

SINGLE ALLIANCE

THE COVENANTS- PT. 6- THE MOSAIC COVENANT

I. Introduction

- A. We are continuing on our study of the covenants. The last covenant we studied was the Davidic Covenant
- B. Each covenant is initiated by God and has three main components- The Words, The Blood, and The Seal of the Covenant
- C. This week we will look at the ***Mosaic Covenant***. We will study this covenant for two weeks.
- D. The Mosaic Covenant is just that. ***It is a mosaic!*** A mosaic is one picture that is made of many pieces of glass, metal, or stone. The Mosaic Covenant is based upon 613 individual laws that make up one whole picture of God's holiness, justice, demand upon man, and JESUS as the Savior of mankind!

II. The Mosaic Covenant

- A. This covenant was made 430 years after the Abrahamic Covenant. [Gal. 3:17]
- B. The Mosaic Covenant ***did not replace*** the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - 1. It was placed beside the Abrahamic Covenant. [Rom. 5:20]
 - 2. These two covenants were contrasted by being laid side by side. They ran concurrent.
 - 3. The Abrahamic covenant was a covenant of grace [***based upon what God does for man***] and the Mosaic Covenant was based upon works [***what man does for God***]
- C. Not only was the Law placed side by side with the Abrahamic Covenant it also was **ADDED TO IT**. [Gal. 3:19] The Greek word for "added" is **prostithemi**. We get our English word prosthesis from it! A prosthesis is given when an arm or a leg is incomplete and needs to be completed. The Law was a prosthesis to the Abrahamic Covenant. Why was the Mosaic Covenant added as a prosthesis after the Abrahamic Covenant was given?
 - 1. The Abrahamic covenant was **incomplete in revelation** in several points in that it:
 - a. Did not reveal God's holy nature towards sin- wrath and judgment
 - b. Did not reveal man's nature of depravity and total need for redemption and grace.
 - c. Those under the Abrahamic covenant could easily take God's graciousness towards them as something they earned, and that God was light on sin and blew it off.

- d. The Abrahamic Covenant promised a Seed and that the Seed would bless mankind, but how He would do this was not revealed. [Gen. 22:18] The Mosaic Law taught in picture form about Jesus Christ and how He would bless the world through His sacrifice of Himself!
- d. So the Mosaic Law revealed God's holy nature, the depravity of man, the person and work of Jesus Christ the Savior, and God's eternal attitude towards sin. This was lacking in the Abrahamic Covenant and must be added so that man could enter the New Covenant where sin and depravity would be dealt with at the cross and new life given at the resurrection. The Law prepared people to receive the blessing of the Seed of Abraham promised under the Abrahamic Covenant!
- e. A prosthesis is not the real thing! It has no life in it! The Law did not impart life. The Law taught about Jesus! Jesus has THE LIFE and imparts it in the New Covenant! The Law was added as a prosthesis until Jesus came and brought total healing and restoration to man!
2. The Mosaic Law was given to make **OFFENSE** increase. It was not given to make sins increase, but **OFFENSE to increase**. [Romans 5:20]
- a. Sin was in the world before the Law, but where there is no law, sin is not **imputed- put on people's account**. [Rom. 5:13] When clearly defined Law was given, then sin became **OFFENSE** or **TRESPASS** and it was imputed.
- b. The Law made people know what sin was. [Rom. 3:20, 7:7]
- c. The Law made people realize how bad they were and how they far they fell short of God's standard. The Law was given to show man that the problem with them is not what they did, but they were the problem- **THEY WERE SINNERS!**
- d. The Law was given to show man that they stood guilty before God and that the wages for **OFFENSE** of God's Law was death. [Rom. 6:23]
- e. The Law prescribed animal sacrifices that had to die to cover sin. These sacrifices taught about Jesus Christ!
- f. The Law was given to teach people about their need for salvation and the Savior! [Gal. 3:24-25]
- g. God used the nation of Israel as a test group of humanity to take the whole world to court and find them guilty. [Rom 3:19]
- D. The Law consisted of many commandments but they were one unit. If you broke one command you broke the Law. [James 2:10] It is like shooting a bee- bee into a nice picture glass window. One little small hole ruins the whole window. Once it is broken, you can't un-break it by doing more good works! Death must occur! That is why the sacrifices were given- to reveal how man can be justified from sin, through the death of the righteous One Jesus Christ.

- E. Blessings were obtained by obedience to all of the commands of God [not some or most]. [Deut. 28:1-2] No one ever got blessed in the Old Testament because they kept the commandments, or even doing their best! The Law only condemned people to death! ex. man picking up sticks on the Sabbath. **EVERY** person who was blessed by God in the Old Testament was blessed under the Abrahamic covenant and/or by faith in blood sacrifices.
- F. ***Not one Israelite died*** from Egypt to Mt. Sinai even though they sinned the whole way! They were under the Abrahamic covenant [the blood of the Lamb]. It was not until they accepted the Law that they began to die for sin. The Israelites thought that God's goodness and deliverance from Egypt was because they somehow deserved it. The giving of the Law revealed that they were only deserving of death! **God's goodness has always been based upon grace and not works.** However, man must **see a need** for grace and his need for salvation before they will receive grace and salvation.
- G. Those living during the time of the Law could approach God by the Abrahamic Covenant or the Mosaic Law. **They had a choice.** David approached God and was blessed under the Abrahamic covenant instead of the Mosaic covenant. Many others understood the difference between the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants and chose to remain under the Abrahamic covenant. All those in the Faith Chapter- **Hebrews 11**- chose to tap into the Abrahamic covenant by faith and they were all blessed by God.
- H. Today the Mosaic covenant has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ and made obsolete. [Eph. 2:15, Heb. 8:13] This is from God's side, but unfortunately many Christians still live under the Law. They only pick **some** of the laws, which they don't keep those! They actually try to mix the law and grace.
- I. Many people confuse the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and end up mixing them together. They think that God gave many commandments to keep, but then gave the sacrifices to make up where the people failed. They see that the Christian life is basically the same thing as in the Old Testament. Instead of the animal sacrifices, they put Jesus in. They believe they must keep all God's commandments to be right with God and to be blessed, and when they fail Jesus makes up the difference. **NO! NO!**
- J. God did not give the Old Testament sacrifices to make up the difference when man failed. It was **NOT works plus the sacrifices** that blessed the people. They were blessed because of the sacrifices that pictured Jesus, period! God added the sacrifices to the Law so that man would not have to die for their own sins, but also to give the contrast of two ways of approaching God and receiving His blessing. One way is trying to keep God's laws which brought judgment and

death. The other is to trust in the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf and receiving His righteous standing before God by faith. The second approach works! In the New Testament we are righteous through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and not our works. We are blessed by what Jesus has done, not what we do. Many however, are seeking to be blessed by their works ***plus*** the sacrifice of Jesus! No, we are blessed because of the perfect sacrifice and the perfect righteousness of Jesus- period! Then Spirit of Jesus moves into us and empowers us to bear His fruit [**Gal. 5:22-23**]. We live holy because we are made holy by His blood and Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit contain the blessings of God. We bear the fruit of the Spirit not by works, but by faith!