

The KEY to Understanding the Bible, Part 1

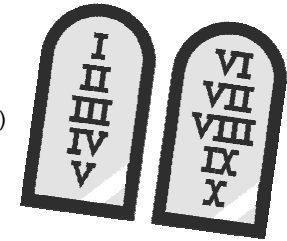
God's covenant with Abram (Genesis) [THE PROMISE OF LAND]

- Stipulations (God)
 - “I will make you into a great nation” (Gen 12:2)
 - “Offspring” will inherit the land (12:7)
 - “I will bless those who bless you” (12:2)
 - “All peoples...will be blessed through you” (12:3)
- Sanctions
- None (promissory covenant) (15:17)
- Signs, memorials, witnesses
 - Altar (12:7), sacrifice (15:17)
 - Name changed to “Abraham” (17:5)
 - Circumcision of all males (17:11)



God's covenant through Moses (Exod-Deut) [THE LAW OF HOLINESS]

- Stipulations (Israel)
 - Obedience to 613 laws
- Stipulations (God)
 - God's presence (Exod 29:45; Deut 28:1-14)
- Sanctions
 - God's absence (Deut 28:15-68)
- Signs, memorials, witnesses
 - Circumcision (Lev 12:3)
 - Heaven and earth (Deut 30:19)
 - Blood (Exod 24:7)
 - Reading of the Law (Deut 6:6-12; 31:10-11)
 - Keeping feasts (e.g., Passover, Booths, Pentecost)



But death still reigns.
Humanity is left without
hope until...

Jesus broadened the Promise of Land

- The land is heaven (Heb 11:8-11; 1 Pet 1:4; Rev 21:1)
 - Israel's true enemy is Satan, her accuser (Eph 6:12; 1 John 3:8; Rev 12:10)
 - Abraham's true “offspring” (heir of the land) is Jesus (Gal 3:16; Rev 21:2)
- The promise of land (eternal life in heaven) is available to “all peoples” through faith in Jesus (Gal 3:8-9)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph 2:8-9)

Jesus fulfilled the Law of Holiness

- Being crucified, he suffered the sanction of the covenant (Isa 53:5; Mar 15:34)
- But since he was born without the corruption of Adam's sin, he obeyed the Law perfectly and died innocently (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:19)
 - Satan's accusation could not stick; death could not hold him
 - Therefore, he could rise from the dead and take hold of eternal life/heaven (Phil 3:12-14)
- His death ends the Law covenant for those who “die” (are baptized) in him (Rom 7:4, 10:4; Gal 2:19, 3:19-25)
- His death becomes the means to true/lasting holiness
 - He is the ultimate atoning sacrifice (Isa 53:5; John 1:29)
 - He is the ultimate (eternal) high priest (Hebrews 7)
 - As a result, God's presence can be with his people without the need for a Temple (Jer 31:33; 1 Cor 6:19; Rev 21:3)



“The New Covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20)