

VI. THE MOSAIC COVENANT: Exodus 6:1-5

INTRODUCTION.

QUESTION. What is a Covenant?

ANSWER. A Covenant is a solemn agreement which establishes a binding relationship between at least two persons, with rules to follow, blessings for faithfulness, and curses or consequences for unfaithfulness.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

QUESTION 2. Why do I need to understand Covenant Theology?

ANSWER. Because if you do not understand God's covenant's, then you will not understand the world you live in; you will not understand yourself; you will not understand the Bible as you should; and you will not understand Jesus as you should. And if you do not understand these things, how can you *feel* properly, *think* rightly, or *live* wisely, or have any hope in this life and beyond the grave that is not just vanity or make believe?

CON(TEXT). REMIND:

I) The Lord established the Adamic Covenant with Adam and his posterity. It stipulated perfect works of obedience, threatened death, and promised eternal life.

**ADAM FAILED... When Adam sinned, he ruined the human race. Things are not as they should be because we are not as we should be. When Adam fell, you fell in him, and his fall did not sprain an ankle but broke a neck.*

NOTE, if you do not understand the Adamic Covenant that is broken, you do not understand yourself.

**CHRIST IS PROMISED TO SUCCEED... And then, in Genesis 3:15, the Lord immediately promised The New Covenant in Christ Jesus—He promised the seed of the woman (Christ) would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) at great cost to Himself (the cross), and make right what Adam had made wrong by his sin.*

II) The Lord established the Noahic Covenant with Noah and his posterity. It obligates fruitful multiplication, threatens death, promises preservation, and is sealed by a sign.

The Noahic Covenant is a covenant with creation in general and is still in effect today. Furthermore, it is why the Lord has not destroyed the earth in another flood! He has hung His war-bow in the clouds.

NOTE, if you do not understand the Noahic Covenant, then you do not understand why the world continues as it does to this day; additionally you do not understand the mercy of God. In the Noahic Covenant the

III) The Lord established the Abrahamic Covenant with Abraham to give the land of Canaan and further reveal aspects of the New Covenant in Christ.

Within the Abrahamic Covenant, the Lord God reveals more about who Jesus is and what He will accomplish when He comes to redeem sinners. He will be i) Christ is promised to be a descendant of Abraham according to the flesh. ii) Christ is promised to be a king. iii) and Christ is promised to bless the entire world.

NOTE 1, The reason the Lord established the Abrahamic Covenant was to preserve a particular people in a particular land until Jesus would be born through them at the proper time.

NOTE 2, if you do not understand the Abrahamic Covenant, then you will not understand Jews today; you will not understand Israel today; you will not understand and rightly identify the errors of Dispensationalism and Zionism.

Furthermore, you will not understand who is in the New Covenant and who is not; you will not understand who should be baptized and who should not; and you will not understand who should be a church member and who should not.

IV) The Lord established the Mosaic Covenant with Abraham's descendants to build upon and expand the Abrahamic Covenant, as well as further foreshadow the New Covenant in Christ.

NOTE, if you do not understand the Mosaic Covenant you will not understand why there were animal sacrifices in the Old Testament Church and now there are not; you will not understand why there were Priests in the Old Testament Church and now there are not; you will not understand why there were food laws and ceremonial laws in the Old Testament Church and now there are not.

You need to understand Covenant Theology so you can properly understand the world you live in, yourself, the Bible, and, ultimately, Jesus.

BOYS AND GIRLS... And if you do not understand these things, how can you *feel* properly, *think* rightly, *live* wisely, or have any hope in this life and beyond the grave that is not just vanity or make believe?

DOCTRINE. The Lord established *the Mosaic Covenant* with Abraham's descendants to build upon and expand the Abrahamic Covenant, as well as further foreshadow the New Covenant in Christ.

OUTLINE. Three main points to draw your attention to as to properly understanding the Mosaic Covenant.

I. THE MOSAIC COVENANT *IS BUILT ON THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT* (Ex. 6:1-5).

- **Exodus 6:1-5** "1 But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."
2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant."
 - The Abrahamic Covenant is in the foreground of the Exodus and the Mosaic Covenant.
 - **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

II. THE MOSAIC COVENANT *EXPANDED THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT* (Exodus 1Genesis,9:1-6).

I) The *parties* in the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic, except expanded (Gen. 15:18; Ex. 19:1-6).

(i) In The Abrahamic Covenant the Lord made a covenant with Abraham, and his offspring in him (Gen. 15:18).

Genesis 15:18 "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land. . ."

(ii) In the Mosaic Covenant the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel (Ex. 19:1-6).

Exodus 19:1-6 "1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 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 him 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."

NOTE, Moses was the mediator but not the federal head of the Mosaic Covenant. God did not promise anything to Moses or to Israel *in* Moses. Rather, God simply makes promises through Moses as the Prophet and Mediator between God and man.

QUESTION. Why does the Mosaic Covenant not have a covenant head?

ANSWER. Because it is built on and expands the Abrahamic Covenant, and therefore needs no other Covenant head.

TRANSITION. So, firstly, *The parties in the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic, except expanded.*

II) The Precepts of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic, except expanded (Ex. 34:27-28).

(i) In the Abrahamic Covenant, the Lord demanded that Abraham and his offspring keep His covenant, and this was signified in their being circumcised (Gen. 17:9-10).

Genesis 17:9-10 "9 And God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised."

(ii) In the Mosaic Covenant, the Lord demanded that Israel keep His covenant, which looked like obeying the Law—moral, judicial, and ceremonial (Ex. 19:5-6).

Exodus 19:5-6 "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."

Exodus 34:27-28 "27 And the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." 28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments."

NOTE, though the Moral Law of God is the only part mentioned here, which is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments, remember the Judicial Law is the Moral Law applied to jurisprudence, and the Ceremonial Law shows how to stay clean or be cleansed when you have violated the Moral or Judicial Law.

TRANSITION. So, secondly, The precepts of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic, except expanded.

III) The *Promises* of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic (Deuteronomy 30:15-20).

(i) In the Abrahamic Covenant, the Lord promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants (Gen. 17:7-8).

Genesis 17:7-8 "7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

(ii) In the Mosaic Covenant, the Lord promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants (Selected Scriptures).

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 "15 See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it."

Jeremiah 7:3-7 "3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever."

