

# ***“Faithful Obedience”***

## **The Mosaic Covenant**

June 2, 2013

Intro:

**Israel is in a near euphoric shock...**

God miraculously (literally) rescues and reclaims them...

Imagine the difference... 400 years of oppressive slavery contrasted with instant, total, supernatural freedom...

**See the sin of unrestraint...**

Note the near instant grumbling... **UNBELIEVABLE!**

God gives fresh water and manna from heaven... Response: grumbling about the bland menu....

**The people even want Moses DEAD at one point prior to arriving at the mountain...**

Then, at the mountain, God connects with His people and makes a covenant with them thru Moses...

God told Moses what to say to Israel... Note the keys:

1. The covenant is conditional... "If you... I will..."
2. You will be "a kingdom of priests"
  - \*\*\* Don't miss this... today, that's the TRUE Church
    - standing in the gap...
    - represent God to world
    - leading people to God
  - \*\*\* Don't miss this... today, that's TRUE Disciple-Making

**Post-PROOF, Pre-SCRIPTIVE Promise:**

**Exodus 19:2-6** = *They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God.*

*The Lord called to Moses out of the mountain, saying, "**Thus you shall say** to the house of Jacob, and **tell the people** of Israel:*

**4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."**

### **People Prescribe to the Promise:**

**Exodus 19:7-8a** = *So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. \*\*\* (Like biblical teaching, preaching, applying, & equipping today...) \*\*\* and ALL the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."*

## Permanent Prescription:

**Exodus 19:9a** = *And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."*

## The Prescription & Promise:

**Exodus 19:10** = *...the Lord said to Moses, "**Go to the people and consecrate them...** let them wash their garments*

(...a HOLY God delivers, develops, & demands a HOLY people!)

**19:22** = *Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.*

(...defiled O.T. priests = the false teachers of the N.T. & today)

## Permanent Punishment:

**Exodus 19:12** = *And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of*

it. **Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.**

19:21 = *And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and **warn the people, lest** they break through to the Lord to look and **many of them perish.**"*

### Perspective Presented:

**Exodus 19:16** = *On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that **all the people in the camp trembled.***

**Exodus 20:1-17** = God gives Moses the 10 Commandments

**Exodus 20:18-20** = *Israel's initial response.... = **18** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, **the people were afraid and trembled**, and they stood far off **19** and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and **we will listen**; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." **20** **Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that***

***the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.***

**Exodus 20:22 = cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Exodus 20:22** = *And the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** = *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

**FOLLOW ME (a.k.a. Exodus 23:20-25)**

**Exodus 23:20-25** = *God promises to send divine guidance & protection for Israel **IF** they "pay careful attention... obey... and do not rebel..."*

***Conquest of Canaan Promised***

**20** *"Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. 21 Pay careful attention to*

him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.

22 "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

23 "When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, 24 you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. 25 **You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless you...**

Note: "for he (God's governing angel) will not pardon your Transgression, for My name is in him."

Note: God promises to "be an enemy to your enemies..."

Note: God's promises (vv.25-28ff) are linked to Israel's serving as His bold & bright light in the dark & dying land...

**Exodus 23:29-30** = AMAZING... God will drive out the enemy is a custom fit timeline and transition schedule...

**Exodus 23:32 = God's command is disobeyed =**  
32 You shall make no covenant with them and their gods.

**Exodus 23:33 = God's warning is ignored =** 33 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."

### **Exodus 24: (Covenant Confirmed)**

**24:3 = God speaks & the people again agree....**  
*3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do."*

**24:7 The people vow again to obey...**  
*...Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient...*

Note: Pharaoh's pattern in these people... **"Yes, yes, yes – No!"**

**24:18 = Moses was on the mountain 40 days & 40 nights.**

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## **Object Lesson: “NOT Following”**

Moses coming down from Mount Sinai...

