

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

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GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

God's Covenant Are Spelled Out To Abraham, To Isaac, To Jacob, And Then To Israel Through Moses

- **Deuteronomy 29:1 (NIV)** (1) These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

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A covenant is a formal, binding agreement or pledge between two parties

- **A covenant is a “life agreement” in which the parties pledge themselves to one another.**
- i.e. A marriage is a form of a covenant

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In the case of God's covenant with his people, His pledge is to be their God and They are to reserve themselves as his people.

- The covenant is based on God's laws and promises for the people**
- And on the people's faithfulness and obedience to God.**

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As long as the people lived by the guidelines and commitments of their “life agreement” with God

- They would enjoy a special relationship with him
- They would experience the life and purpose he intended for them.

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**The Covenant That God Had Made With Abraham
Began And Is Spelled Out In Genesis 12:1-3**

- The Covenant Was Handed Down To Abraham's Lineage
- As The Family Tree Continued God Raised Up Moses
- God Told Moses That The Covenant Was Still In Effect

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READ: Exodus 19:1-6

- (5) *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, (6) you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

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The covenant God made with Israel at Mount Sinai includes the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

- 1. God alone establishes the promises and obligations of His covenant***
- 2. People are expected to accept them in obedient faith.***

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God's promises in covenant are reiterated to Moses

- God promised:
 - (a) to give the Israelites the land of Canaan
 - (b) to be their God and to adopt them as his people
- **Exodus 6:7 (NIV) — 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.**

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- God's ultimate goal was to bring the Messiah into the world through the covenant people.**

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Before God would fulfill the promises of His Covenant, He required the Israelites to commit themselves to obeying the laws He gave them

- The Israelites vowed: “Everything the Lord has said we will do!”
- *“Without this solemn promise to accept –their part of the bargain -- the law’s requirements, the covenant between Israel and God would not have been established as an accepted “life agreement”*

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Obedience to God's law was always a condition of the covenant for Israel

- *God tells them what would happen if his people failed to live up to their covenant responsibilities.*
- *The penalty for disobedience was to be removed from the covenant community, either by banishment or death*
- *Disobedience and lack of faith would cause them to lose their inheritance in the promised land*

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An example of how God had warned them:

- **Leviticus 26:14-45**

For Us:

- *Sin, Rebellion, And Disobedience Toward God, Rejection Of His Will And His Ways Is A Great Tragedy*
- *Those Who Continue In Sin Will Not Be Blessed – But Walk Out From Under The Blessing*

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Obedience To God's Covenant Is So Important

- *God did not expect complete perfection from his people. He simply required a sincere, strong and continued effort to do all that he commanded*
- *God also understood the weakness of human nature and recognized the fact that people would fail at times*

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God provided a system of sacrifices, which provided “covering” and forgiveness for sins --To remove the guilt of sin and to restore the people’s relationship with him,

- *The people could confess their sins, offer various sacrifices and renew their relationship with God.*
- *The covenant would be restored*

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Through his covenant with the Israelites, God intended that people in other nations would recognize the benefits of following the true God and would want to become a part of this community of faith

- *Through the promised Redeemer (i.e., Savior, Christ), God would also invite the nations of the world to accept these promises, too. In this sense, the covenant had a missionary emphasis.*

Fire Bible

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The Covenant Was Renewed On The Plains Of Moab.

- Deuteronomy 29:1–15

The rebellious and unfaithful generation had died.

God prepared a new generation to enter the promised land by renewing his covenant with him.

- Deuteronomy 30:1–10
- Deuteronomy 30:19–20

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To conquer Canaan successfully would require their commitment to this covenant and the assurance that God would be with them.

- God's covenant is still relevant today.
- The New Testament is God's new “life agreement” with us
- *The New Covenant* is established through the personal sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ.

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**Is God Through With Them?
Or Does His Covenant Still Apply To Them?**

- God tells us in many passages of Scripture that He cares about Israel and has an end-times plan to save them
- His covenant is still intact

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- **Zechariah 2:8 (NIV)** (8) For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you--for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye—
- **Zechariah 2:12-13 (NIV)** (12) The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. (13) Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling."
- **Ezekiel 5:5 (NIV)** (5) "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

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God Loves And Honors Israel...

- Yet Israel does not always respond in kind
- Hosea tells us that Israel is like an adulterous wife
- Because of their **waywardness**-- and because of **His love**
- God has **both wrath and grace prepared for them**

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The Time Of Wrath Will Be A Time Of Unparalleled Trouble

- **Jeremiah 30:7 (NIV) (7) How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.**

It Is Also A Time Of Grace

- Jeremiah is speaking about the time of future tribulation of terrible suffering and distress for the Jewish people

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- **Jacob's (i.e., Israel's) trouble** will finally end when Christ returns to establish his kingdom on earth and reign with his people over all nations for a thousand years (Rev 19:11-21; 20:4-6;) **Fire Bible**.
- **Zechariah 13:1 (NIV)** (1) "On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.
- *Because of his great mercy and desire to forgive, God will open a spiritual fountain of his grace—his undeserved favor—that will cleanse the Jewish people from their sin.*

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The Prophecies About And Regarding Israel

There Are Three Perspectives To Consider

- 1) *Prophecies That Have Already Been Fulfilled*
- 2) *Prophecies That Are Current*
- 3) *Prophecies That Are Going To Be Fulfilled In The Future*

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- **Prophecies Already Fulfilled**

1. **DISPERSION** – Israel Will Be Dispersed Around The World
(Deut. 28:64-67; Lev. 26:33)
2. **PERSECUTION** – Israel Will Be Persecuted By The Nations
(Deuteronomy 28:65)
3. **DESOLATION** --The Land Of Israel Will Become Desolate (Lev. 26:33; Deut. 29:22-23
4. **PRESERVATION** --Israel Will Be Preserved (Isaiah 66:22 ; Jeremiah 30:11; Isaiah 49:13-15)

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In These Last Days Israel Became A Nation (In 1 Day)

- *Many Maneuverings Took Place To Bring A Destroyed, And Persecuted People Back Together Into Their Desolate Land*
- *It Is The Same Land That Abraham Had Been On When God Said, “This Land Is For You And Your Children”*
- ***Today Israel Remains A Nation --A Nation Of Covenant With God***