Jeremiah 11:2-5 "2 "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 3 You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant 4 that I commanded your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Listen to my voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be my people, and I will be your God, 5 that I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day." Then I answered, "So be it, Lord."

Jeremiah 32:22-23 "22 And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey. 23 And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them."

- **SAMUEL RENIHAN:** "God will bless the descendants of Abraham as long as they continue to obey His commands."

TRANSITION. So, thirdly, The promises of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic.

IV) The *Penalties* of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic (Deut. 29:24-26).

(i) Abrahamic Penalty for breaking the covenant was being cut off from the land (Gen. 17:14).

Genesis 17:14 "Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

(ii) The Mosaic Penalty for breaking the covenant was being cut off from the land (Deut. 29:24-26).

Deuteronomy 29:24-26 "24 all the nations will say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?' 25 Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them.'"

- **SAMUEL RENIHAN:** "Obedience to the mosaic covenant controls the extent to which you enjoy God's oath to Abraham that his offspring shall dwell in the land."

TRANSITION. So, fourthly, The penalties of the Mosaic Covenant are the same as the Abrahamic.

QUESTION. Why is there a need for the Mosaic Covenant if it is simply building on and expanding the Abrahamic Covenant?

Obviously the Lord established this covenant to glorify His own name and have them as a peculiar people in the world, but what other reasons can be shown?

ANSWER 1. The Mosaic Covenant is a new and larger set of laws and threats, which matches with people who are about to inherit a land and become an official kingdom. There was no need for the judicial and ceremonial laws while they were still a nomadic people, and no need while they were still slaves in Egypt.

ANSWER 2. The Mosaic Covenant was established to protect Abraham's descendants as a nation so that they would be preserved until Christ would come into the world through them.

TRANSITION. *But there is another answer to the question, Why the Mosaic Covenant? and that is what we turn to in the third main point:*

III. THE MOSAIC COVENANT PREPARED THE WAY FOR CHRIST (Selected Scriptures).

Let me point out to you six ways the Mosaic Covenant prepared the way for Christ. By the way, this also helps you understand your Bible and how the Old Testament is always pointing us forward to Christ and His finished work.

I) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show our utter need for Christ, as no mere man is able to keep God's Law perfectly (Galatians 3:10-11, 19, 24).

Galatians 3:10-11 "10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:19 "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary."

Galatians 3:24 "So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

- **SIBBES:** "Moses, without any mercy, breaks all bruised reeds, and quenches all smoking flax. For the law requires personal, perpetual and perfect obedience from the heart, and that under a most terrible curse, but gives no strength. It is a severe task master, like Pharaoh's, requiring the whole tale of bricks and yet giving no straw. Christ comes with blessing after blessing, even upon those whom Moses had cursed, and

with healing balm for those wounds which Moses had made."
— Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*

USE FOR WARNING

If you do not bend the knee to Christ Jesus, trusting in His life without sin, His death as a substitute for sinners, and His resurrection to defeat satan, sin, and death, then you are under a curse. The fleeting pleasures of sin will eventually run away and all that will be left for you is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So wake up! And turn from your sins to Christ and He will save you, sanctify you, preserve you, provide for you, and one day glorify you.

Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed [Christians] from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

You need to repent of sin and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. You need to be baptized. You need to join the church and walk with Christ's people all the days of your life for His glory and everyone's good.

II) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22).

Hebrews 9:22 "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

BOYS AND GIRLS... "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:23).

III) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show us our need for a better Priest than Aaron and his descendants (Hebrews 10:11-13).

Hebrews 10:11-13 "1 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet."

USE FOR EXAMINATION

Q. Who do you look to as Priest? Who makes you acceptable? Who justifies your existence?

IV) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show our need for a better sacrifice (Hebrews 9:13-14).

Hebrews 9:13-14 "13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the

flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

BOYS AND GIRLS...

V) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show our need for a better Prophet than Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 "15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
16 just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' 17 And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.'"

USE FOR EXHORTATION (7)

(i) Honor Christ as Prophet personally by paying careful attention to and bowing down before what He says in His Scriptures through His Prophets and Apostles.

- **Through faith,**
Believe what Christ the Prophet reveals in His Scriptures;
Submit to what He commands;
Tremble before what He threatens;
Run away from what He says is sin;
Run towards what He says is righteous;
Rest in what He promises;
Trust in what He foretells;
Feast on His very words;
Meditate on His truths;
Proclaim what He reveals;
Take hold of what He offers you!

(ii) Honor Christ as Prophet in your home by teaching your household what He says in His Scriptures.

- **Acts 3:22-23** 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'"
 - **(i)** Hold forth to those in your household Christ as the Prophet who both gives and interprets the Law of God!

- (ii) Hold forth to those in your household Christ as the Prophet who both purchases and reveals the Gospel of God!
- (iii) Hold forth to those in your household Christ as the Prophet who both foretells and accomplishes Redemptive History according to the Providence of God!
- ***THIS APPLIES ALSO TO YOU WHO WILL BE SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST IN A LOCAL CHURCH!***

(iii) Honor Christ as Prophet in your home by structuring your household according to what He says in His Scriptures.

- **1 Corinthians 11:7-9** "7 [Man] is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man."
- What does Christ the Prophet say is the role of men and women, boys and girls, man and wife, leader and helper?
 - ***THIS TOO APPLIES TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL BE SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST IN A VISIBLE CHURCH!***

(iv) Honor Christ as Prophet in your vocation by submitting to the motives and diligence He says you should have in His Scriptures.

- **Colossians 3:23-24** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

(v) Honor Christ as Prophet in the public square by telling all what Christ says about man, sin, salvation, judgement, and righteousness.

- **Acts 17:30-31** "[God] commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

(vi) Honor Christ as Prophet in the civil government by telling your magistrates what God requires of them in their office.

- **Psalms 82:2-4**
 - 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
 - 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
 - 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

(vii) Honor Christ as Prophet in all these ways by trusting in and petitioning Him to

make effectual the Scriptures in the hearts and minds of those who hear it.

- **1 Corinthians 3:7** "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."
- **You are I can reach the ears and the mind as we teach and preach God's Word**, but if Christ the Prophet does not reach the heart by the Holy Spirit, it is all for nothing.
- **You can plant. You can water. Only God can cause the growth.**
- Teach and pray, pray and teach, and Christ will be honored as Prophet.

VI) The Mosaic Covenant was established to show our need for a better Mediator than Moses (Hebrews 9:15; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25).

Hebrews 9:15 "Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant."

