

THE COVENANTS: PART 10

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 10 | THE MOSAIC COVENANT III

We saw the positive aspects of the Mosaic Covenant and Mosaic Law in our previous lesson and the relationship of love and grace that existed between the Lord and Israel within the covenant. This lesson traces the story of recurring failure and disobedience to the Mosaic Law and God's commandments reflected in the history of Israel from the beginning of the covenant through the rest of the Old Testament. Israel's inability to keep God's commandments ultimately led to the judgment of exile. The Law was good and righteous, but the Mosaic Covenant was a national covenant between God and Israel that included both believers who knew the Lord and those who did not and did not have the desire or ability to obey the Lord. In the working out of salvation history, Israel's inability to keep the Law prepares the way for Jesus and the greater work of redemption he provides so that we might live for God, fulfill the righteousness of the Law, and be fully blessed.

Read the following passages:

Exodus 32

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

Judges 2:11-23

2 Kings 17:7-20

Isaiah 1:2-20

Jeremiah 7:1-16

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Hosea 4:1-2

Ezekiel 20

Questions for Discussion:

1. Despite the grace and enablement provided under the Mosaic Covenant, why did Israel fail so miserably in keeping the Lord's commands that were part of the covenant? Was there something wrong with the Law itself? What about the nature of the Mosaic Covenant between God and Israel made it impossible for all of the people to keep the Law as God desired and designed?
2. What do we learn from Israel breaking the covenant from the very beginning by worshipping the golden calf at Mount Sinai in Exodus 20?
3. According to Deuteronomy 30, what would happen to Israel when they failed to keep God's commands? What would God do for the people when they came to their senses and turned from their sinful ways?
4. According to 2 Kings 17, what was the primary reason that God sent Israel and Judah into exile? Why would Israel be so quick to turn away from God's commandments after receiving all the grace and benefits that the Lord had provided for them?
5. Note the problem of idolatry within the covenant that is discussed in passages like Judges 2 and Ezekiel 20. Why was idolatry the most serious of the sins that Israel could commit within the Mosaic Covenant? Why do you think that Israel was constantly drawn to worshipping idols and false gods in the place of the Lord? What are some of the specific ways that we struggle with idolatry today?

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6. What appeals do we see the prophets making to the people in light of their unfaithfulness to the covenant and the Lord's commands in passages like Isaiah 1 and Jeremiah 7? What do the people have to do in order to fully return to the Lord and what were the people offering to God in the place of true obedience to his commands? How might these passages apply to us in our relationship with the Lord?
7. What role does the failure of Israel to keep God's commands play in the moving forward of salvation history? How does the Mosaic Covenant and Israel's failure to keep the law prepare the way for the coming of Jesus to save his people?
8. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?