



“Open Church – Open Bible”

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Sunday Church School

October 18, 2020

“God Confirms the Covenant”— Exodus 24:1-11

Golden Text: Heb. 9:24

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“Exodus 24:1-11”

¹ Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.

² And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."

³ So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."

⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

⁵ Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

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⁶ And Moses took half the blood and put *it* in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

⁸ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

⁹ Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,

¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity.

¹¹ But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

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When Israel arrived at Mount Sinai, the people expressed their commitment to obey all the Lord said (Exd. 19:8).

It does not appear there was any delay between **stated commitment** and the **ratification of their covenant** with the Lord.

When that day came, it was cause for **rejoicing**, and should also have been cause for **reflection**, for they were accepting a responsibility they were not fully prepared for.

Moses is about to receive from God the **divine pattern** for the **tabernacle** and the **priesthood**.

- Whenever God calls us to do a work, He gives us **the plans** and expects us to follow His will.
- Ministry is **not accomplished** by our trying to **invent ways to serve** God, but by seeking His will and obeying it (Isa. 8:20).

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The Bible speaks of seven different covenants, four of which (Abrahamic, Palestinian, Mosaic, Davidic) God made with the nation of Israel.

- Of those four, three are **unconditional** in nature; i.e., regardless of Israel’s obedience or disobedience, God still will fulfill these covenants with Israel.
- One of the covenants, the Mosaic Covenant, is conditional in nature; i.e., it will bring either blessing or cursing depending on Israel’s compliance
- The other three covenants (Adamic, Noahic, New) are made between God and mankind in general, and are not limited to the nation of Israel.

In this **Abrahamic covenant**, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham’s name great (Genesis 12:2)

The **Palestinian Covenant** (Deut. 30:1-10), or Land Covenant, amplifies the land aspect that was detailed in the Abrahamic Covenant.

The **Mosaic Covenant** was a conditional covenant that brought God’s blessing for obedience or God’s cursing for disobedience upon the nation; and part of the Mosaic Covenant was the Ten Commandments (Exd. 20) and the rest of the Law.

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LESSON OUTLINE: I. COVENANT AGREEMENT—Ex. 24:1-3

II. COVENANT CEREMONY—Ex. 24:4-8 III. COVENANT MEAL—Ex. 24:9-11

I. COVENANT AGREEMENT—Ex. 24:1-3

After the Ten Commandments had been given to all the people, Moses approached the Lord in the cloud (20:21).

There is a threefold giving of the law:

- **First**, orally, in Exd. 20:1–17. This was pure law, with no provision of priesthood and sacrifice for failure, and was accompanied by the “judgments” (Ex. 21:1–23, 13) relating to the relations of Hebrew with Hebrew
- **Second**, Moses was then called up to receive the tables of stone (Ex. 24:12–18). The story then divides. Moses, in the mount, receives the gracious instructions concerning the tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrifice (Ex. 25–31.).
- **Third**, the second tables were made by Moses, after he destroyed the first set with the disobedience of the people (Exd. 32) and the law again written by the hand of Jehovah (Ex. 34:1, 28, 29; Deut. 10:4).

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Seventy of Israel’s elders would accompany Moses up the mountain, serving as representatives of the people in the covenant ceremony.

➤ It appears Joshua was one of these seventy (Ex. 24:13).

Exodus 20:22—23:33 then relates various laws that apply and expand upon the Ten Commandments; and the narrative resumes in chapter 24.

- Israel’s total laws contained over 600 commands -- 300 positive and 300 negative.

In our lesson, God invited Moses to ascend the mountain along with Aaron and Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu.

Aaron would be Israel’s first high priest, and his two oldest sons would be next in line to succeed him.

- We learn later, however, that these two were judged by God and died because of their disobedience to His instructions (Lev. 10:1-2; Num. 3:4).

Moses went to the top of the mountain, the 73 other leaders were on the mountain but not at the top, and the people were below at the foot of the mountain.

- God was now ready to confirm the Mosaic Covenant with His people.

