

*The Covenant at*

Sinai

(Part 1)

A  
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*Teaching Series*

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# Lesson 6 Outline: *God's Covenant at Sinai (Part 1)*

## I. The BACKGROUND to the Mosaic Covenant

### 1. The Story of JOSEPH:

\*Joseph the SON: *Joseph and Jacob's favoritism/idolatry*

\*Joseph the MAN: *Joseph and confusion in the Christian life*

\*Joseph the TYPE: *Joseph as a type of Christ*

### 2. The Calling of MOSES:

\*Moses the MAN:

→ It would have been both confusing and humbling. Applications for us?

→ The role of sin in the story of Moses: Did he (or others) mess things up?

→ God's real plan behind Moses' time in the wilderness. . .

\*Moses the TYPE: *Moses is also set forth as a type of Christ*

### 3. The Redemption of ISRAEL:

\*Our NEED for Redemption (John 8:34)

\*The POWER of Redemption (Romans 1:16)

\*The MOTIVE of Redemption (Ephesians 1:6)

\*The BASIS of Redemption (Exodus 12)

\*The PURPOSE of Redemption (Exodus 8:1; Luke 1:74-75)

\*God's PRECEPTS for the Redeemed (Exodus 20)

\*God's PROVISION for the Redeemed (Leviticus 1-6; Hebrews 10:14)

	ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT	OUR DELIVERANCE IN CHRIST
OUR NEED FOR REDEMPTION	Israelites enslaved by Pharaoh (Ex. 1-6)	We are enslaved to our sin (Jn. 8:34)
THE POWER OF REDEMPTION	God's power seen in the plagues (Ex. 7-12)	God's power seen in the gospel (Rom. 1:16)
THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION	The blood of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12)	The atoning death of Christ (1 Cor. 5:7-8)
THE MOTIVES OF REDEMPTION	To show His power (Ex. 9:16)	For His own glory (Eph. 1:5-6)
THE PURPOSE OF REDEMPTION	To serve the One who saved them (Ex. 8:1)	To serve the One who saved us (Lk. 1:74-75)
GOD'S PRECEPTS FOR THE REDEEMED	To teach Israel whom He saved (Ex. 19-24)	To teach those whom He's saved (Ps. 119:4-5)
GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE REDEEMED	The tabernacle sacrifices (Ex. 25-40)	Christ's once for all sacrifice (Heb. 10:10-18)

## II. An OVERVIEW of the Mosaic Covenant

1. The covenant with Israel at Sinai is *the next stage* in the Covenant of Grace:

I. The Covenant of Works with Adam

II. The Genesis 3:15 promise of a Redeemer:

- A) The Noahic Covenant
- B) The Abrahamic Covenant
- C) *The Mosaic Covenant*
- D) The Davidic Covenant
- E) The New Covenant

2. It's the hardest one to understand: How to reconcile grace and law?

3. Two ways to go wrong. . .

\**Dispensationalism*: taking grace out of the Mosaic Covenant

\**Lordship Controversy*: taking law out of the Mosaic Covenant

4. Conclusion: Both law AND grace in the Covenant of Grace

### III. An INTRODUCTION to the Mosaic Covenant

#### 1. The COVENANT of the Law (Ex. 34:27-28; Deut. 4:12-13; 9:9,11)

\*God's covenant at Sinai intimately connected with the Law

\*God's Law is especially marked by the Ten Commandments

#### 2. The NATURE of the Law (Genesis 2 versus Exodus 20)

\*The difference between the “Covenant of Law” and the “Covenant of Works”

	WITH WHOM IT WAS MADE	IN WHAT STATE THEY WERE IN	WHAT IT WAS BASED ON
THE COVENANT OF WORKS	Adam	Sinless Man	Perfect Obedience
THE COVENANT OF LAW	Israel	Fallen Man	God's Mercies

#### 3. The ESSENCE of the Law (Rom. 2:15; Gen. 17:1)

\*What is the Law? Basically, it is an external summary of God's will for mankind

BEFORE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS WERE GIVEN	WITH THE GIVING OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS
There was a summary of God's will written <i>Inwardly</i>	There is a summary of God's will written <i>Externally</i>
God's will for man was <i>Partially</i> revealed externally	God's will for man is <i>Fully</i> revealed externally

#### 4. The REVELATION of the Law:

\*The Covenant of Law is related **ORGANICALLY** to redemptive history:

A) There was Law **BEFORE** Moses (Gen. 17:1)

B) There was Law **AFTER** Moses (2 Kings 2:3; Mal. 4:4)

BEFORE MOSES	DURING MOSES	AFTER MOSES
<i>There was Grace</i>	There is Law	<i>There is Grace</i>
But there was also Law!	<i>But there is also Grace!</i>	But there is also Law!

