

# The Mosaic Covenant

Old Testament--part 5; Multiply, pp. 187-198

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## DAY 1: THE Exodus

*Exodus 14:1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses: <sup>2</sup> “Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you must camp in front of Baal-zephon, facing it by the sea. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will say of the Israelites: They are wandering around the land in confusion; the wilderness has boxed them in. <sup>4</sup> I will harden Pharaoh’s heart so that he will pursue them. Then I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.*

1. How does this "plan" sound to human nature? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were God's reasons for this plan? \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about the people and said: “What have we done? We have released Israel from serving us.” <sup>6</sup> So he got his chariot ready and took his troops with him; <sup>7</sup> he took 600 of the best chariots and all the rest of the chariots of Egypt, with officers in each one. <sup>8</sup> The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out triumphantly. <sup>9</sup> The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, his horsemen, and his army—chased after them and caught up with them as they camped by the sea beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.*

3. Have you surrendered something to God only to take it back? How did that go? \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw the Egyptians coming after them. Then the Israelites were terrified and cried out to the Lord for help. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses: “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt: Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”*

4. Trouble hit! What was the response of the people? \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the Lord’s salvation He will provide for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> The Lord will fight for you; you must be quiet.” <sup>15</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to break camp.”*

5. Is God's response surprising? How so? \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>19</sup> Then the Angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them.... <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea [back] with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land. So the waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with the waters [like] a wall to them on their right and their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians set out in pursuit—all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen—and went into the sea after them. <sup>24</sup> Then during the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw them into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He caused their chariot wheels to swerve and made them drive with difficulty. “Let’s get away from Israel,” the Egyptians said, “because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!” <sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back on the Egyptians, on their chariots and horsemen.” <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal depth. While the Egyptians were trying to escape from it, the Lord overthrew them in the sea. <sup>28</sup> The waters came back and covered the chariots and horsemen, the entire army of Pharaoh, that had gone after them into the sea. None of them survived.... <sup>31</sup> When Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and believed in Him and in His servant Moses.*

6. Imagine yourself on the seashore. What would you have thought? \_\_\_\_\_

## DAY 2: At the Base of Mt. Sinai

*Exodus 19:3 Moses went up [the mountain] to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain: “This is what you must say to the house of Jacob, and explain to the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me. <sup>5</sup> Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, <sup>6</sup> and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.”*

1. What does God want the people to remember in v. 4? Why is this important to remember?
2. What does God want the people to do in v. 5?
3. What does God promise if the people listen and keep His covenant?
4. The central purpose of life for every person is in vv. 5-6. What strikes you about v. 6?

*Exodus 19:10 And the Lord told Moses, “Go to the people and purify them today and tomorrow. They must wash their clothes <sup>11</sup> and be prepared by the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup> Put boundaries for the people all around the [mountain] and say: Be careful that you don’t go up on the mountain or touch its base. Anyone who touches the mountain will be put to death.*

5. What do you think is the significance of the command to purify themselves before God reveals Himself?
6. What is the significance of the boundaries around the base of the mountain?
7. The temptation for people is to trivialize God, to minimize who He is and His demands. Why is that dangerous for us to do?
8. This is SOOOOO important that God puts the threat of immediate death on the line. How is this a display of His *goodness* to the people?
9. Is there a way you minimize or trivialize God in your life?

### DAY 3: A Holy God and Sinful People

Here are the 10 Commandments. I have insert yellow numbers to highlight each of the ten.

*Exodus 20:1 Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> **1.** I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. <sup>3</sup> Do not have other gods besides Me. <sup>4</sup> **2.** Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the fathers' sin, to the third and fourth [generations] of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing faithful love to a thousand [generations] of those who love Me and keep My commands. <sup>7</sup> **3.** Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will punish anyone who misuses His name. <sup>8</sup> **4.** Remember to dedicate the Sabbath day: <sup>9</sup> You are to labor six days and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the foreigner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy. <sup>12</sup> **5.** Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> **6.** Do not murder. <sup>14</sup> **7.** Do not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> **8.** Do not steal. <sup>16</sup> **9.** Do not give false testimony against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> **10.** Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

1. Why does God have the *right* to give us commandments?

2. Is He *good* to give us commandments? Why?

3. If you find some commandments hard to obey, if you have emotions that pull you in opposite directions, what conclusions should you draw?