1 Timothy 2:5 "There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 7:25 "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

USE FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Christian, you have a Mediator in Christ Jesus who has secured for you an eternal inheritance in the land of the living; you have a Mediator who has redeemed you from even the worst of your sins through His death in your place; you have a Mediator who is able and willing to save you to the uttermost since He always lives to make intercession for you!

CONCLUSION.

The Lord established the Mosaic Covenant to build upon and expand the Abrahamic Covenant, as well as foreshadow the New Covenant in Christ.

Galatians 4:4-5 "4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Understanding the Nature of Covenants (Based on the Sermon's Introduction)

1. According to the sermon, what is a covenant? How does the example of marriage illustrate the elements of rules, blessings for faithfulness, and curses for unfaithfulness? In what ways does this align with the 1689 Confession's view of covenants as solemn bonds established by God (Chapter 7)?
2. The sermon states that without understanding God's covenants, we cannot properly understand the world, ourselves, the Bible, or Jesus. Discuss specific examples from the transcript (e.g., the Adamic or Noahic covenants) and explain how this lack of understanding might lead to distorted thinking, feelings, or living. How does this encourage us to prioritize covenant theology in our study of Scripture?

Section 2: Overview of Biblical Covenants Leading to the Mosaic

3. Summarize the Adamic Covenant (Covenant of Works) as described in the sermon. How does its failure in Adam explain human sinfulness and our need for Christ? From a Reformed Baptist viewpoint, how does this covenant contrast with the Covenant of Grace revealed in Genesis 3:15 (1689 Confession, Chapter 7, Paragraph 3)?
4. What are the key elements of the Noahic Covenant according to the sermon? How does it demonstrate God's common grace to all creation, and why is it still in effect today? Discuss how misunderstanding this covenant might lead to confusion about God's mercy and the persistence of the world despite human wickedness.
5. Explain the purpose of the Abrahamic Covenant as outlined in the sermon. How does it narrow the promise of the seed from Genesis 3:15 and prepare for Christ's coming? In light of the 1689 Confession (Chapter 8, Paragraph 6), how does this covenant relate to the salvation of believers in all ages through faith in Christ?

Section 3: The Mosaic Covenant – Its Foundation and Expansion

6. The sermon emphasizes that the Mosaic Covenant is built upon and expands the Abrahamic Covenant (Exodus 6:1-5). What evidence from the transcript supports this? How does this continuity reflect the progressive revelation of the Covenant of Grace in Reformed theology?
7. In Exodus 19:1-6, the Mosaic Covenant is described as expanding the parties, precepts, promises, and penalties of the Abrahamic Covenant. Discuss each element: How are they similar yet expanded? Why was this expansion necessary as Israel transitioned from a nomadic family to a nation-state?

8. Why does the sermon note that Moses is the mediator but not the federal head of the Mosaic Covenant (unlike Adam, Noah, or Abraham in their covenants)? How does this reinforce Abraham's ongoing role as the representative, and what implications does this have for understanding covenant headship in Christ (1689 Confession, Chapter 8)?

Section 4: The Mosaic Covenant Pointing to Christ

9. The sermon lists six ways the Mosaic Covenant prepares the way for Christ (e.g., showing our need for a Savior due to inability to keep the law, Galatians 3:10-11, 19, 24). Choose two of these and explain how they function as "shadows" or types fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 10:1). How does this Christ-centered reading of the Old Testament align with Reformed Baptist hermeneutics?
10. Discuss how the Mosaic Covenant's emphasis on animal sacrifices demonstrates that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). How does this point forward to Christ's once-for-all sacrifice? In a group setting, share how this truth encourages believers and warns unbelievers today.
11. The sermon highlights our need for a better priest than Aaron, a better sacrifice than bulls and goats, a better prophet than Moses, and a better mediator than Moses (Hebrews 7:25; 9:13-15; 10:1-13). How do these needs find their fulfillment in Christ as the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King (1689 Confession, Chapter 8)? What practical encouragement does this offer Christians facing sin or doubt?

Section 5: Practical Implications and Application

12. According to the sermon, misunderstanding the Mosaic Covenant can lead to errors like legalism (e.g., enforcing Old Testament dietary laws) or confusion about practices like Sabbath observance. How does distinguishing between moral, judicial, and ceremonial laws help Reformed Baptists apply the Old Testament today? Discuss examples from the transcript.
13. The sermon connects understanding covenants to issues like baptism and church membership (e.g., who is in the New Covenant). From a Reformed Baptist perspective (1689 Confession, Chapter 28 on Baptism), how does the shift from the Old (Mosaic) to the New Covenant support believer's baptism over infant baptism?
14. Reflect on the sermon's closing application: The Mosaic Covenant warns those relying on works (under a curse) but encourages believers through Christ's redemption (Galatians 3:13; 4:4-5). How has studying this deepened your appreciation for Christ? Share one way this understanding

shapes your daily life, affections, or hope.

15. In prayer (as modeled in the sermon's closing), how can we ask God to use covenant theology to sanctify us, purify the church, and draw unbelievers to Christ? Discuss as a group how this perspective fosters a holy, Christ-centered community.

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, visitors, you need to understand God's covenants. You need to understand what we call in theological terms you call covenant theology.

What is a covenant though? Let's establish that first or remind ourselves what a covenant is. It's not language that we use frequently in our day. What is a covenant? Here's the simplest answer. A covenant is a solemn agreement which establishes a binding relationship between at least two persons. There are rules to follow, blessings for faithfulness and curses or consequences for unfaithfulness. A covenant is a solemn agreement which establishes a binding relationship between at least two persons with rules to follow, blessings for faithfulness, and curses or consequences for unfaithfulness. The simplest one that you can understand is the covenant of marriage. Marriage is a solemn agreement which establishes a binding relationship between only two persons. A covenant in general can be between at least two persons. Maybe a whole people and another people. Maybe one person in agreement with a whole people. But marriage is just one person and another person and they enter into this covenant together. There are rules to follow. There are blessings for faithfulness and curses or consequences for unfaithfulness. You know that to be true. That's why you take vows in your marriage ceremony when you're entering into that covenant. And you know that if you are faithful to one another and you follow the rules of marriage, even the vows that you take when you enter into the covenant, you will have a blessed, happy marriage. And you also know if one or both parties in that covenant are unfaithful, there are curses and consequences. You can look around and you know I know for a fact you have experienced it or you are directly connected with someone either either in your family or close friend group who even has been unfaithful in the covenant of marriage and you would say yeah it's not just like bad consequences curse sounds more like it like there are curses and consequences for being unfaithful in a covenant. So the covenant of marriage is an easy one for us to understand. But the a covenant in general is just a solemn agreement which establishes a binding relationship between at least two persons, rules to follow, blessings for faithfulness, and curses or consequences for unfaithfulness. That's what a

covenant is. And God has established covenants all throughout history with particular people and their descendants. God has actually entered into covenants with people and their descendants.

