

## Introduction

- 1 Most of us have entered into an agreement with some other person **eg** Buy house, car, rentals, furniture. Those who are married entered into marriage agreement between 2 parties, families
- 2 However when it comes to God's Covenants there are 2 - Old Covenant of law, New Cov. of grace
- 3 Big difference with God, there are no negotiations, God lays down conditions & people must obey
  - a** Old Covenant of Law is between God and Abraham thru' line of Isaac & Jacob-new name, Israel
  - b** New Covenant of grace between God and all who repent/believe and place their trust In Jesus
- 4 Will look at some of God's basic instructions about how God wanted the Covenant of law to work
- 5 At the end we will compare the 2 Covenants and see how God's Covenant of grace helps us today

## I Exodus 24 God renewed His Old Covenant of law with Israel through Moses

### A God laid down the conditions and expected Israel to obey

- 1 God made His Covenant with Abraham and his descendants in **Genesis 15, 17:7-8, 28:13-15**
- 2 God renewed His Covenant after God sent Moses- led 12 tribes of Israel out of Egypt. **19:5-6**
  - a** To continue God's plan to reconcile man back to Himself, He chose Israel out of all nations of the world to be His treasured possession **if** they obey God fully and keep His Covenant.
  - b** To be a kingdom of priests **ie** As a nation they must tell other nations about God & be holy, set aside to serve God & living in a way that is pleasing to God by obeying His commands
  - c** God wanted to save all people from his judgement on their sin by using Israel to tell others
- 3 **24:7-8** Moses read from Book of the Covenant, sprinkled blood-people promised to obey God

### B 21-23 God as their Ruler, Parliament, P.M., Pres. gave them laws covering all aspects of life

- 1 Israel had no government, prime minister or President making laws of how they should live
- 2 Last week we saw how God gave Israel via Moses the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai
- 3 God was Israel's lawmaker, giving laws to cover every aspect of their lives in Exod. to Deut.
- 4 Some laws about worship, others about servants, slaves, personal injuries, protection of property & animals, farming, lending of money, marriage, laws of justice/mercy, relat'ships
- 5 These related **specifically to Israel** as part of the Old Covenant & not to other nations today

## II 25-27 God told Israel to build a portable Tabernacle so He could dwell among His people

### A Reasons for tabernacle were to show God's presence among them, His total opposition to sin

- 1 When Adam and Eve rebelled against God in Gen 3, sin entered the world and spiritual death
- 2 So created barrier betw. our holy God & all sinful, self-centred people under God's judgement
- 3 **Gen 12:1-3** tells us God's plan to rescue people from His judgement thru' 1 of Abram's des'ants
- 4 Under this Covenant God told Israel how they were to approach God to have their sins forgiven
  - Chosen priests, offered various sacrifices of animals, whose blood was shed in place of person who sinned so (s)he could be forgiven and live. Lev's. 1-5 describes the various sacrifices
- 5 As they travelled around God wanted to live among His people, show His holiness, hatred of sin
- 6 **25:8-9** God clearly instructed Moses how to make a tabernacle for Him to dwell among Israel
- 7 Israel could worship God thru' this collapsible tent with wooden walls & animal skins for roof

### B 27 Courtyard surrounded the Tabernacle with fence, altar for sacrifices, basin for washing

- 1 Courtyard was 45 x 22.5m with an altar where animals were sacrificed to have sins forgiven
- 2 Altar for animal sacrifices & Tabernacle in courtyard were central to Israel's worship of God
- 3 God wanted to show Israel He was holy, how terrible sin was and price for sin had to be paid

### **C 26:30-37 Tabernacle was divided into 2 with a curtain separating holy God from sinful people**

- 1 **Holy Place** was 9 x 4.5 x 4.5 with 3 important items in it-Priests did job daily-25:23-40; 30:1-10
  - a **Golden lampstand** with 7 oil lamps, giving light from dusk to dawn showing God's presence
  - b **Table for bread of Presence** always there, showing God provided their daily physical needs
  - c **Incense altar**-priest burns special smelling incense morning & dusk – prayer going up to God
- 2 **Most Holy Place** (4.5 x 4.5 x 4.5m) with Ark of Covenant with 10 Commandments inside
  - a Although God is everywhere, this room was very important - **symbol** God lived amidst Israel
  - b Only had a box called the Ark of the Covenant which had 2 stone tablets with 10 command's
  - d On top of special box were 2 golden angels, covering this mercy seat of God with their wings
  - e The people knew God was there, so whenever Israel moved God was there with them
- 3 Only the H. P. entered the Most Holy Place **once a year** on the Day of Atonement (Yon Kippur)
  - a Atonement means shedding of blood for sins by sacrificing an animal-animal dies, man lives
  - b Once pa on Day of atonement HP was to offer 2 sacrifices, a A Bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household' sins, & b Goat for all Israel's unconfessed sins, then he entered the Most Holy Place and sprinkled the 2 lots of blood on mercy seat
  - c This was a special day each year when God forgave the unconfessed sins of nation of Israel
- 4 **Curtain** (4.5 x 4.5m) dividing their Holy God from sinful people
  - a This curtain was made of very strong materials, acted as barrier betw holy God, sinful people
  - b Throughout all those years, 1<sup>st</sup> in tabernacle, later 3 temples, curtain continued to be barrier
  - c Large numbers of annual Day of Atonement sacrifices were made over 100s of years , but blood of bulls & goats couldn't permanently remove God's judgement on peoples' guilt, sin
  - d **Hebrews 10:1-4** Result was that sacrifices for sin needed to be offered over and over again

### **III All these OT instructions find complete fulfilment in the death and resurrection of Jesus**

#### **A Summary of what was achieved by the death and resurrection of Jesus**

- 1 The amazing thing about all these Old Covenant laws and instructions to Israel via Moses was they were given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to prepare Israel for the coming of Jesus
- 2 God's perfect plan was always to break down the barrier of sin thru' Jesus' death/resurrection
- 3 Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the OT law but to fulfil them as told in Matthew 5:17-18
- 4 As 100% God & 100% man, Jesus thru' his death/resurrection fully satisfied God's demands for justice on man's sin and rebellion against Him by dying as a perfect sacrifice in people's place
- 5 Jesus replaced the Old Cove'nt, offering of animal sacrifices, need for tabernacle, later temple

#### **B Some examples of how the Lord Jesus fulfilled the OT law requirements**

- 1 **Mark 15:37-38** Curtain separating holy God from sinful man torn apart by God as Jesus died
  - a When God tore curtain from top to bottom, He removed barrier betw holy God & sinful man
- 2 **Heb. 9:11-12** Jesus entered God's presence as H. Priest with his own blood as perfect sacrifice
  - a What blood of sacrificed bulls and goats was unable to achieve, Jesus' death achieved 100%
  - b By dying once for all time, there is no need for any more sacrifices to remove sin, man's guilt
- 3 **Heb 9:15** Jesus became Mediator of New Covenant of grace with once for all sufficient sacrifice
  - a He replaced Old Law Cov with New Cov of grace by dying as a ransom to set man free from sin
- 4 **1 Cor. 6:19-20** Under New Cove'nt every born-again Christian is tabernacle/temple of Holy Spirit

### **IV How does this help us today?**

- 1 **Acts 2:37-39** To be temple of Holy Spirit, have sins forgiven each must repent & believe in Jesus
- 2 **Hebrews 4:12-13** Above events show Bible is 100% reliable, Christian must read & obey it daily
- 3 **Hebrews 4:14-16** Can approach God's throne of grace in heaven boldly with prayer requests daily