

# GOD'S COVENANTS

## MOSAIC COVENANT

The Grammys are the music industry's awards show.

Ironically, the 2012 edition began with *a prayer to God*, and ended with *an ode to Satan*. Thanks to the Grammys, 40 million worldwide viewers watched Nicki Minja stage satanic rituals like levitation, demon possession, sexualized torture, an exorcism... *even altar boys danced in sexually suggestive maneuvers*.

Words like "*creepy*," "*dark*," "*evil*," "*deplorable*" were just a few of the adjectives used to describe the act.

Yet sadly, it turns out for Nicki the sentiment behind her antics wasn't an act. In a MTV interview Nicki Minaj claimed that she was possessed by an actual demon.

As shocking as the Grammys' depiction of satanism might've been, if the show had aired on [19<sup>th</sup> Century BC Amorite TV](#) I doubt anyone would've batted an eye.

Canaan-land was *a hot bed for all things demonic*. Sexualized shamanism was common in antiquity.

God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the land of Canaan, but these faithful men never felt at home there. They were strangers in a strange land. Recall the evils of Sodom and Gomorrah, that was just the tip of the iceberg. The Canaanites indulged in *occult fertility rites, temple prostitution, even child sacrifice*.

The Grammys would've had plenty of programming.

*Flashback to the days of Noah...*

Something weird and evil happened on planet Earth. It was so repulsive, God flooded humanity and started over with mankind. Genesis 6 implies there was a sexual intermingling between humans and demons. *Something you might see in a Nicki Minja video...*

The Bible refers to the offspring of these perverted unions as “giants.” The Hebrew word is “nephilim” which means “fallen ones.” Jude 6 tells us these demons “did not keep their proper domain...” They failed to maintain God-ordained boundaries. These demons materialized as human to impregnate women.

Genesis 6:9 says God started over with Noah since he was “perfect in his generations” or “pure in his lineage.” It seems Noah and his family was one of the few that hadn’t been infected by this demonic activity.

*Now flash ahead to the days of Moses...*

The Hebrew Deliverer returns Israel to the edge of the Promised Land. And the nation send in spies.

And amazingly the reconnaissance reports “giants” in the land. It’s “The Return of the Nephilim.” It was a post-flood outbreak of Nicki Minja-type demonism.

Still later, this turns up again among the Philistines. David’s archenemy is another “nephilim” - “Goliath.”

I know this all sounds strange... dark, sinister, sexual perversions were occurring in mankind's distant past... *with your great, great, great, great Grammy.*

But what Nicki Minja gave America a taste of at the 2012 music awards was nothing unusual in the land God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When first given, **the Promised Land was a Perverted Land.**

Last week we talked about the Abrahamic Covenant.

Out of all the world's families, God chose **one** man to make **three** promises... Abraham inherited a chunk of **land**. His descendants became a great **nation**. And through Abraham's Seed - a special heir - all the nations will be **blessed**. We summed up the covenant: **land, nation, and blessing or sod, seed, salvation.**

The land was **Canaan** - the nation was **Israel** - and the Seed through whom the blessing came was **Jesus**.

These were important promises, and God invested them in one family, *the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*. But narrowing down His redemptive plan to a single family made God's strategy more vulnerable.

Abraham's offspring will become a "**great nation,**" but at the time of their choosing they were just a "**mid-size family.**" Genesis 46 adds up kids and grandkids, and it totals 70. The nation was a fair-sized extended family.

Here was God's dilemma in the 19<sup>th</sup> century BC...

A corrupt Canaanite culture is strong and influential, *a modern Hollywood on steroids*. Whereas, Abraham's family is susceptible and impressionable. It's just getting started. Now all Satan has to do to spoil salvation for all mankind is to pollute a single family.

*How can God protect a small band from extinction?*

Think of a lone little lamb surrounded by a pack of ferocious wolves closing in for the kill. How will *God's vulnerable few* survive in a land of devouring evil?

If God had left Abraham's family defenseless in Canaan they would've been gobbled up by the culture.

In a few generations they would've disappeared by intermarriage, assimilation, and spiritual compromise.

God needed to plant them and protect them, where they could grow and gain strength, until He could equip them to stand out as a separate culture and people...

God's answer was two-fold: **Egypt** and **Covenant**.

We also live in hostile surroundings. The church exists in a sexualized world of evil, spiritual influences. *Here's our calling* - **"We're in the world, but not of it."** Our job as Christians, in a word is **infiltration**.

God has given us an internal power. His Holy Spirit lives in our hearts to make a difference in the world.

But Abraham's family didn't have this internal Spirit. God needed to protect his developing family from evil influences until they could grow strong enough to survive and maintain their distinctiveness. Thus, His strategy for Israel was **isolation, not infiltration**.

God loaded them up and moved them to Egypt.

Egypt was the one country on Earth where God's people could remain completely segregated.

Ancient Egyptians were terribly racist. They believed Egyptians descended from the gods; thus, any marriage to a non-Egyptian was unthinkable. In Egypt Hebrews had no opportunity to mingle with the locals.