\*The Covenant of Law is related PROGRESSIVELY to redemptive history:

- A) In its SCOPE: *From a family to a nation at Sinai*
- B) In its CONTENT: *We learn so much more about God at Sinai*
- C) In its EFFECT: *The Law serves to humble us (this is a good thing!)*

#### 5. The PURPOSES of the Law:

\*The FIRST use of the Law:

- To Expose Sin (Rom. 3:20; 7:7; Gal. 3:24)
- Example: Mirror; X-ray or CT scan
- Primarily for Pharisees / the legalist / the self-righteous

\*The SECOND use of the Law:

- To Instill Fear (Rom. 1:18ff)
- Example: A whip or the avenger chasing the guilty to the city of refuge
- Primarily for Prodigals / the lawless / the unrighteous

\*The THIRD use of the Law:

- For Believers in Christ; as a rule of life (Ps. 119:4)
- What this looks like: the Law and the finished work of Christ

### THE THREE DIFFERENT PURPOSES OF THE MORAL LAW

CATEGORY	FUNCTION	WHO IT HELPS	WHY IT'S NEEDED	HOW IT WORKS	EXAMPLE
The 1 <sup>st</sup> use of the Law	Exposes sin	Self-righteous Pharisees	They don't see their sin	Humbles men & drives them to Christ by exposing their sin	The Law acts like a Mirror or X-ray
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> use of the Law	Instills fear	Unrighteous Prodigals	They don't care about their sin	Restraints men & drives them to Christ by threatening punishment	The Law acts like a Whip or Cane
The 3 <sup>rd</sup> use of the Law	Stirs hearts	Recovering Believers	They need to again behold the Savior	Instructs believers & drives them again to Christ's finished work	The Law acts like a Fire-iron/stoker

#### 6. The CATAGORIES of the Law:

\*The MORAL Law (Exodus 20; Matt. 22:34-40)

→ The eternal expression of God's will for man

→ The first 4 Commandments deal with *loving God*; the last 6 deal with *loving our neighbor*

\*The CEREMONIAL Law:

→ Had to do with *Israel's worship* (tabernacle; sacrifices; priesthood; purification; feasts)

→ Like an appendix to the *first* table of the Law (Commandments 1-4)

\*The JUDICIAL Law:

→ Had to do with *Israel's civil state* (justice; domestic concerns; morality; disputes)

→ Like an appendix to the *second* table of the Law (Commandments 6-10)

#### HOW THE CEREMONIAL AND JUDICIAL LAWS RELATED TO THE MORAL LAW

	THE TWO TABLES OF THE LAW	PRIMARILY DEALS WITH	ITS APPENDIX	INSTRUCTIONS FOR
THE MORAL LAW (10 COMMANDMENTS)	The first 4 Commandments	Worship of God	Ceremonial Laws	Israel's Worship
	The last 6 Commandments	Love for Neighbor	Judicial Laws	Israel's Civil State

\* Are Christians bound to the Ceremonial and Judicial Laws?

→ Implications of Mark 7:17-19; Galatians 3:23-4:11, etc. But, at the same time. . .

→ The Ceremonial Laws: *Fulfilled by Christ*

→ The Judicial Laws: *Transformed by Christ:*

\* 1 Corinthians 5:13 and Church Discipline

\* 1 Corinthians 9:8-14 and Gospel Ministry

#### UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE OLD TESTAMENT JUDICIAL LAWS

PARTICULAR JUDICIAL LAW	PERMANENT PRINCIPLE	OT APPLICATION	NT APPLICATION
“Remove the wicked man from among you” (Deut.22:21)	Immorality among God's people is not to be tolerated	The Death Penalty	Appropriate church discipline for those living in sin (1 Cor. 5:13)
“Do not muzzle an ox while it is threshing” (Deut.25:4)	The thresher ought to thresh in hope of sharing the crops	Applied to Farming	Appropriate compensation for ministers of the gospel (1 Cor. 9:9)

#### THE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF OLD TESTAMENT LAW

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION OF LAW	OT FUNCTION	NT ROLE	JESUS AS
MORAL	A summary of God's will as revealed in the 10 Commandments	<i>Summarizes God's will:</i> A general summary of God's will for man	<i>Upheld by Christ</i>	<i>Our Prophet</i>
CEREMONIAL	Laws for things like sacrifices, feasts, cleanliness, and tabernacle regulations	<i>Guides Israel's worship:</i> Provides guidelines for OT church worship	<i>Fulfilled by Christ</i>	<i>Our Priest</i>
JUDICIAL	Laws for things like legal procedures, housing codes, and court sentences	<i>Governs Israel's society:</i> Applies principles of Moral Law to daily life	<i>Transformed by Christ</i>	<i>Our King</i>

