

The Covenant

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: What IS a "covenant"?

Q: What are the benefits of a covenant? What are the penalties for breaking a covenant?

Q: Can you think of any in the Bible?

READ: Deuteronomy 29:10-15 "You are standing today, all of you, before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, ¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, ¹² so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today, ¹³ that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. ¹⁴ It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, ¹⁵ but with whoever is standing here with us today before the Lord our God, and with whoever is not here with us today."

Q: Moses speaks to the people in this section. According to verses 10-12, "who" was this "sworn covenant" being made with?

Q: According to verses 13, WHY is God doing this?

Q: What are the roots of this covenant?

Q: According to verses 14=15, what does Moses reiterate AND, what does this tell us about God AND His design for "His people"?

Q: Is "Israel" ONLY the biological descendants of Abraham? OR is "Israel" something MORE? Why? Or why not?

READ: Deuteronomy 29:16-20 "You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. ¹⁷ And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. ¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of

those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.' This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. ²⁰ The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven."

Q: What did Moses "warn" the people about? What does this have to do with the covenant?

Q: Why were the consequences so severe?

Q: Why did the sin in the heart of "one" effect the many?

Q: Why was "keeping" the covenant, hard? (Matthew 5:48)

Q: Why does THAT idea point to our need for Jesus?

READ: Luke 22:19-20 "And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Q: What was Jesus doing in the institution of Holy Communion in regards to a covenant?

Q: What

READ: Matthew 26:27-29 "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins**. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Q: What are the promises of this "new covenant"?

Q: Why is it important to be under a covenant of grace as opposed to a covenant of the Law?

Q: How does(can) the "New Covenant" bless, change, orient your life?