At the end of Genesis, in preparation for the famine that strikes Canaan, God engineers Joseph from a pit, into a prison, on to the pinnacle of Egyptian power.

Under Joseph's influence Israel's family visited Egypt to wait out the famine - *and actually stayed 400 years.*

Due to Joseph, his family's first years in Egypt were prosperous ones. They multiplied like rabbits. But when a pharaoh came to power who didn't know Joseph their plight changed. They were made slaves.

**Yet think of Egypt as a mother's womb.**

New parents don't realize, the safest nine months their baby will ever know is in-utero. And Israel's time in Egypt allowed a baby nation to grow, and gain strength enough to survive in the land of Canaan.

Don't ever assume God gets caught by surprise. Even difficult scenarios are part of His plan. Israel's bondage in Egypt was previously predicted by God...

In Genesis 15:13 when God cuts the covenant with Abraham, He forecasts his family's future, "Your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them 400 years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions... In the fourth generation they shall

return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” Six hundred years before any of this happens, God makes this astounding prophecy!...

Israel will endure 400 years of slavery before God judges Egypt and blesses the Hebrews; then He'll use the children of Israel to punish the evil of the Amorites.

It was all God's design. Seventy people went down to the land of the Nile. They returned six million strong.

Once a visiting pastor got carried away. He preached on and on and on. Finally, the host pastor started shouting, “Amen, pharaoh!” It got more and more frequent, “Amen, pharaoh!” Well, when the visitor had finally finished, he asked his host what he meant by “Amen, pharaoh!” The pastor of the church replied, “Man, I was trying to get you to **let my people go!**”

Well, that's what Moses told the pharaoh. *Let God's people go!* And God backed His Deliverer up with ten plagues aimed squarely at the idols of the Egyptians.

Egypt worshipped the Nile, the frog, the cow, the sun, and the firstborn - and guess where God targeted his ten attacks? He proved to Egypt that all their gods were futile against Him. “**I am**” is the only, true God.

And the final plague was most important. On the night before their exodus death passed over every home in Egypt, killing every firstborn son. *But God provided a means of deliverance... He always does...*

If you slaughtered a lamb and spread its blood on the doorposts and thresholds, when the death plague saw the blood it would **pass over** the family inside.

The people in the house were saved - not because of their own merit - but due to the blood. *It was a type of all God's covenants.* **God seals His deals with blood.**

Salvation has nothing to do with our moral scorecard, or our good works, or our religious observance... it's always by **our faith** in God's sacrifice.

The next day, Moses led the people out of Egypt. They came to Egypt *a family* and departed *a nation*...

Moses then led them through the Red Sea.

In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul refers to the experience of the Red Sea crossing as a baptism, for it marked a new beginning... The children of Jacob went *from slaves to freemen - from nobodies to a great nation - from an army of brick-masons to the army of the Lord.*

After exiting Egypt, at God's command Moses led the nation to Mount Sinai. It took Israel three months to arrive, and along the journey they learned lessons...

Everyday they awoke to the wonder bread, the **manna**... God brought **water** from a rock... And they tasted their first military **victory** over the Amalekites...

Recall, when God walked through the animal parts to seal the covenant with Abraham, He appeared as **smoke and fire - a smoking furnace and a burning torch**. Now God leads Israel

through the wilderness by *smoke and fire* - the cloud by day and the fire by night.

God was reminding them: **He keeps His covenant.**

There's a great debate today in biblical archeology over the location of Mount Sinai. There're at least a dozen different proposed sites. The traditional site is a colossal outcropping of rock that rises 7,500 feet ASL.

*It looks like a giant pulpit rising up from the ground!* Which was true of Mount Sinai, God used it as a pulpit!

It was never God's intention to rush the nation Israel straight into the promised land. They needed preparation. God wanted to teach His ways to His people. He sought to establish a protective **covenant**.

Recall, God always works through a covenant. God wants a relationship with us, but not just any relationship. He demands it on His own terms.

It seems everyone today will tell you they love God and have a faith in God, but the true test is whether they're willing to submit to the expectations God sets out in His covenant. **A relationship of personal convenience is not a covenant relationship.**

How often we hear people talk about having "*their own relationship with God,*" but God doesn't strike personal deals, He's made covenants in the past, and now allows us to join them. You enter into a relationship with God by participating in His covenant.



Israel's destiny was to return to the land God had promised and be a holy nation in an unholy world, *but to do so God will arm them with a covenant.*

Israel camped for a year at the base of *God's pulpit*, Mount Sinai. Exodus 19 through Numbers 10 all takes place at the mountain. Over 57 chapters record what happened during the making of this strategic covenant.