So why do you need to understand covenant theology? That's why I say at the outset, you need to understand this. That's why we're looking through the scriptures the last few weeks and trying to properly understand the covenants that God entered into throughout history with particular people and their descendants. Why are we even doing this series? It's not so we can have big heads and just have knowledge for the sake of knowledge and understand all the fine points of systematic theology and we can all pass a test like look how smart I am and how much I know. It's not it's really not for that. Why do I need to understand covenant theology? Because if you hear me clearly, if you do not understand God's covenants, you will not understand the world that you live in. You may think you do, but you don't. If you don't understand God's covenants, you will not understand yourself. You may think you do, but you don't. If you don't understand God's covenants, you will not understand the Bible as you should. You may think you do, but you don't. If you don't understand God's covenants, you will not understand Jesus as you should. You may think you do, but you don't. Unless you properly understand, have a general at least understanding of the Adamic covenant, also called the covenant of works that God established with Abraham. If you don't understand that, you don't understand the world. You don't understand yourself. You can't. You don't understand the Noahic covenant and you don't understand why the world continues to go as it does go and why God hasn't destroyed the earth with a flood because of the great wickedness of mankind. If you don't understand the Noahic covenant, you don't understand that. You don't understand why the times and seasons keep changing every year. You don't understand what a rainbow actually means.

If you don't understand the covenants, then you don't understand the world you live in. yourself, the Bible, and you don't understand Jesus as you should. And if you don't understand these things, how can you have right feelings, affections? How can you think rightly if you don't understand these things? You don't understand the world, yourself, the Bible, or Christ. How can you feel properly, think rightly? How can you live wisely? Or how can you have any hope in this life or in the life to come that is not just vanity or make-believe? The answer is you can't you can't think rightly unless you understand the world you live in yourself, the Bible, and Christ really as you should understand them. Now, let me remind you where we're at so far. We're in Exodus chapter 6. So, we're in the second book of the Bible.

But at the very beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created everything that exists. He created Adam and Eve and put Adam in the garden to work it and to keep it. And the Lord established a covenant with Adam. It's called

the Adamic covenant, meaning the covenant made with Adam, or you can call it the covenant of works. He made it with Adam and his posterity. It stipulated perfect works of obedience. It threatened death. And the Adamic covenant promised eternal life for obedience. And Adam failed. Adam sinned against God. Fell into sin. And when Adam sinned he ruined the human race and everyone who would come after him by ordinary generation, by ordinary birth, things are not as they should be because we are not as we should be. You are not as you should be because Adam was not who he should have been. And he is your natural covenant representative before God. You sinned in Adam. You sinned with him and in him. He ruined the human race through his fall and to sin. And when Adam fell, you fell in him. And his fall did not sprain an ankle or twist a knee. His fall broke the neck. If you do not understand the Adamic covenant, the covenant of works that is broken. It's already broken. You broke it in Adam. Adam broke it in his flesh, but he represented you. If you don't understand that, you don't understand yourself. You don't understand who you are. You don't understand what you're like. If you don't understand that you were born into the broken covenant of works, how can you how can you understand yourself? But right after Adam broke the covenant of works, death enters the world, sin enters the world. Christ is promised. Adam failed. And right when he failed, the father speaks a curse to the serpent who tempted Adam. And in that curse, he promises Christ will come. Jesus Christ will come and succeed where Adam failed. Genesis 3:15, the Lord immediately promises what is called the new covenant of grace, the new covenant. He promised that the seed of the woman, who is Christ, would crush the head of the serpent, who is Satan, at great cost to himself, that's pointing to the cross, and he would make right what Adam had made wrong by his sin. That's the Adamic covenant.

Then years later, the Lord established the Noahic covenant with Noah and Noah's posterity. Both the Adamic covenant and the Noahic covenant are a covenant with creation in general. Everybody. Everybody. It's Adam and all of his descendants. Then it's Noah and all of his descendants. And when it's made with Adam and all his descendants, everyone came from Adam. when it's made with Noah and all his descendants, everybody came from Noah because the Lord in his judgment wiped out the entire earth except Noah and his sons. So, the Noahic covenant was made with Noah and his posterity. It obligates fruitful multiplication. It threatens death. It promises preservation of the world in general. And it's sealed by a sign, the rainbow is what we call it. The Noahic covenant is a covenant with creation in general and is still in effect today. Furthermore, it's why the Lord has not destroyed the earth in a flood. He has hung his war bow in the clouds. If you do not understand the Noahic covenant, then you don't understand why the world continues as it does to this day. And you do not understand the mercy of God. You don't understand the mercy of God that he's promised, I'm not going to destroy the entire earth with water again like I did in the days of Noah. It's not because the world in general doesn't deserve it. It's because I've promised that I won't. and I

hung up my war bow in the clouds and I give you a sign of my mercy to all of creation every time the rainbow, the war bow of God appears. You don't understand that he's saying, "I will not disrupt things again. Times will change, seasons will change." And he promises that in the Noahic covenant, the preservation of creation.

