

#4 ~ Covenant – I Will Be Your God ~ TMG ~ 2023

*"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.*

Exodus 20:2

A covenant within a covenant

- Israel primarily lived under the covenant God made with Abraham.
 - 'The Law' or the 'Mosaic Covenant' functioned *within* that covenant relationship.
 - The exodus itself is part of the outworking and fulfilment of God's covenant promise to Abraham (Cf. Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 2:23-25 and 32:13).
 - o Therefore, however Israel kept the law or not, God is still bound to them through the promises he made to Abraham.
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More than just the law... - this is life!

- The giving of the Law (Exodus 20ff) and the 'cutting' of the covenant (Exodus 24)
 - But what about the blessings and curses contained in this covenant? Is this covenant conditional upon obedience or not?
 - o The judgments and curses God delivers to Israel for their disobedience are not the end of this covenant. Israel's disobedience does not dismantle the covenant or God's relationship with them.
 - o In fact, any judgments and curses are the Lord *keeping* his side of the agreement at Sinai. They are an expression of his *faithfulness* to what he said and promised in the covenant.
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Life with purpose and promise

- “Choose life!”
 - ...**so that** ‘the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers...’ (Deuteronomy 30:9)
 - ...and **so that** ‘you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, to give them.’ (Deuteronomy 30:20).
 - ...**and so that**... the nations!
 - The Law shared a similar goal with the covenant God made with Abraham Covenant – the nations.

Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? (Deuteronomy 4:6-8).

- Promise, not law, should have been the ever-present constant in Israel’s life, together with the eager anticipation of the fulfilment of God’s promises.
 - *Do we live on the basis of promise or performance?*
 - *restful... or restless?*
 - *faith... or unbelief?*

~~Christ is the end of the law...~~

- Christ is the end of the law *for righteousness*...
 - ...to everyone who believes (Romans 10:4)

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (Romans 4:16).