

THE COVENANTS: PART 11

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 11 | THE MOSAIC COVENANT IV

We've looked at the Mosaic Law and Mosaic Covenant in their Old Testament context and how the Law was central to the Lord's covenant relationship with Israel. We also need to better understand why the Law has value and benefit for us as New Testament believers. Though we are no longer under the Mosaic Covenant, the Torah and Mosaic Law is still the eternal Word of God and gives us needed wisdom and instruction from the Lord on how to live our lives in a way that pleases and honors him. When Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all Scripture is God-breathed" and profitable for us to for "instruction, correction, reproof, and training in righteousness," he was commenting on the Old Testament Scriptures. The Old Testament Law is still a necessary and needed part of our spiritual diet today and constitutes a significant portion of our Christian Bible. Reading the Mosaic Law in the context of the Torah is spiritually enriching for us as believers in the unique way it portrays God. The Law also highlights distinctive theological themes, reminds us of the ethical demands that God places upon his people, and also speaks prophetically of the future Messiah.

Read the following passages:

Exodus 12

Exodus 40

Leviticus 18-20

Leviticus 25

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Deuteronomy 12:29-13:18

Deuteronomy 15

Acts 2:42-47 / 4:32-37

Questions for discussion:

1. How does the Old Testament Law reflect the character of God? How do the commands and the surrounding stories in the Torah help us to see God in ways that complement our understanding of God as informed by the New Testament? Why is this part of the Bible especially important for giving us a well-rounded view of the person and character of God? How has our study of the Mosaic Law and Mosaic Covenant informed your understanding of God?
2. How does the Mosaic Law give us a better understanding of what it means to worship God “in spirit and in truth?” What themes about worship are especially prominent in the Mosaic Law? How does the Law help us to worship the Lord in a more biblically informed way?
3. How do the warnings about idolatry in the Mosaic Law have relevance for Christians today? We may not worship images/idols made out of stone or metal, but in what specific ways is idolatry a struggle for believers today? What are the specific idols that we may serve and give our devotion to in the place of the Lord?
4. What does the Tabernacle teach us about God dwelling among his people, his glory, and his holiness?
5. What do we learn from the passages in this lesson from Leviticus about what God expects from his people when he commands them, “Be holy, for I am holy.” Do the laws about sexual conduct found in Leviticus 18 and 20 still apply to believers today? Why or why not?

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6. What do we learn about justice and compassion from reading the Mosaic Law? What are some of the ways that God ensured that poor people would be taken care of and provided for in the Old Testament Law? How do we see the early church reflecting this ethos and concern for the poor in the book of Acts? Reflect on implications and applications for the contemporary church.
7. What are some of the ways that the Torah and Mosaic Law point forward to Jesus in a prophetic way? Discussion specifics related to the following: 1) Jesus and Adam; 2) Jesus and the Passover; 3) Jesus and the sacrifices; 4) Jesus and the Tabernacle. Are there any others that come to mind?
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?