Then later after the Noahic covenant, the Lord established the Abrahamic covenant with Abraham and his descendants to give he promised to give the land of Canaan and reveal in it further aspects of what Christ will do and be when Christ enters the world to redeem sinners. Within the Abrahamic covenant, the Lord reveals more about who Jesus is, what he will accomplish when he comes to save. He will be a descendant of Abraham according to the flesh. So, it gets narrower. And in Genesis 3:15, we have the seed of the woman. It's like, okay, so a descendant of Adam and Eve, like, okay, that could be anybody. Then in the Abrahamic covenant, the Lord says it will he will be a descendant of Abraham. Like that narrows it down more. But not only will he be a descendant of Abraham according to the flesh, according to Christ's human nature, he's promised that he will be a king. So the seed of the woman that will crush the head of the serpent and redeem sinners will not just be a descendant of Abraham, but he'll be a king. and he will bless the entire world. It's like so we get a bigger scope. Crush the head of the serpent at great cost to himself in Genesis 3:15. Okay. Descendant of Abraham. All right. King. Okay. Bless all the nations of the world. Like we're getting a clearer picture of who Christ will be, what he will accomplish. And that's what the Lord reveals in the Abrahamic covenant about Christ. The reason the Lord established the Abrahamic covenant though was to preserve a particular people in a particular land until Jesus would be born through them at a proper time. That's a chief reason. A descendant of Abraham according to the flesh. And the Lord promises this land of Canaan where they were sojourners at the time so that a kingdom will be established Abraham's descendants so that Christ according to his human nature will be born there. Those people will be preserved until the fullness of time comes and according to God's wise providence he sends Christ into the world as the God man to redeem us. If you don't understand the Abrahamic covenant, you won't understand the Jews today. If you don't understand the Abrahamic covenant, you will not understand the nation state of Israel today. You'll be very confused about it. As many, not only Christians, but as many people in the world are confused about it. If you don't understand the Abrahamic covenant, you won't understand and rightly identify the errors of dispensationalism and Zionism. You won't understand those things and how people believe certain things in there and you go, "How do you believe this? Why do you believe this?" Or you might just go along with it because you don't properly understand the Abrahamic covenant and what the purpose was. Furthermore, you won't understand who is in the new covenant if you don't properly understand the Abrahamic covenant. You won't understand who should be baptized. You won't

understand who should be a church member. So, we need to understand the Abrahamic covenant.

And then after the Abrahamic covenant, the Lord established the Mosaic covenant, which is what we bring our attention to today. The Lord established the Mosaic covenant. Mosaic, meaning Moses was the mediator of the covenant. And so we name the covenants after the people that are either the federal heads, the covenant heads of it, or the mediator of it. Moses is the mediator of this covenant. And God worked through him to make this covenant. So the Lord established the Mosaic covenant with Abraham's descendants to build upon and expand the Abrahamic covenant. Hear that again. That's very You need to very clearly understand the Mosaic as it relates to the Abrahamic. The Lord established the Mosaic covenant with Abraham's descendants to build upon and expand the Abrahamic covenant as well as further foreshadow the new covenant in Christ. The main purpose of the Mosaic covenant though is to build upon and expand the Abrahamic covenant so that these particular people, Abraham's descendants, will know how to function once they become a nation state, a kingdom until Christ is born through them and comes into the world to save sinners. If you do not understand the Mosaic covenant, you won't understand why in the Old Testament there are animal sacrifices and in the New Testament we don't do that. Why don't we have an altar right here to where we're sacrificing animals? Not just because it's messy or would be weird, but because that was under the Mosaic covenant and not under the new covenant. So, you won't understand how to you'll buy the lie that foolish atheists will tell you. It's like, well, God says you can't eat shellfish. You go, oh my gosh. If you don't understand the Mosaic covenant, you go, "Yeah, that was part of the ceremonial dietary laws, which were purposive laws that existed for a specific period of time to set these people apart, and they just pointed to and foreshadowed the Lord Jesus Christ, who declared all foods clean." Like that was a part of the ceremonial law. ceremonial law just pointed to Christ and was fulfilled in Christ and no longer obligates Christians. It's like we're not ignoring parts of the Bible. He didn't gotcha us. But a lot of Christians get gotcha'd because they don't understand the covenants and they're like, "Yeah, that's true. We should observe the Saturday Sabbath." Like, "Nope, you don't understand the covenants. We should not wear mixed linen." Well, you don't understand the covenants. We shouldn't eat shellfish. You don't understand the covenants if you're saying those kind of things. You need to understand the covenants or you're going to get tripped up on a lot of things and you'll fall into ridiculous error like many people even do today. You won't understand the animal sacrifices. You won't understand why there were priests in the Old Testament, but we don't have priests. You go, "Wait, the Roman Catholic Church has priests?" Like, yeah. and they're wrong. We don't have priests in the new covenant. Christ is the priest that all the old covenant priests pointed to and he fulfilled that. We don't have prophets now that directly speak from God to the people. I'm not a prophet. I am a preacher and my job is to explain and apply God's perfect word that has been revealed. I am

not telling you anything like directly from God through my mouth to you in this new revelation. My job is to explain and apply the perfect word of the Lord. Why don't we have prophets today? Why don't we have priests? Why were there food laws and ceremonial laws in the Old Testament and there aren't now? It's because of the Mosaic covenant and the difference between that and the new covenant. So, you need to understand covenant theology so you can properly understand the world you live in yourself, the Bible, and ultimately Jesus. Do we see why? All right. Now, let's try to properly understand and apply the Mosaic covenant. First, look in your Bible with me at Exodus 6:1-5. I've got three main things I want to point you to, three main truths as we consider the Mosaic covenant. And they're very simple. And so I'm going to move through the first two rather quickly so we can spend more time on the third, which helps us see how does the Mosaic covenant prepare us for Christ or point ultimately towards Christ.

So first of all, you need to see in the passage even that pastor Nate read in Exodus 6:1-5, you need to see the Mosaic covenant is built on the Abrahamic covenant. The Mosaic covenant is built on the Abrahamic covenant. It's not like totally new and separate. The Noah is over here. The Abrahamic's here. Like they're different. The Noahic is with all creation, even animals. The Lord's not going to wipe the whole earth out with a flood. The Abrahamic's over here. It's with Abraham and his descendants in order to prepare the way for Christ. But the Mosaic is not like the Abrahamic is here and the Mosaic here. No, the Abrahamic's here. The Mosaic is right on top of it. And the Davidic will be right on top of the Mosaic. They're all connected. They're built on top of one another. Notice that when God's people under the Old Testament are still enslaved in Egypt and he's going to set them free, then he's going to establish the Mosaic covenant with them at Mount Sinai. Notice the background of that and why the Lord says he's going to do that. The Lord said to Moses, Exodus 6 verse one, the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh, for with a strong hand he will send them out." He's talking about setting his people free through the plagues that he will send upon the land of Egypt so that his people, the Abraham's descendants according to the flesh here, will be set free. With a strong hand, he will drive them out of his land. God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name, the Lord." This is the personal the covenant name of God. If you use a King James, if you prefer that, it would be Jehovah. Or if you use a different translation, it might be Yahweh. It's the personal name of the Lord. By my name, the Lord, I did not make myself known to them. I verse four, I also establish my covenant with them. For what purpose? Are you reading in your Bible? I established my covenant with them. The Abrahamic covenant is what he's talking about. For what purpose? To give them the land of Canaan. That's the primary purpose of the Abrahamic covenant. To give them the land so that they would be preserved until Christ comes through them. The land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, verse five, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel, whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered

