

**An Introduction to the Old Testament**  
**Class 8**  
**The Law Part 4: The Mosaic Covenant**  
2025-2026  
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**I. Introduction**

- A. Books of the Bible Quiz
- B. The Timeline

**II. Remember, all this is part of God fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant:**

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. (Exod 2:24-25)

That covenant with Abraham promised:

- A land (Gen 12:1, 7) – Canaan
- A nation/people (Gen 12:2)
- A blessing on Abraham and all the families of the earth connected to Abraham (Gen 12:3)

**III. Exodus 19:1–8: Introduction to the Covenant**

- A. Moses the Mediator
- B. See 19:4–6: Redemption first, THEN commandments

**IV. Exodus 19:9–25: The Second Fire of God Moment in Exodus**

**V. Exodus 20:1–21: The “Ten Words” (Ten Commandments)**

- A. Don't miss 20:2!! Redemption first, THEN commandments.
- B. Sometimes just “the Ten Words” are called “the Covenant”:

And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. (Deut 4:13)

**VI. Exodus 20:22–23:19: The Stipulations (Requirements)**

- A. God spoke commandments about the worship of God—altars in 20:24–26

- B. Laws about slaves and how to treat them (21:1–11)
- C. Laws about murder vs. manslaughter (21:12–14)
- D. “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.” (Exod 21:17)
- E. Laws about restitution—22:13–14
- F. Laws about care for the “sojourner,” “widow,” “fatherless child”—22:21–24
- G. Laws about time and the land:
  1. Sabbath year for fields (23:10)
  2. Sabbath day each week (23:12)
  3. Three annual feasts: Passover/Unleavened Bread; Pentecost/Firstfruits; Feast of Ingathering/Day of Atonement (23:14–17)

***\*\*\*Hundreds more stipulations/requirements will be added in Exodus–Deuteronomy: laws about the priesthood, sacrifices, details about the feasts, laws about murder vs. manslaughter, sexual purity, how a king is to rule.***

#### **VII. Exodus 23:20–Promises and a Warning**

- A. Promises for “an angel before you” to guard you and defeat your enemies (23:20–22).
- B. The angel will bring you to the Canaanites and God will defeat them (23:23).
- C. God will drive them out “little by little” so that “the land” will not become “desolate” (23:29).
- D. One single warning at the very end: “They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.” (Exod 23:33)

***\*\*\*Other blessings and curses will be added later: Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 27–28***

#### **VIII. Exodus 24:1–8: The Covenant Inaugurated**

- A. The People: “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do” (24:3).

- B. Moses made an altar and offered sacrifices and then “took half of the blood and put it in basis, and half of the blood he threw against the altar” (24:7).
- C. Then “he took the Book of the Covenant and read it” to the people (24:7).
- D. Finally sprinkled the blood on the people, saying, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words” (24:8).

***\*\*\*Hebrews 9:19–20 explains that sprinkled blood inaugurated the old covenant, and Christ’s shed blood inaugurated the new covenant. Blood is required for the covenants.***

**IX. Exodus 24:9–11: The Covenant Meal to Celebrate**

- A. “Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders” (24:9).
- B. “And they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness” (24:10).
- C. Yahweh did not kill them: “They beheld God, and ate and drank” (24:11).

**X. The Covenant with Moses in Effect Until Jesus!!**

- A. Israel will rise and fall, be blessed and cursed, as it keeps or neglects this covenant.
- B. The captivities? God warned in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 27–28 that captivity would result if they did not keep his covenant. It happened, but in grace he brought the remnant back to the land.
- C. But Israel’s history teaches us that absolute perfection was not required to receive God’s blessings: E.g., Moses the murdered; David the adulterer–murderer; generations who didn’t keep the Passover or practice circumcision.
- D. What Israel had to do was to keep the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment, the first of all the commandments: “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exod 20:3). If they kept that commandment, God’s grace was over them and his forgiveness would cover them—even if he did discipline them as a Father.
- E. But in the wreckage of the Babylonian invasion is the promise of a new covenant:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the

covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jer 31:31-34)

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Heb 8:13)

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20)