart, a new spirit and write His Law on it;
- 3) God will put the Holy Spirit in them, so that they can truly obey the Law;
- 4) God will bring them back to the promised land;
- 5) God will restore Israel as **His bride**.



What is man's *obligation*?

➡ **Faith. (John 6:34-40)**

Q: How was the New Covenant made?

Luk 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Luk 22:20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood**, which is shed for you.**

Q: What is the Sign of the New Covenant?

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Summary of the New Covenant

- Who: God and Israel
- Provisions: God promised forgiveness of sins, a new heart, inheritance, and marriage
- Obligations: faith
- Ritual: sacrifice of Jesus' blood
- Sign: Holy Spirit



4, Relationships between the Covenants

Inclusion of the Gentile Believers

Gal 3:29 And if you are **Christ's**, then you are Abraham's **seed**, and **heirs** according to the **promise**.

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles should be **fellow heirs**, of the same body, and **partakers** of His promise **in Christ** through the **gospel**,

- Gentile believers are sons of Abraham.
- Fellow heirs: co-heirs



Inclusion of the Gentile Believers

Rom 11:17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were **grafted** in among them, and with them became a **partaker** of the root and fatness of the olive tree,

Rom 11:18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.



New Covenant fulfills Abrahamic Covenant

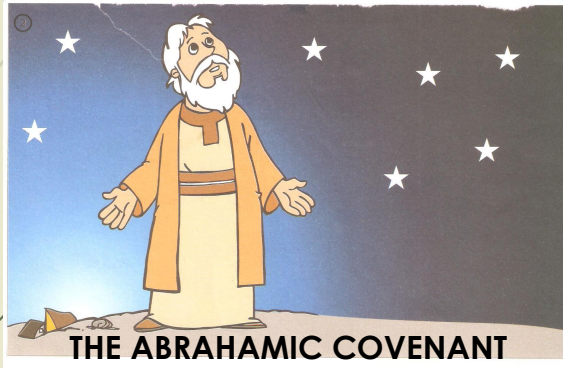
- Abraham became a father of many nations;
- All families of the earth were blessed by him;
- Abraham's sons dwelt in the promised land forever;
- The New Covenant will be fully fulfilled when Jesus comes again.

New Covenant fulfills Mosaic Covenant

- ▶ **Jesus came to fulfill the requirement of the Law (Matthew 5:17-19)**
- ▶ **Jesus took away the curses of the Mosaic Covenant (Gal 3:13-14)**
- ▶ **We will receive the blessing of the Mosaic Covenant (1Pe 2:9-10)**

God wants to dwell with His people

God wants to create
a nation for Himself



God wants to dwell
among His people



To fulfill



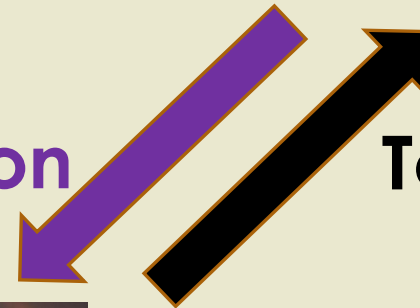
Foundation

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To fulfill

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To fulfill

“the Word became flesh,
and dwelt among us”



“the tabernacle of God is
with men, and He will
dwell with them”



5, Understanding the covenantal relationship with God

A. Children of God

- ▶ Jer 31:9 They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For **I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.**
- ▶ 1 John 3:1 Behold **what manner of love the Father** has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!**

B. Ancient Jewish Marriage

- Two steps:
- 1) Betrothal (Hebrew *erusin* or *kiddushin*)
- 2) Wedding/Taking-Home (Hebrew *nisu'in*)
- In-between: preparation
- Example: Joseph and Mary

Betrothal



- A marriage contract (*ketubah*)
- 1) provisions by the Groom
- 2) responsibility and protection of the Bride
- Baptism of the bride
- A precious gift as a sign
- Ceremony
- “I am your husband and you are my wife.”