my covenant. I have remembered my covenant as the Abrahamic. That's what he's talking about. So, he's about to establish the Mosaic with them. And the background of it, the foundation of it is I'm remembering the covenant I made with Abraham. So, the Abrahamic covenant is in the foreground of the Exodus and the Mosaic covenant. Next, the Mosaic covenant expanded the Abrahamic covenant. The Mosaic covenant expanded the Abrahamic covenant. Turn in your Bibles to the right and go to Genesis or Exodus rather, Exodus 19 verses 1-6. When the Lord establishes the Mosaic covenant with Abraham's descendants through Moses, Moses is the mediator. He's establishing it with the people of Israel. They come to be called the people of Israel because Jacob, one of Abraham's descendants, is his name is changed to Israel. He who wrestles with God. And so now it's the people of Israel. Exodus 19:1-6. The Mosaic covenant just expanded the Abrahamic covenant. In the Abrahamic covenant, the Lord made a covenant with Abraham and his offspring in him. That's Genesis 15:18. In the Mosaic covenant, the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel. With the people of Israel.

It's not just Abraham and his singular offspring or something like that. It's all of the people of Israel. Exodus 19 1-6. This is at Sinai on the third new moon. After the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They settled out of Rephidim and came in the wilderness of Sinai and they camped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain while Moses went up to God. The Lord called out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel, you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. 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, 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. It's in the Abrahamic covenant. It's Abraham and his descendants, but it's made with Abraham. Okay? It's made with Abraham and his descendants who aren't yet born. But in the Mosaic covenant, it's made with all of those living descendants right there and then their physical descendants which come after them. The Abrahamic is with one person and then descendants who aren't yet born. The Mosaic is the same people. It just expands it and he makes it with a whole group of people. A covenant is not just between two people. It's between at least two parties. And the two parties here are God and the people of Israel. So the Mosaic covenant just expands the Abrahamic covenant. It's no new people. You're not like, "Oh, I didn't know the Lord was going to make a covenant with them." It's like, "Yeah, he said Abraham and his descendants." Now he's entering the Mosaic with all of those living Israelites and their descendants after them. Now, you need to note and make clear you understand, we call it the Mosaic covenant, but it's not because Moses is the head or representative of the covenant. No, he's just the mediator of this covenant. He's not the federal head, the representative as Abraham was of the Abrahamic covenant. He's the federal head. He's the representative. Moses is just

the mediator that God worked through. God didn't promise anything to Israel in Moses. Like if you're connected to Moses, you get these blessings. No. So one of the questions you need to ask when understanding that it's like Moses isn't the covenant head representative of this covenant. Why isn't there a federal head, covenant head, a representative of the Mosaic covenant? Why? There's one in the Adamic, that's Adam. There's one in the Noahic, that's Noah. There's one in the Abrahamic, that's Abraham. But there's not a covenant head representative in the Mosaic. Why? Because it's built upon the Abrahamic covenant. There is no need for a different covenant head. It just expands the Abrahamic covenant. That's why there's no federal head. Abraham is still the federal head in the Mosaic covenant. He's still the representative who represents all the people.

So firstly, the parties in the Mosaic covenant are the same except expanded. The parties are the same, just expands. He makes it with this whole people. But also the precepts, the rules of the Mosaic covenant are the same as the Abrahamic except just expanded. Go to just look at verses five and six again. 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, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation if you keep my covenant. Well, what does that look like? That's all he said to Abraham. And it was signified, you shall keep my covenant, he says in Genesis 17. And it was signified by their being circumcised. That's the sign that they were keeping the Lord's covenant and being loyal to him in the covenant. But in Exodus 19, it just repeats the same thing. You keep my covenant if you will do it. But then the Abrahamic covenant—or the Mosaic, rather—reveals more laws. It's more expansive. Turn in your Bibles to Exodus 34 a few more pages to the right. Exodus 34:27 and 28.

Well, you turn there, just remember that in the Abrahamic, the Lord demanded Abraham and his offspring keep his covenant, and that was signified by their being circumcised. In the Mosaic, the Lord demanded that Israel keep his covenant, which looked like obeying the law, the explicit laws that the Lord gave through Moses, the moral law, judicial law, and ceremonial law. You can see this in Exodus 34 27 and 28. And the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for in accordance with these words, I have made a what? covenant with you and with Israel. So he was there with the Lord 40 days and 40 nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

So the Mosaic covenant has the same precepts or rules as the Abrahamic except it's just expanded. loyalty, obedience to the Lord. Though the moral law of God is the only part mentioned here in Exodus 34, remember that the judicial law is the moral law applied to jurisprudence. And the ceremonial law shows how to stay clean or be cleansed when you have violated the moral or judicial law. So the precepts of the Mosaic covenants are the same as the Abrahamic except

expanded. The promises also are the same. The promises of the Mosaic covenant are the same exact promises as the Abrahamic covenant. It's about the land. Go to Deuteronomy chapter 30. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy chapter 30 verses 15- 20. In the Abrahamic covenant, the Lord promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants. In the Mosaic covenant, the Lord promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants. It's the same promise. They're built on top of one another. Deuteronomy 30:15-20. See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. The promise of the Mosaic covenant is the same as the Abrahamic, the land of Canaan. It's repeated in Jeremiah 7, Jeremiah 11, Jeremiah 32 with threatenings even that if you don't obey, you're going to be kicked out of the land that I've given you. God will bless the descendants of Abraham as long as they continue to obey his commands is what Sam Renihan says. And he's right. So the promises of the Abrahamic and the Mosaic, it's the same promise. It's the land. Now go back one chapter to Deuteronomy 29. I want you to see that the penalties of the Mosaic covenant are the same as the Abrahamic.

The parties are the same; the rules are the same; the promises are the same; and the penalties are the same.

