

# Mosaic (Israelite) Covenant

- "God's revelation of the law to Israel was a supreme act of grace and a unique sign of privilege" (Block).
- Exodus 19:5-Deuteronomy 30
- “Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” (Ex 19:5-6)

- Based on the covenant with Abraham.
- But the *MC* is made with the generation of Israel going into the land and following, **NOT** with their fathers.
  - “The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today.” (Deut 5:3)

- MC was a divinely instituted rule of life mediated through Moses to govern God's covenant people, Israel in Canaan.
- It regulated their common, everyday conduct... The Mosaic code of laws included:
  - the commandments (Ex. 20:1-17),
  - the ordinances stipulating the Israelites' social life (21:1--23:33),
  - and those directing Israel's worship (25:1-31:18).

- The Mosaic law was given to Israel, not the Gentiles.
  - "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel" (Ex. 34:27).
  - "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel" (Exodus 19:3).
- **The Mosaic Law revealed God's character to Israel.**
  - "I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy" (Lev. 11:45). God's character is the basis for the entire law

- **The Mosaic Law does not save anyone.**
  - “By the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”(Gal 2:16)
  - "Under law" for Old Testament saints meant they were under it as a rule of life. They followed the Mosaic Law not for salvation but for sanctification.
- The MC did not nullify the AC.
  - “What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.” (Gal 3:17)

- **Purposes of the Mosaic Law**
  1. Revealed and exposed sin (Rom 3:20).
  2. The **conditional** Mosaic Law was the means through which a specific generation of Israel could experience the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (ex 19:8).
  3. Acted as a temporary guardian for Israel until Christ came (Galatians 3:23-25).

## Exodus 19:4-8

4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself.

5 ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’

These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.

# Perversions of the Law of Moses

1. Some Jews tried to make keeping the Mosaic Law a **means of salvation** (works righteousness) (see Rom 9:30-32)
2. Some Jews **emphasized the external rituals** at the expense of the heart (Mic 6:6-8).
3. Some Jews viewed the Mosaic Law as a means of **exclusive ethnocentrism against Gentiles** (see Jonah) when in reality keeping the Mosaic Law was supposed to be a witness to the Gentiles of the greatness of Israel's God.

- The unity of the Mosaic Law — It is common to divide the Mosaic Law into three parts—
  - moral (10 Commandments),
  - ceremonial,
  - and civil.
- These divisions, though, helpful for study, have no scriptural authority. The Mosaic Law is one Law and is an indivisible unity.

- **James 2:10** — “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”
- **Galatians 5:3** — “And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.”
- **Matthew 5:19** — “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments and so teaches others shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.”

## ● **Are Christians under the Mosaic Law?**

- Romans 6:14 “For you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? *May it never be!*”
- Galatians 5:18 “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”
- Hebrews 7:12 “For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.”

- Hebrews 7:18-19 “For on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment [Mosaic Law] because of its weaknesses and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”
- The believer is not under the Mosaic Law today because nowhere does the New Testament call for the inflicting of penalties for those who break the law.
- The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 declared that Gentile believers did not have to keep the Mosaic Law.

1 Corinthians 9:20-21

“And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.”

# Priestly Covenant

- 10 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy.
- 12 “Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give him My covenant of peace;
- 13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel.’ ”

- God promised Phinehas and his offspring a perpetual priesthood which will continue into the millennial kingdom through Zadok
- Ezek 44:15 - But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood,” declares the Lord GOD.
- Ezek 48:11 - It shall be for the priests who are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray as the Levites went astray.



# Family Tree of Phineas

1 Chr 6:1-4; 50-53

- Separate from other covenants
- Jer 33:20-21 — “Thus says the LORD, ‘If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.’”

# David Covenant

- When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.””” 2 Samuel 7:12-16

# Provisions of the Davidic Covenant

- David's name will be made great (v.9)
- A place, a home of their own will be provided for Israel (v. 10)
- Israel will be given undisturbed rest from all of her enemies (vv. 10-11)
- David is to have a child, yet to be born who will succeed David and establish his kingdom.

- The son, Solomon, will build the temple, not David.
- The throne of this kingdom will be established forever.
- The throne will not be taken from Solomon even though his sins are a cause for punishment.
- David's house, throne, and kingdom will be established forever. (eternal)

# Unconditional

1. God takes the initiative to indicate that He will cause this covenant to come to pass.
2. “Conditional element: whether the descendants of David would continually [without interruption] occupy the throne or not. Disobedience might bring about chastening, but never set aside the covenant
3. Was reaffirmed after repeated acts of disobedience on the part of the nation. Christ, the Son of David, came to offer the Davidic kingdom after generations of apostasy.

# **Messianic fulfillment (Psalms 2, 72, 89, 110, and 132)**

1. According to Jacob, the “scepter” and “ruler’s staff” would belong to the tribe of Judah “until he comes to whom it belongs” (Gen 49:10).
2. The prediction of end times leader, “David their king” (Jer 30:9 and Hos 3:5), points forward.
3. The promise of a specific Branch from David’s line (Jer 23:5; 33:15; Isa. 4:2; 11:2; Zech 3:8; 6:12).

Universal dimensions --

the blessing of the righteous rule of  
the promised Davidic seed was to  
extend to all nations (Ps 72:8; 89:25;  
2:8)

Peter's statement in Acts 2:29-36 that Jesus is presently at "the right hand of God" in fulfillment of Psalm 110:1 has been a source of intense theological debate.

# Best view:

- Jesus is seated at the right hand of God now but He will rule from the Davidic throne in the future after His second coming to earth.

- In Revelation 3:21 Jesus makes a distinction between the Father's throne and Jesus' throne (Davidic throne):
  - “He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

- Rev. 11:15 indicates that Jesus Christ's reign is future.

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.'”

# The New Covenant

## Unconditional and Eternal

- Promised to Israel

- Jeremiah 31:31-34

- Ezekiel 16:53-63

- Ezekiel 37:21-28

Luke 22:20 - And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Hebrews 8:13 - When He said, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9:15 - For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 12:24 - and to Jesus,  
the mediator of a new  
covenant, and to the sprinkled  
blood, which speaks better  
than *the blood* of Abel.

# Provisions of the New Covenant

1. A renewed mind and heart (regeneration)  
(Jer. 31:33; Isa. 59:21).
2. Forgiveness of sin (Jer. 31:34b).
3. Indwelling Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 36:27)

4. Teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:34)

5. Material blessings to Israel (Jer. 32:41; Isa. 61:8; Ezek. 34:25-27)

# Recipients of the New Covenant

1. Israelites (Jews) who have faith in the Messiah. (Jer, Ezek, Isa passages)

2. Gentiles who are grafted in by the grace of God through faith in Messiah (Rom 11:17).

The NC is an elaboration and fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant that included Gentile salvation apart from Israel.

Gen. 12:3 — indicates that the families of the earth would be blessed.

Isa. 42:6 — “light for the Gentiles”

Isa. 49:6 — “salvation to the ends of the earth

Isa. 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-3 - "many nations...many peoples will come to the mountain of the Yahweh"

Isa. 52:15 — The nations were to be sprinkled by the sacrificial death of the Servant.

- The church receives the spiritual blessings of the covenant now, but not the physical blessings.
- Israel was promised both spiritual and physical blessings.

- The church has not replaced Israel.
- The faithful remnant of Jews who are alive when Christ returns will inherit the kingdom when "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26).
- Believing Gentiles will also participate in these physical blessings as well in the kingdom.