4. Are people *obligated* to keep God's commands?

5. We live in a world that for the most part denies absolute truth and absolute morals. Though it's impossible to actually live that way, people still insist that relative truth is correct. Read back through the 10 Commands and look for three examples of the following: What would happen if I blew off three of these commands?

a. Command #\_\_\_\_: Likely result would be \_\_\_\_\_

b. Command #\_\_\_\_: Likely result would be \_\_\_\_\_

c. Command #\_\_\_\_: Likely result would be \_\_\_\_\_

6. Just after the commands were given God revealed Himself to the people...

*<sup>18</sup> All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain [surrounded by] smoke. When the people saw [it] they trembled and stood at a distance. <sup>19</sup> "You speak to us, and we will listen," they said to Moses, "but don't let God speak to us, or we will die." <sup>20</sup> Moses responded to the people, "Don't be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that you will fear Him and will not sin." <sup>21</sup> And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.*

7. What things strike you about God's revelation of Himself?

8. What was the effect on the people?

9. How long do you think their response would last?

## DAY 4: Maintaining the Relationship; Blessing and Cursing

1. God gives His moral law *and* reasons to obey His law to the new nation.

*Deuteronomy 28:1* “Now if you **faithfully obey** the Lord your God and are careful to follow all His commands I am giving you today, the Lord your God will put you far above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come and overtake you, because you obey the Lord your God: <sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. <sup>4</sup> Your descendants will be blessed, and your soil’s produce, and the offspring of your livestock, including the young of your herds and the newborn of your flocks. (continues through Deut. 28:14)

2. What conclusion(s) might you draw from these verses about:

a. God? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Obedience? \_\_\_\_\_

c. You? \_\_\_\_\_

*Deuteronomy 28:15* “But if you do **not** obey the Lord your God by carefully following all His commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you: <sup>16</sup> You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. <sup>17</sup> Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed. <sup>18</sup> Your descendants will be cursed, and your soil’s produce, the young of your herds, and the newborn of your flocks. <sup>19</sup> You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. <sup>20</sup> The Lord will send against you curses, confusion, and rebuke in everything you do until you are destroyed and quickly perish, because of the wickedness of your actions in abandoning Me. (continues through Deut. 28:68)

2. What conclusions might you draw from the previous verses about:

a. God? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_

c. You? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Ironically, God did NOT give us His law in order to make our life "better." After reading those verses it's easy to assume that, "Now that I know what to do, I'll do it." We assume we're good enough to actually obey God. We deceive ourselves. After we try to obey all God's law, the result should be, "I'm terrible at obeying God!!! What can be done about that???" I need mercy! I need power that I don't have to obey God! Oh, Lord, please help!!!" No human being will ever discover this truth about himself without the law facing him square in the face!!!

4. In the following verses, underline the parts of the verse that undergird the truths in question #3:

*Matt. 15:14* Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into the pit.

*2. Cor. 4:4* The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

*Ephesians 4:18* They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

5. Underline what God's law is really meant to do:

*Romans 3:20* For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

*Romans 5:20* Now the law came in to increase the (awareness of) trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...

*Galatians 3:24* So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

## DAY 5: A Kingdom of Priests

*Exodus 19:5 Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine,<sup>6</sup> and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation."*

1. Men and women search for meaning and purpose in life. That search begins in our teen years when we try to "find ourselves." In our adult years we look to lots of different things *we can do* to find meaning, and fill up empty places inside. It is a vain search and vain hope. In the verses below, underline the words or phrases that undergird this point.

*Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.<sup>36</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?<sup>37</sup> Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

*1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.<sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God--<sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.*

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2. God promises the people they will be a "kingdom of priests." That doesn't mean that they will all wear religious robes and serve in the tabernacle or temple. He has something bigger in mind for you! A priest represents God to people!!! *That is our highest calling!!*

3. How does that strike you? Does it "ring true" or is the effect on you more of a "ho-hum" response?

4. What keeps us from wanting to reflect God to the people around us more than we do? There are two competing desires that drive us:

a. "I want to feel better, now!"

b. "My life needs to go well so that I'll feel better about me, and others will love/respect me."

5. Jot down a few examples of how you see yourself pursuing these desires more than reflecting God to others.

6. Reflecting God to others begins with how you treat people, how you relate to them. Below are examples of how God relates to us. Next to them, jot down an idea or two of how you could relate to someone.

a. He takes the initiative with us. \_\_\_\_\_

b. He gave us a gift(s). \_\_\_\_\_

c. He gave us letters. \_\_\_\_\_

d. He communicates He cares. \_\_\_\_\_

e. He values you. \_\_\_\_\_