Deuteronomy 29:24-26. Remember that in Genesis 17, the penalty in the Abrahamic covenant for breaking it was being cut off from the land. Cut you off if you break my covenant. It's the same thing here in Deuteronomy 29:24-26. The Mosaic penalty for breaking the covenant was being cut off from the land. Deuteronomy 29:24-26. All the nations will say, "Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?" Then the people will say, "It is because they abandoned the what?" Covenant. They abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known, and whom he had not allotted to them. So the Mosaic penalty for breaking the covenant was being cut off from the land. When this land is in ruin, they're exiled and people go, "What happened?" They will say they broke the covenant of the Lord and that was the penalty. If you obey my covenant, you will live long in the land. If you don't, I will cut you off from the land.

The penalties of the Mosaic covenant are the same as the Abrahamic. So why is there a need for the Mosaic covenant if it is simply building on and expanding the Abrahamic covenant? Why do we need the Mosaic? Why did the Lord establish the Mosaic if, as I've just shown you, all it does is build upon and expand? It's not substantially new. It's just expanded. The answer is at least this. The Mosaic

covenant is a new and larger set of laws and threats which matches with a people who are about to inherit a land and become an official kingdom. There was no need for the judicial and ceremonial laws. While they were still a nomadic people who set up a tent and tore it down and set up a tent and tore it down and moved around, they didn't have a kingdom. They didn't have a nation. They were a nomadic people. And there was definitely no need of this these kind of expansive laws and threats when they were still slaves in Egypt.

So why is there a Mosaic if it's just built upon and expands the Abrahamic? Another answer is the Mosaic covenant was established to protect Abraham's descendants as a nation so that they would be preserved until Christ would come into the world through them. As you know, a family has a certain set of rules and you need those rules to function properly. But when you talk about an entire city or an entire state or an entire nation, you're going to need a few more rules than you simply have in your own household. And so it is with the Mosaic covenant. The Abrahamic is small, focused. It's just Abraham and his descendants and they're a nomadic people and then they become slaves and then once the Lord sets them free and they're a great number of people and they're about to go kick the Canaanites out, destroy them because they're wicked idolaters. They destroy them and then they establish a nation, a kingdom. You need more expensive rules for having a kingdom established. That's why the Mosaic covenant is established. But there's another answer. It's not just they didn't need those laws when they weren't yet a kingdom. It's also the Mosaic covenant prepared the way for Christ. The Mosaic covenant prepared the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. So, as we close, let me point out to you six ways the Mosaic covenant prepared the way for Christ. Now, by the way, understanding this and what I'm about to point you to, these six things that the Mosaic Covenant points us to Christ makes us long for Christ or when Christ appears and we understand and we go, "Whoa, that was what that was ultimately pointing to and about and helped us appreciate Christ even more." Understanding these things will help you understand your Bible and the Old Testament in general and how it's always pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ and his finished work. So, here's six ways the Mosaic Covenant prepared the way for the Lord Jesus. First, the Mosaic Covenant was established to show our utter need for Christ as no mere man is able to keep God's law perfectly. The Mosaic covenant was established to show our utter need for Christ as savior, as forgiver of sin, as giver, imputer of righteousness, because no mere man is able to keep God's law perfectly, as you are required to and as you should. Galatians 3:10-11, "For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for the righteous shall live by faith.

The moral law of God explicitly revealed in the Ten Commandments summarized there just reveals this is how you're created to live. This is how you glorify God.

This is how you must live. Look how utterly short of it you fall. And the wages of sin is death. That's one way that the Mosaic covenant prepares us for Christ. Galatians 3:19 says, "Why then the law? If we can't be saved through the law, why was the law given?" He says it was added because of transgressions until the offspring Christ should come to whom the promise had been made and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. In Galatians 3:24, the law was our guardian until Christ came in order that we might be justified by faith. The law and how utterly short of it you fall reveals how badly you need Jesus to forgive you of your sin and to count you righteous. So you should use this truth for warning. That's what the Mosaic covenant, that's one of the reasons it's established. If you do not bend the knee to Christ Jesus, if you do not trust in his life without sin, his death as a substitute for sinners, taking the judgment we deserve, if you do not trust in his resurrection to defeat Satan's sin and death, then you need to know you are under a curse. Period. If you do not belong to Christ Jesus, then you are still in Adam and Adam represents you before God. And Adam fell. Adam is a sinner. And you, your activity is not simply sinner. Your identity, that's who you are outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. You think you can be good enough? No. All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. Because Adam broke the covenant of works and because you sinned in him and you have sinned yourself as well, the only thing you can do is damn yourself. Only Christ can save you. So you need to be warned. The fleeting pleasures of sin will eventually run out and all that will be left for you is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So wake up.

Turn from your sins to Christ and he will save you. He will sanctify you. He will preserve you. He will provide for you. And one day he will glorify you. All who rely on the works of the law. All who rely on themselves. Another way to say that is all who do not rely on Christ alone for salvation as he is offered to them are under a curse. But Galatians 3:13 says, "Christ redeemed us," meaning believers, Christians. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." You are under a curse for your sin, for Adam's sin that you inherited. You're under a curse on your own. And that's why Christ went to the cross to be a substitute for sinners and take the curse that we are owed for our sin, die a sinner's death, and arise from the dead to be a perfect savior for all who come to him. All of you who are not yet bending the knee to Christ, you need to repent of your sin, believe the gospel, you need to be baptized, join with the church, walk with Christ's people all the days of your life for his glory, and everybody's good. That's what you need to do. Turn from your sin, submit to Christ. You need to do that now. The Mosaic covenant was established to show you that how badly you need the Lord Jesus because you have not lived up to God's perfect standard as you are required to and the wages of sin is death. But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. But the Mosaic covenant was also established secondly to show that without the shedding

of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. This is why the animal sacrifices existed. This is what they're ultimately pointing forward. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.

The wages of sin is death. And God does not grade on a curve. You're not special. What you deserve for sinning against God, this is in effect, you're trying to steal God's glory. He's created you for himself, by himself, and you say, "No, I'll do what I want to do." That's what you're doing when you sin. No, forget you. Like, I created you. I sustain you every second of every day. I put my law in your heart. You have a conscience. You know what is right. You know that you should worship me. And that's a sinner says no. The wages of sin is death. There are no ultimately small sins because there's no small god to sin against.

Traitors deserve the king's justice. And without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.