**Exodus 31:18 = *And God gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.***

**NOTE:** By this time... these folks have seen the arrival of a promise (release via Moses – in and of itself a divine miracle). Next, they saw 10 miraculous plagues (9 of which they were supernaturally protected from)... Then they watched as Pharaoh literally let them go AND their Egyptian neighbors who had owned them as slaves, showered them with gold & goodies as they were leaving town... Then comes the Red Sea encounter with Pharaoh. One could have a difficult time choosing the most inspirational & convincing example of God’s power when looking back upon the pillar of fire, the opening of the sea, the DRY ground upon which they crossed, or the drowning demise of Pharaoh’s army that came as a direct result of God’s tactical & cataclysmic closure of the sea... at just the right time. And now... God is announcing His own arrival and validating His presence through a pattern of thunder & lightning that is undeniably & universally accepted as Him... the One known as “I Am.”

## (Remember "Creator Christ")

**Exodus 32:1-6** (an unbelievable abomination!) =  
*When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, **the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us gods who shall go before us.** As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."* **2 So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."** **3** *So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.* **4** *And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. **And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"*** **5** *When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. **And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord."*** **6** *And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. **And the people SAT down to EAT and DRINK and rose up to PLAY.***

**Exodus 32:7-10** = (God tells Moses about the corruption)

*7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for*

*your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9 And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."*

**Exodus 32:11** = (Moses pleads with God for his people)

*11 But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"*

**Exodus 32:14** (God AGAIN... gives mercy & grace...)  
*And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.*

**Exodus 32:15-19** = (Moses & Joshua walk in on a party)  
*15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were*

written. **16** *The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.* **17** When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." **18** But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, **but the sound of singing** that I hear." **19** *And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, **Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.***

**Exodus 32:21- 24** = (Aaron confronted, gives **lame excuse**)

**21** *And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"* **22** *And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. **23** For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'* **24** *So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."*

**Exodus 32:26** (Moses calls for a decision...)

**just like Jesus did** when He said:  
**"you're either for Me or against Me..."**

*...then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.*

*vv.27-29 (God-haters receive God's wrath at the hands of God's chosen priestly line) = 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.'" 28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. 29 And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day."*

*vv.30-32 = (Moses again goes to God & pleads for his people...) = 30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."*

**Exodus 32:33** *(God makes it clear that there*

*will come a day of reckoning!)*

*33 But the Lord said to Moses, "**Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.***

**Exodus 32:34** (God reiterates promise to Moses)

*But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you.*

(God often reminds His leaders to lead!)

(Note: You Lead by FOLLOWING & follow by following)

**KEY OBSERVATION...** *even after all this... the people continue in this sinful pattern of disobedience & disrespect toward God... over and over and over and over again... all the way up to today.*

Additional Notes:

God assuring His people of their place in/with Him...

God lays out the ground rules for this new relationship...

- the people needed to be prepared
- Exodus 19:10-12 = people:

1. Must be consecrated
  - \*\*\* set apart
  - \*\*\* prepared to meet God
2. Don't touch mountain or die!

At base of Mt Sinai they realize:

1. They are the fulfillment of the Abe's Covenant... They are the great nation
2. They were the ones to whom Canaan was promised...
3. Ultimately, they were / we are.. the people thru whom God would bless and reconcile a fallen world of dead souls
4. Israel would be God's people & in return, God would be their God

MAJOR ISSUE: How is a holy, sinless, perfect God to associate with and be connected to sinful people?

**Note: Abe's covenant was an adoption... Moses' was a code of conduct for the adopted children...**

The Law started with the 10 C's but added much more that was designed to give judicial guidance to the leaders as they watched over the people of God...

**Matthew 5:17 = Jesus says He fulfilled the judicial aspects of the Law... Thus it is no longer binding on believers (Romans 6:14 & Galatians 5:18).**

**See purpose of Law for is:**

1. Points to our need for Christ
2. It is our school teacher
3. It reveals God's character for us
4. Insights gleaned on God's intentions for His people
5. Shows Creator governs creation

- gives truth
- sets rules
- defines all

**Note:** the Law makes it obvious that no one can fully meet the perfect standards of God and His Law... Hence, the "temporary sacrificial" system was prescribed... pointing ahead to the eternal, sacrificial and atoning sacrifice of Christ...