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Moses rehearsed before the people all the Lord’s words and laws (20:22–23:33), called “the Book of the Covenant” (24:7).

After hearing these laws the people heartily submitted themselves to obey them (cf. 19:8) and **Moses ... wrote down God’s commands.**

II. COVENANT CEREMONY—Ex. 24:4-8 – Moses prepares the people for the ratifying of the Law.

- First Moses made an altar at the foot of Mount Sinai and erected 12 stone pillars to represent Israel’s 12 tribes.
- Since the Levitical priesthood had not yet been organized, young Israelite men (perhaps the dedicated firstborn, 13:1–16), and Moses served as priests and offered burnt offerings and ... fellowship offerings to the Lord.
 - The burnt offerings represented total surrender to God and were completely consumed.
 - The peace offerings celebrated being at peace with God.

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- In the ratification ceremony Moses sprinkled blood ... on the altar (24:6) and on the people (v. 8) who had heard Moses read the Book of the Covenant and had promised once again to obey it (v. 7; cf. v. 3).
- This is the only time in the OT when people were sprinkled with blood.
- Possibly the people were sprinkled in the sense that the stones which represented them (v. 4) were sprinkled.
- The sprinkled blood, then, symbolized the **legal transaction** between God (represented by the altar, Ex. 24:6) and the people (represented by the stones).
- Israel was thus ceremonially **set apart through** blood (the blood of the covenant) as the people of the true God.
- Later the New Covenant, established by Jesus, was also ratified by blood, His own (Luke 22:20; I Cor. 11:25–26).
- The people were sincere in their commitment, but they did not understand the depths of their own sinfulness.
- Therein lies a warning-- sincerity is not enough to overcome our sinful tendencies. We must walk moment by moment by faith and in the light of God's Word.

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III. COVENANT MEAL—Ex. 24:9-11

- Moses, Aaron, Aaron’s two eldest sons, and the 70 elders, went up the mountain to confirm and ratify the covenant before God.
- A primary reason for this trip, therefore, was to worship the Lord.
- Since no one can see God and live (33:11, 20; John 1:18), they probably saw God in the sense that they had a vision of Him in which they discerned who He is.
- Apparently, the sight was so grand and awesome that their eyes saw only below His feet – they saw the pavement or slab under His feet is.
- The splendor of God looked like sapphire (the throne of sapphire in Ezek. 1:26).
- The men on the mountain could attest that Israel’s covenant was made in God’s very presence.
- They ate a meal before Him. It was common to symbolize the ratifying of a covenant with a meal (Gen. 26:30; 31:54; Luke 22:15–20).
- God knew who He was dealing with. He knew that the people, for all their good intentions, were spiritually weak and sinful.

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PRACTICAL POINTS FROM THE LESSON

- 1) God requires order and reverence from those who worship Him (Ex. 24:1-2).
- 2) Godly leadership relies on God’s Word, not human wisdom (v. 3).
- 3) Sacrificial gifts and offerings demonstrate dependence on God and show that we recognize the price we have been bought with (Exd .24:4-6; I Cor. 6:20).
- 4) Our obedience to God’s instructions demonstrates our faith in Him (Ex. 24:7-8).
- 5) In worship and in prayer, we must resist the temptation to bring God down to our level (v. 9).
- 6) Right worship prepares God’s people for fellowship with Him (vss. 10-11).



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“ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”



1. What happened immediately after the giving of the Ten Commandments?
2. Who was to accompany Moses up the mountain? What set Moses apart from the others ascending the mountain?
3. What did Moses do after the people affirmed their commitment to obey the Lord?
4. What did Moses build at the base of the mountain? Why did he sprinkle blood on the altar?
5. Why were blood sacrifices a part of the covenant ceremony? In what sense did the seventy-four men see God?

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TODAY'S AIM

Facts: to see that people must be reminded of God's promises and their responsibilities.

Principle: to understand that when God gives promises, He expects a personal response.

Application: to be alert to God's will for us as believers saved through grace.

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