Someone has to die. That's how serious sin is. And the Mosaic covenant is established to show that all these animal sacrifices which are ultimately just pointing forward to as John the Baptist says the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Hebrews 9:22 says, "Indeed, under the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins." You know, it's true. You know that forgiveness is always costly. Forgiveness is not free. You can say things like, "Well, just freely forgive them." Like, it doesn't ever work like that. And you know it. One example, let somebody borrow your car and they're driving your car and because of their own fault, they wreck it. Total your car. Now, you have an option. You can make them repay or you can pay for it. You can forgive them, but does that automatically make the car not be wrecked? Of course not. I can forgive you. I can release you from that. If I let you borrow my car and you total it, I can forgive you, but someone's got to pay. Who's going to pay? I'm just saying I'll pay. I'll forgive you from that, but I then have to pay it. And so it is with the justice, the justice of God. Forgiveness is never free. Someone has to pay. God is not unjust. He will not sweep sin under the rug of the universe. He will not be like many of our judges in our day are who simply wink at sin or wink at crimes. No, the Lord is just and holy and righteous and will by no means clear the guilty. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. And so Christ says, "I will shed my blood so that my people who believe in me, who trust in me, will have their sins forgiven." Every time, boys and girls, look up here at me. Every time you hear or read about animals being sacrificed, especially in the Old Testament, you should think that is what sin demands. Sin against God deserves death. Every animal that died was pointing to the fact that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. And that's why Christ came into the world to shed his blood willingly on the cross so that you and I could be forgiven. When you look at

the cross of the Lord Jesus and what he experienced both physically, emotionally, spiritually, suffering under the wrath of God the Father that you deserve and I deserve, you should be thinking, "That's what I deserve." And Christ willingly did that in my place. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. All the blood of all the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament are like as it were rolling down a hill. And finally, if you follow it, it brings you to the foot of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. And you go, whoa. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. And Christ willingly did that for me. The Mosaic covenant. Thirdly, was established to show us our need for a better priest than Aaron. Aaron is the priest and then all of Aaron's descendants are the priests who offer the sacrifices. But there was one big problem. They couldn't actually through their animal sacrifices, through their priestly work, they couldn't actually take away sins and they all died. So they couldn't properly represent people before God forever. Aaron died, his sons died, their sons died, and they don't live forever. So how we need someone, a priest who represents us to God, who is perfect and can actually take away our sin and actually never dies, who always lives to be our priest to make us make us acceptable to God. Hebrews 10:1-13. This is what the Mosaic covenant is preparing us for. We need a better priest than Aaron who never dies, who doesn't have to keep offering sacrifices, but can offer one sacrifice and sit down at the right hand of God the Father. Every priest stands daily at his service offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. This is the animal sacrifices under the Mosaic covenant. Verse 12. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemy should be made a footstool for his feet. The priests in the Mosaic covenant are always standing, always standing, always standing, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. And then Christ enters the world, offers a single sacrifice for all time, and the giving up of himself on the cross, and after his resurrection, he ascends back to heaven. And he's not standing. He sits down because his work is finished. That's what the Mosaic covenant is showing us, preparing us for. We need a better priest than Aaron. We need someone who doesn't die and can actually finish the work. The Mosaic covenant fourthly was established to show our need for a better sacrifice. Not only do we need a better priest than Aaron, we need one who lives forever and can intercede for us forever, but we need a better sacrifice than uh bulls and goats because a bull and a goat can never be a substitute for a human.

Hebrews 9:13-14. If the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of heifer sanctify for the purification of the flesh, that meant sanctify so they can continue living in the land. Didn't sanctify them internally, just externally so they could continue living in the land. How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without blemish to God, how much more will he purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Christ is the priest, but he's also the sacrifice. He offers himself as a sacrifice on the cross. The Mosaic covenant was established to show

our need for a better prophet. a better prophet than Moses. Moses is the prophet who speaks from God to the people. We need a better prophet than Moses. Moses sinned. Moses died. That's what the whole book of Deuteronomy is. He's about to not go into the promised land because of his sin. So, they're about to have their prophet removed from them. Mosaic covenant shows us our need for a better prophet than Moses. And that's the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the whole point of Deuteronomy 18 15-19. He promises Moses, the Lord, he says, the Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you from your brothers. To him shall you listen. The Christ is the prophet who perfectly reveals God to us. The Mosaic covenant prepares us for that. Next, finally, the Mosaic covenant was established to show us our need for a better mediator than Moses. Moses was the mediator of the old covenant. And Christ is the mediator of the new covenant of grace. The Mosaic covenant just prepares us for that.

Hebrews 9:15, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. He is the mediator Christ of a new covenant. And he represents us before God always because he died for sin and arose resurrected from the dead for our salvation to be our prophet to be our priest to be our king to be our mediator to be our representative. There is one God and there is one mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 7:25 says, "Consequently, Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him since he always lives to make intercession for them." That's the mediator you need, who always lives to make intercession for you. Moses is dead. He can't help you. Christ is alive. Use this truth believers for encouragement. Christian, you have a mediator in Christ Jesus who has secured for you an eternal inheritance in the land of the living. You have a mediator who has redeemed you from even the worst of your sins. The sins maybe no one else even knows about but you. You have a mediator who has redeemed you from even the worst of your sins through his death in your place. Christians, you have a mediator who is able and willing to save you to the uttermost since he always lives to make intercession for you. The Lord established the Mosaic covenant to build upon and expand the Abrahamic covenant as well as foreshadow the new covenant of grace in Christ. Galatians 4:4 and 5. I'll read this to close. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so we might receive adoption as sons. The fullness of time has come. Christ has come and established the new covenant, which the Mosaic prepared for and foreshadowed. look to Christ Jesus. All who believe in him will never be put to shame. Let's pray. Our father in heaven, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us understand your covenants. Help us to understand the purpose of them. Help us to see how they foreshadow and point us ultimately to Christ Jesus, our King and Savior. We ask you to save those. make alive, regenerate, cause to be born again those who are not yet alive in Christ. Open their eyes to see the

heinousness of their sin, the guilt of their sin, and the remedy in Christ Jesus, life, death, and resurrection. open their eyes so that they would turn from sin and cling to Christ Jesus, submitting to him through faith. For those who are in Christ, we ask you to make them more like him. Make all of us more like Christ. Sanctify us. Purify this local church. Help us to be a holy people.

Help us to be holy. For those who are sick, we ask that you heal them. For those who are suffering, we ask that you comfort them. Those who are straying from you, we ask that you correct them. And those who are striving forward, we ask that you strengthen them. be glorified now as we offer up worship to you through song, through prayer, through confession, through the Lord's supper, through fellowship, through our feasting together. We ask that you would be glorified and you would receive all these things we do for Christ's sake. Receive them. Amen.