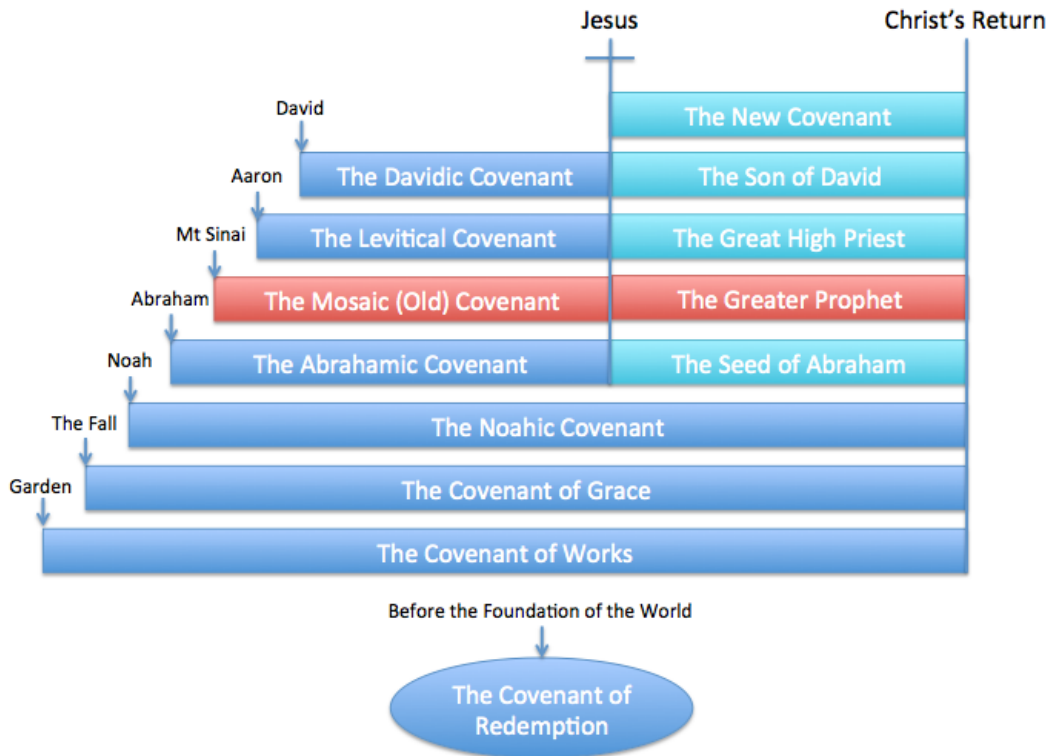




Introduction

The covenant God made at Sinai required perfect obedience just as the covenant God made with Adam required perfect obedience. Exodus 24:3



This covenant is not another way of salvation, and it does not replace the Abrahamic Covenant. However, the Mosaic Covenant is central to understanding much of the Old Testament and helps us understand role of law and grace in salvation. Jesus fulfills this covenant in his life and in his death.

The Covenant Defined

Preamble and Historical Prologue

Exodus 20:2

- The preamble identifies the parties of the treaty or just the suzerain.
- The historical prologue gives the past relationship between the parties.

Stipulations

Exodus 20:3–17

- Stipulations or requirements govern the relationship between the covenant parties.
- The section of covenant stipulations can be extended through Exodus 23:19.



Public Reading and Deposit

Exodus 24:1–11

- Public reading of the treaty. Exodus 24:1–11, Deuteronomy 31:9–11
- Place a copy of the treaty in in the temple. Exodus 25:16

Summary

- The book of Deuteronomy, which is a restatement of the covenant, follows a structure similar to Exodus.
- Historical prologue is in chapters 1–4.
- General stipulations, including the Ten Commandments are in chapters 5–11.
- More specific stipulations are found in chapters 12–26.
- In chapters 27–30 we find the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.
- This treaty form we’ve used is helpful in understanding the Mosaic Covenant.
 - The parallels between the Mosaic Covenant and the suzerainty treaty show us is the relationship between covenant and law. Law comes from the covenant.
 - The covenant contains legal language. There are sanctions or obligations for Israel, and God has obligations as their covenant Lord.
 - This treaty form emphasizes the importance of historical context to the covenant relationship.
 - The parallel to the ancient treaties shows us the importance of covenant renewal.
- A big difference between the ancient treaty forms is Israel is more than just a vassal with contractual obligations to the suzerain. Israel is God’s son. Exodus 4:21–23
- Since Israel is God’s son God is Israel’s father. God is also Israel’s redeemer. Exodus 6:6
- The prophets use marriage to describe the relationship between God and his people. Hosea 1:2, Jeremiah 3:1–2
- The critical difference between the suzerainty treaty and the biblical covenant is the love God has for his people.

The Sign of the Covenant

The Sabbath. Exodus 31:12–17

The Law and The Land

- The laws were primarily about holiness. Exodus 19:4–6
- Israel is to be a holy nation in God’s holy land.
- The laws point to the character of God.
- Because the land was God’s land following these laws was essential to staying in the land. Deuteronomy 28:64
- The land of Canaan was only promised to those who kept the Mosaic Covenant, and God knew they would not keep the land because the Mosaic Covenant did not provide the means for keeping the



covenant. God's faithfulness to Israel was based on the Abrahamic Covenant, not the Mosaic Covenant.

Covenant Limitations

- The Mosaic Covenant did not have a solution for the power of sin. Deuteronomy 10:16, Romans 7:7–12
- The Mosaic Covenant condemned sin but it could not forgive sin. Hebrews 10:1–4
- The Mosaic Covenant calls out for something or someone better. Deuteronomy 30:6

The Mosaic Covenant and The Covenant of Works

There is no relationship between the two covenants.

- Unlike the Covenant of Works, the Mosaic Covenant did not provide a way of salvation. The primary purpose of the Mosaic Covenant was to highlight the need for regeneration and justification by faith.¹
- The Mosaic Covenant is part of the implementation of the Covenant of Grace. We will consider this more in a moment.

There is a relationship between the covenants.

- The Mosaic Covenant pointed to the need for somebody to perfectly obey the law. Leviticus 18:5, Ezekiel 20:11, Romans 10:5
 - Life was promised for obedience.
 - This points to the active obedience of Christ. Jesus obeyed the law on our behalf and we are credited with his righteousness.
- Was the law given at Sinai different from the law given to Adam?

There is a sense in which the Mosaic Covenant is related to the Covenant of Works. Jesus's fulfilling the law of the Mosaic Covenant also fulfilled the Covenant of Works in that it removed the curse Adam introduced.

The Mosaic Covenant and The Covenant of Grace

- The Mosaic Covenant presents a law that must be obeyed. Jesus obeyed that law in his active obedience.
- The Mosaic Covenant presents sacrifices that atone for sin. Blood must be shed for sin to be forgiven.
- The Mosaic Covenant foreshadows both the active and the passive obedience of Christ.
- Always hidden in the physical nation of Israel was a spiritual nation of Israel.

Conclusion

Jesus is the greater prophet. Deuteronomy 18:18, John 12:49, John 6:14

¹ Greg Nichols, *Covenant Theology* (Vestavia Hill, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011), 232.