**Note:** the Law promises blessing for obedience and curse/consequence and/or wrath for disobedience

**Key:** \*\*\* this is NOT the same as works based salvation...  
The blessing promised is NOT salvation...  
\*\*\* the same is true today...

***"The Law was never intended to be a moral ladder for God's people to climb in hopes of getting closer to God." - Francis Chan***

**Israel kept the Law to maintain a relationship with our perfect God... not to receive His promises**

Difference between Abe's & Moses' covenants...

1. Unconditional
2. Conditional:
  - A. Mosaic Cov requires faithful obedience!
  - B. Note: this is NOT perfection but adherence to God's way
  - C. Obey the Law = blessing
  - D. Disobey the Law = curse and dispersion...
    - See Deut 28
    - Note: the OT pattern comes back to right here!

**A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS:**

**Israel were to be a holy nation and kingdom of priests... to**

**be a blessing to all people's of all the world**

**We need to understand the biblical role / responsibilities of OT priests if we are to get what God was doing here...**

**Priest's 2 roles:**

- 1. Represent God to sinful people**
- 2. Represent a sinful people to a holy God**

Israel (as a whole) was to represent God to a world full of fallen people... likewise, the Church is to do the same

**A look at Israel / Church was/is to show the lost world what a relationship with God looks like and offers...**

*At the same time... Israel / Church is to represent lost humanity by praying for them, loving them, standing in the gap (or on the wall) for them... They/we were chosen to be sent and set apart missionaries to the world! They/we were to be ministers of reconciliation*

**God clearly wanted them / us to know His special love...  
But He wanted that to be in the context of humble holiness...**

**1 Peter 2:1-9 = parallel between Israel & Church...**

**(To those not truly following Jesus...) *Stop calling yourself a Christian... and start calling out to Christ!* - JDP**

John 15 "united in Christ" means you are one with Him... All He

has, you have (Platt illustration of "cash flow" when wed to wife)... Amazing grace!

**.....So what do we make of those who claim oneness in Christ (claiming His benefits, bounty, & blessings), all the while selfishly hoarding their time, talents, and treasure - telling the Creator and Christ they claim to "know"... NO!**

*If we don't really believe... we won't really follow... And if/when we don't REALLY "follow The Lord" - then He's not really our Lord... and if He's not really our Lord... Then neither is He really our Savior.*

*Non-following "followers" are fakes... or stated biblically, "rain clouds without rain."  
- JDP (cf. Jude & 2 Peter)*

*There is an eternal difference between "fact-filled," "faithful," & "fickle" "followers" of Jesus, the Christ. - JDP*

**Exodus 3:12** = Gods prophetic prep of Moses prior to the miraculous rescue / Exodus of Israel...

Note: God says you will come to the mountain and worship Me... Hence, the Mosaic Cov was always a part of the plan...

**It all about worship! Ex. 23:25 (compare John 4:24)**

**"The works specified in the covenant's stipulations were never designed to bring anybody into a salvific relationship to God. The stipulations were designed to enhance the believer's worship and service. Obedience to the Laws of Moses would bring blessings to God's people, but NOT salvation from sin (cf. Romans 3:20).**

Note: parallel between pharaoh and manipulative "double talkers" of today...

*Belief is backed up and bolstered by behavior. - JDP*

*Neither fear or fact alone is faith. - JDP*

*Biblical obedience is not works... it's worship! - JDP*

**Culture, Killing, Clothing, Cash, Christianity, & Church  
(kingdom of priests... a.k.a. a "royal priesthood")**

*Fickle vs Faithful Followers...*

*Faithful obedience does not affirm that you are "worthy"  
--- it confirms that you are worshipping. - JDP*

The Law did not/does not show God's people how to get to heaven... Instead, it showed the newly & miraculously freed ex-slaves:

1. How to live here on earth
2. How far we fell... and how short  
we fall... in comparison to  
God 's perfect standards
3. How much we need a Messiah!
4. How faith & obedience work  
together
5. How serious God is about sin &  
obedience