

Covenant Theology
“The Mosaic Covenant”

I. Introduction

A. Noting the importance of the Old Testament.

1. All too often it is avoided by Pastors and Christians.
2. Yet, the Old Testament is foundational to all of the New Testament.
3. Misunderstanding of the New is often the result of being unfamiliar with the Old.

B. Central to understanding the New Testament is the Covenant made by God with Israel at Sinai and referred to as the Mosaic Covenant.

1. Every book of the Old Testament, except Genesis, is properly understood being under the Sinai Covenant.
 - a. Genesis is really a prologue to the Sinai Covenant.

II. What is the Mosaic Covenant?

A. Broad sense.

B. Narrow sense.

C. Holiness is intrinsic to the Mosaic Covenant.

1. Hebrews 12:14

2. Perfect righteousness is essential, which is the problem for man.

3. Even though Christians know they are saved by grace through faith, they sometimes slip into a works righteousness mentality in two ways.
 - a.

 - b.

4. The Mosaic Covenant corrects wrong perceptions.

5. Key illustration.
 - a. Related texts: Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:24

III. Biblical description.

A. The word “covenant” is explicit at Sinai.

1. Exodus 19:5; Exodus 24:7-8; Exodus 34:10

B. Very different than the Abrahamic Covenant.

1. Deuteronomy 5:2-3

- a. “Horeb”

- b. “Our fathers” -- Deuteronomy 6:10; 9:5; 29:13

2. The patriarchs are not a part of the Sinai Covenant, Gal. 3:17-19.
 - a. The Abrahamic Covenant was completely u_____, Deut. 4:25-31.
 - b. Calvin:
 - c. Mercy does not properly belong to the M_____ C_____.
 - d. While the Patriarchs only belonged to the Abrahamic Covenant, Israel belonged to b_____.

C. How is the Mosaic Covenant a covenant of law?

1. Ancient Near East treaties background.
2. Covenant contained terms. Exodus 19:3-6.
3. Ratification of the covenant takes place in Exodus 24.
 - a. Explanation of Exodus 24.
4. Moses built an altar.
 - a. Blood is symbolic.
 - b. The two halves of blood.
 - c. Both parties have passed through the carcasses.

d. Eating and dining together follows.

e. The covenant is based on works.

D. Reflected in the prophets.

1. Isaiah

2. Jeremiah

3. Hosea

4. Essentially, the Mosaic Covenant is a restating of the original covenant made with

A_____.

a. John Owen

b. Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 19, Section 2.

c. One fundamental difference.

E. The Promised Land is where God dwells.

1. Note parallel to Heaven.

F. Destined to Fall.

1. Deuteronomy 4:26-27 and Chapter 30.
2. Recounting of renewals of the Covenant and repetition of feasts.

IV. Conclusion.

A. The Mosaic Covenant tells us why the obedience of Christ, not ourselves, is so critical.

1. Active obedience.
2. Passive obedience.

B. Man is utterly hopeless.

1. Note again the rich young ruler – “With man it is impossible, but with God....”