

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE – COVENANT (PART 2)

Introduction – Abraham and his descendants find the Promised Land occupied. Famine forces them to seek refuge in Egypt where they are eventually enslaved.

A. Mosaic Covenant

1. God frees Israel from Egyptian slavery through ten plagues and a miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea.
2. At Mount Sinai, God initiates a new covenant by Moses to fulfill His earlier covenant promises.

Exodus 19:4-6

3. The Sabbath day becomes a sign of the Mosaic covenant.

Exodus 31:12-13

4. Ancient Middle Eastern covenants followed a distinct format embodied in the Hittite treaties. The book of Deuteronomy follows this format exactly.
 - a. First, the Great King making the treaty is identified (Deut. 1:1-5).
 - b. Second, a record of the historical relationship between the Great King and potential vassals is recorded (Deut. 1:6-3:29).
 - c. The core of the treaty contained stipulations and obligations of the parties involved (Deut. 4-26).
 - d. The treaties were concluded with instructions to write and preserve the treaty. Witnesses are mentioned, followed by a section on curses and blessings (Deut. 29-31)
5. This promise follows the curses and blessings.

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

B. The Davidic Kingship Covenant

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Conclusion – Most of the literature in the Old Testament describes the creation and continuation of the Mosaic and Davidic covenants. Israel became corrupt and, just as God had forewarned them, He allowed them to be carried off into captivity. The exilic prophet Ezekiel offered a word of future hope.

Ezekiel 36:24-27