#### 7. The USAGE (Etymology) of the Law:

\*The Ten Commandments (Rom. 7:7)

\*The Pentateuch (Lk. 24:44; Rom. 3:21)

\*The Old Testament (Jn. 8:34; cf. Ps. 82:6)

\* A Works-Righteousness (Gal. 2:19,21)

\*The Gospel (!) (Is. 2:3)



## IV. The Four Views of Sinai

### SUMMARY OF THE TRADITIONAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT

POSITION	DESCRIPTION OF VIEW	TAXONOMY	SUMMARY	EXAMPLE
Republication View	The Mosaic Covenant is a renewal (or republication) of the Covenant of Works	A Covenant of Works	Sinai is <i>contrary to</i> the Covenant of Grace	Water as it is contrary to oil
Mixed View	The Mosaic Covenant is a mix of both the Covenant of Works and Covenant of Grace	It was Both/And	Sinai is <i>partly made of</i> the Covenant of Grace	One shirt woven with two fabrics
Subservient View	The Mosaic Covenant is neither part of nor opposed to but serves the Covenant of Grace	It was Neither/Nor	Sinai is <i>different than</i> the Covenant of Grace	The role of a wife to her husband
Majority View	The Mosaic Covenant is simply another manifestation of the Covenant of Grace	A Covenant of Grace	Sinai is <i>part of</i> the Covenant of Grace	An instrument in a symphony

#### 1. The FIRST View:

\*Summary of view: The Mosaic Covenant was given as a *Covenant of Works*

\*Arguments for this view (Gal. 3:12; Rom. 10:5; 2 Cor. 3:6-7)

\*Synopsis of view:

→ The Covenant of Works isn't something that can be repeated

→ This view can't account for the elements of grace in the Mosaic Covenant

→ This view has trouble making sense of several other passages of Scripture

THE EXPERIENCE UNDER MOSES' MINISTRY	1 Corinthians 10:1-5	CHRIST and the GOSPEL
THE CONTENT OF MOSES' WRITINGS	John 5:46	CHRIST and the GOSPEL
THE ESSENCE OF MOSES' PREACHING	Hebrews 4:2,6	CHRIST and the GOSPEL

#### 2. The SECOND View:

\*Summary of view: The Mosaic Covenant was given as a *Mixed Covenant*

\*Sub-positions of view:

→ *The FIRST sub-view*: Difference in the *type* of Law that was given:

\*Moral Law (Ex. 20) versus Ceremonial Law (Ex. 24)

SCRIPTURE	TYPE OF LAW	WHAT IT WAS
Exodus 20:1-17	The <i>Moral Law</i>	The Covenant of Works
Exodus 20:22 and following	The <i>Ceremonial Law</i>	The Covenant of Grace

→ *The SECOND sub-view*: Difference in the *occasions* the Law was given:

\*First giving of the Law (Ex. 20): No grace?

\*Second giving of the Law (Ex. 32): Lots of grace?

CATEGORY	SCRIPTURE	WHAT IT INCLUDED	WHAT IT WAS
<i>The 1<sup>st</sup> Giving</i> of the Law	Exodus 20ff	Both the Moral and Ceremonial Laws	The Covenant of Works
<i>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Giving</i> of the Law	Exodus 34ff		The Covenant of Grace

→ *The THIRD sub-view*: Difference in the *function* of the Law:

\*Difference not with *what kind of law* or *when it was given* BUT: *how the Law functioned*

\*For Believers: the Law functioned as the Covenant of Grace

\*For Unbelievers: the Law functioned as the Covenant of Works

FOR WHOM	CATEGORY	WHAT IT INCLUDED	WHAT IT WAS
<i>Believers</i>	Both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Givings of the Law	Both the Moral and the Ceremonial Laws	The Covenant of Grace
<i>Unbelievers</i>			The Covenant of Works

\*Synopsis of view:

→ A lot that is good. . .

→ But also a lot that doesn't add up. . .