Preparation

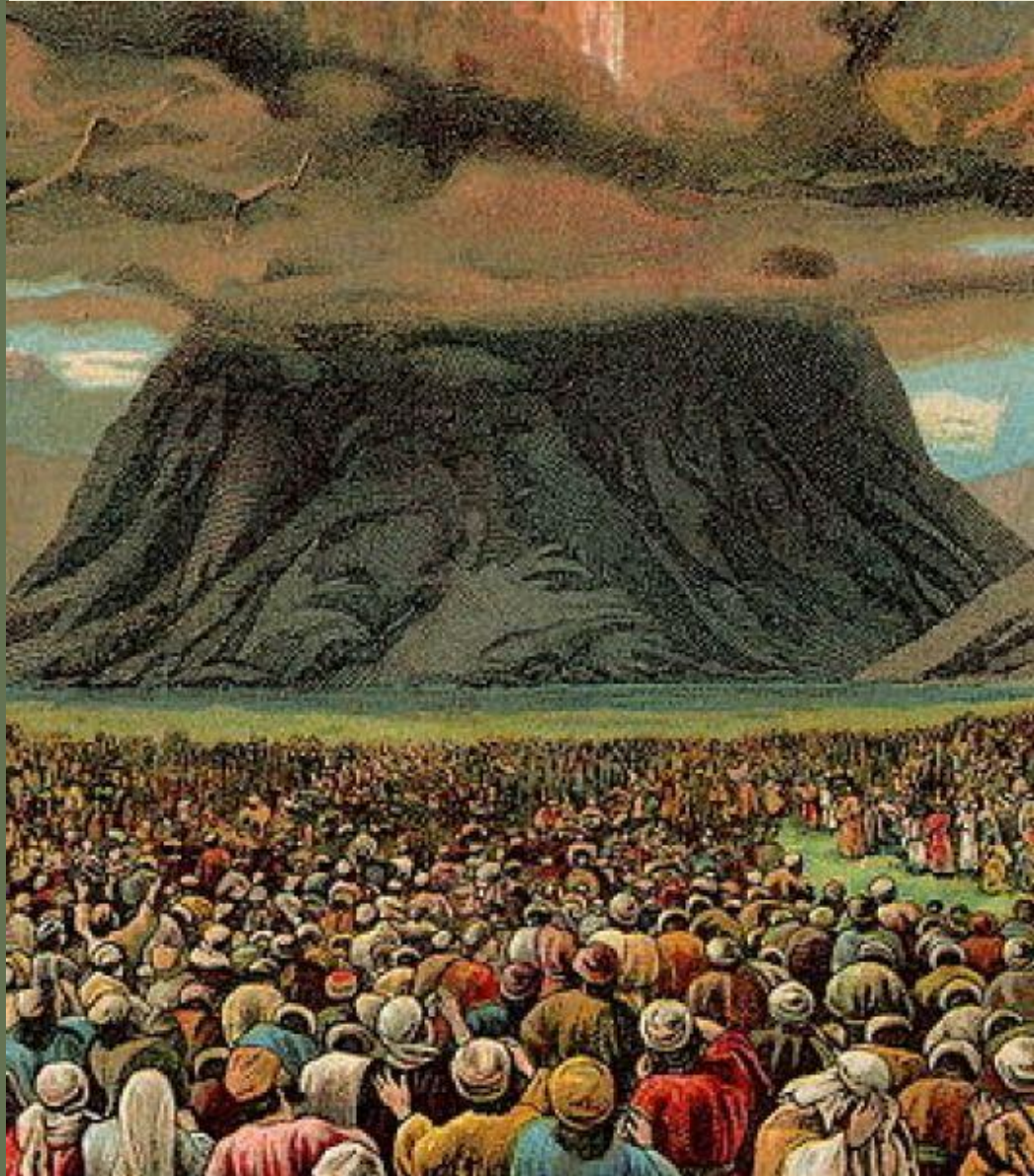
- The bridegroom and the bride are legally married, but still live apart.
- The bridegroom prepares a home for the bride in his father's place.
- The bridegroom's father decides when the wedding will take place.
- The bride must prepare to be ready for any day and hour for the wedding.



Wedding

- The father declares when it is ready for the wedding.
- The groom takes the bride home.
- The wedding is celebrated by a 7-day banquet (Judge 14:17).
- They will live together.

Mosaic Covenant: Betrothal



- Israel was “baptized” in the Red Sea and prepared to meet God (Exo 19)
- God spoke the Ten Commandments and the Laws to Israel, and Israel agreed (Exo 20-23)
- Moses made blood sacrifice for the Covenant (Exo 24)

Mosaic Covenant: Wedding & Marriage



- Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders went up to see God. They ate and drank. (Exo 24)
- God dwelt with them in Tabernacle (Exo 25-40)
- God dwelt with Israel in the promised land.

New Covenant


- **Jesus' first coming: betrothal (2 Cor**
- **Jesus and the Church are legally married.**
- **Jesus returned to His Father's house, and now is physically separate from His bride.**
- **Jesus is preparing a place for His bride (John 14:2-3).**
- **God the Father decides when the wedding will occur. We, the bride, must be ready (Mark 13:32).**

New Covenant

- ▶ **Jesus' second coming: wedding of the Lamb (Rev 19:6-9).**
- ▶ **Jesus takes the bride home: rapture (1 Thess 5).**
- ▶ **Jesus and His bride will dwell together forever in New Jerusalem (Rev 21).**

Summary

- ▶ **The New Covenant fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant.**
- ▶ **Purpose of the Covenants: God can dwell among His people.**
- ▶ **Two analogies for the relationship with God:**
 - 1) Marriage – husband and wife**
 - 2) God is our Father, and we are His children**



Thank you and Q & A