\*Scripture always uses the singular tense to refer to the covenant at Sinai (Deut. 5:2)

\*The two-fold time-table (of first two sub-views) doesn't work

\*Declaring the requirements of God's Law isn't the same as bringing people under the Covenant of Works (Rich young ruler, Mk. 10:17ff)

#### FINAL SUMMARY OF THE 3 SUB-POSITIONS OF THE MIXED VIEW

VIEWS	DISTINGUISHED BY	THE COVENANT OF WORKS	THE COVENANT OF GRACE
MIXED A	<i>Type</i> of Law	The Moral Law	The Ceremonial Law
MIXED B	<i>Giving</i> of the Law	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Giving of the Law	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Giving of the Law
MIXED C	<i>Function</i> of the Law	Functioned this way for unbelievers	Functioned this way for believers

### 3. The THIRD View:

\*Summary of view: The Mosaic Covenant was given as a *Subservient Covenant*

\*Articulation of view:

→ God made 3 covenants with man: 1) Works, 2) Grace, and 3) the Subservient covenant

→ The *requirement* was the same as Covenant of Works: A legal (*not a gospel*) obedience

→ The *promise* wasn't eternal life but only physical Canaan

→ The *purpose* was to humble Israel and make them long for grace

#### UNDERSTANDING THE SUBSERVIENT COVENANT

COVENANT	WHAT WAS REQUIRED	WHAT WAS PROMISED
THE COVENANT OF GRACE	Faith alone apart from works	Eternal and temporal blessings
THE SUBSERVIENT COVENANT	Works alone apart from faith	Only temporal blessings in Canaan

\*Synopsis of view:

→ The *idea* of a Subservient covenant doesn't fit with Scripture (this would be confusing)

→ The *condition* of the Subservient covenant doesn't fit with Scripture:

\*God was commanding gospel (not legal) obedience of Israel (Deut. 10:16)

→ The *evidence* for the Subservient covenant doesn't fit with Scripture:

\*God *pardons sin* at Sinai (Ex. 34:6-7)

\*God *comforts at Sinai* (Deut. 7:6) AND *terrifies in the Covenant of Grace* (Heb. 12:25)

#### 4. The FOURTH View:

\*Summary of view: The Mosaic Covenant is simply a manifestation of the *Covenant of Grace*

### V. Evidence that the Mosaic Covenant belongs to the Covenant of Grace

#### 1. The ESSENCE of the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*Deuteronomy 7:12

\*Deuteronomy 29:10-13

\*What God is doing for Israel at Sinai is what He promised to do in His covenant with Abraham

\*If the Abrahamic Covenant was part of the Covenant of Grace, so was the Mosaic Covenant

#### 2. The PRIVILEGES of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*Deuteronomy 29 and Leviticus 26:12: “You will be My people. . .”

\*Exodus 19:5-6: “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. . .”

\*Comparing 1 Peter 2:9-10: These were all *gospel* privileges

#### 3. The CONTEXT of the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*How the 10 Commandments begin in Exodus 20:2. . .

\*The Law not given in order to be redeemed—but because they had been redeemed

\**Not:* To become God's people; *But:* To those who were God's people (Deut. 27:9-10)

4. The REQUIREMENT of the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*You shall love the Lord your God. . . (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 11:18, etc)

\*The Law is “spiritual” (Rom. 7:14): Reaches not just behavior, but the depths of our hearts

\*Deuteronomy 10:16: “Circumcise your hearts. . .”: God is commanding evangelical obedience

5. The PROVISION of the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*The Problem: We love our sin AND we are enslaved to it (John 3:19; 8:34,44)

\*The Solution:

→ Atonement (Lev. 1:4). There is forgiveness in the Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 34:6-7)

→ Regeneration (Deut. 30:6): God will make us willing and able to obey Him

6. The CONTENT of the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*Sinai is all about Jesus (Jn. 5:46); the “good news” was preached under Moses (Heb. 4:2,6)

\*Moses himself (Deut. 18:15-19); the Passover (Jn. 1:29); the tabernacle (Jn. 1:14); the priesthood (Heb. 7:23-28); the manna (Jn 6:30-33, 49-51); the bronze serpent (Jn. 3:14-15); the rock (1Cor. 10:1-4). In short: Sinai was actually all about *Christ*

7. The MEANS of benefiting from the Mosaic Covenant is the same as the Covenant of Grace:

\*Paul's shocking words in Romans 10:5-9. . .

\*He is quoting from *the Law* in order to teach us about the righteousness that is *by faith*

\*Just as the Law pointed to Christ—it required Israel to also trust in that Christ whom it pointed to

\*Israel failed to enter the promises because of *unbelief* (Heb. 3:19; 4:2; Deut. 1:32; Ps. 78:21-22)

8. The CONCLUSION: How can Sinai be anything different than the Covenant of Grace?

9. The OBJECTIONS to this view of the Mosaic Covenant: *We'll get to these next time. . .*

\*Some Scriptures seem to speak pretty negatively about the Mosaic Covenant

→ How do you explain what Scripture says about the *Nature* of the Mosaic Covenant?

\*Some Scriptures seem to say what God required at Sinai is different than what He requires now

→ How do you explain what Scripture says about the *Requirement* of the Mosaic Covenant?

\*Some Scriptures seem to teach that the Law is now null and void for us as Christians

→ How do you explain what Scripture says about the *Authority* of the Mosaic Covenant?