### **God took His time.**

He wanted His people to *behold His glory* and to *know His heart*. At Mount Sinai God entered another covenant with Abraham's family. This time through Moses. Exodus 19 begins **The Mosaic Covenant.**

Let's read in Exodus 19:3, **"And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians..."** Immediately, God points out to His people, Israel, **that He is on their side.** God has fought for Israel. *And the proof was in the pudding...*

He shook the greatest kingdom on earth. He embarrassed their idols in head-to-head competition. He humbled the world's most powerful ruler. He loosen the pharaoh's grip. *His love should never be doubted.*

And God uses some beautiful imagery to describe His treatment of the new nation. He tells them, **"how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself."**

The Hebrews had just traveled across mountainous terrain. They'd watched the mother eagles stretch out their huge wings and catch their little eaglets on their feathers. When one fell from the nest, the mama bird swooped to its rescue just before it smacked the ground. This is what God had done for Israel time and again for the last three months. *He carried the nation.*

They needed **bread** and He provided supernaturally. They wanted **water**, so He supplied it miraculously from a rock... A skilled enemy **army** attacks a group of untrained slaves, and again God flaps to their rescue...

God was teaching Israel to trust Him. God was showing the new nation they needed to walk by faith.

Verse 5, “**Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**” We talk of Abraham's family as God's people, but actually all the nations, not just Israel, constituted His people. Israel though was given special status. She's “**a special treasure... above all people.**”

This reminds me of Zechariah 2:8. It's said of Israel, “**he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.**”

I don't like to stump my toe, or hit my head, but it sometimes happens. Yet my eye is a different. Seldom do I get poked in the eye. When it comes to eye protection my reflexes are faster. I have a designated shutter - a lid that closes when danger approaches my eye. We're all far more sensitive about our two eyes.

And this is how God feels about the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The nation, Israel, was His eye - His special treasure. God cherished Israel.

Of course, Israel didn't deserve such treatment.

They were a stubborn lot. In Deuteronomy 9:4 God speaks to the second generation that enters the land...

*After God drives out their enemies, He warns Israel, “Do not think... Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me into this land...”* As prophesied earlier to Abraham, God defeated the corrupt Amorites because of *their sin*, not because of *Israel's goodness*.

In Deuteronomy 7:7 Moses says to the same Israel, “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples...”

Why God chose Abraham's family over every other family on Earth didn't make sense. There were no logical reason. **The only explanation was grace!**

Over the years lots of folk have scratched their head *and wondered why God chose me!* That too, doesn't make sense. Again, the only explanation is grace!

All I know, is grace that's earned is no longer grace.

God blessed Israel because He chose her by grace. Now He's asking Israel to enter a covenant with Him...

God says to this new nation in verse 6, “**You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**” This is a call to enormous privilege and responsibility.

God is going to love Israel - *treat her like a treasure.*

But in return Israel needs to treat God with special dedication. Israel is assuming a unique calling. Jacob’s family will be “*a kingdom of priests*” and “*a holy nation.*”

God chose Israel to be a light to all the other nations on the Earth. Remember, rather than working with mankind as a whole, God has now chosen one family.

God plans to use that family as a witness to the world. Israel will be a signpost to the nations. Through Israel God will teach His truth, and shine His light.

People will learn of God by watching Him deal with Israel. The plan was for Abraham’s family to serve a priestly role and draw other people to the worship God.

Within Israel God designated one tribe - the family of Levi - to serve as priests. The Levites administered the the sacrifices and conducted the Temple worship. Levi will have a priestly role among the tribes of Israel.

But in the same way, Israel will have a priestly role among the tribes of the world! God loved Israel as a special treasure, but that didn’t negate His love for all nations. And God’s means of reaching the world was through Israel. Realize, **Old Testament evangelism depended on Israel and the Mosaic Covenant.**

Yet notice how this deal goes down, and the differences it exposes between the **Mosaic** and **Abrahamic** covenants... Verse 7, “So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do. So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.”

Remember, when Abraham cut the covenant, God walked through the animal parts all by Himself. *All Abraham did was wake up, look on, and believe.*

**But here the people do more.** They accept their part in the covenant. The people answer God, “*All the LORD has spoken we will do.*” The Mosaic Covenant required not just faith, but obedience to God’s law.

In Exodus 24 Moses leads the elders of Israel to Mount Sinai to offer a sacrifice and officially accept the terms of this covenant. The elders agree to keep God’s word, then Moses sprinkles them with blood.

Imagine, being rained on with warm cow’s blood.

As we’ve noted all the covenants God makes are **initiated by grace, entered by faith, sealed by blood.**

Read Exodus 24 - it’s fascinating! God celebrates His covenant with Israel by revealing His blazing glory.

Realize, just as there were three parts to **The Abrahamic Covenant: land, nation, blessing** - there were three parts to **The Mosaic Covenant: the law, the sacrificial system, and the blessings and curses.**

And with the rest of our time tonight we'll explore this covenant God made with the nation of Israel.

When we think of **the Law** we usually think of God's Top Ten, **The Ten Commandments**, but that was just the tip of the iceberg. One rabbi counted 613 laws. He came up with 248 do's, and *365 don'ts - which meant there was one prohibition for every day of the year.*

**The Law** consisted of three types of laws.

**First** were **moral laws** (*these were God's standards for personal character and sexuality*). **Second** were **civil or social laws** (*which governed life as it related to living in the land of Canaan*). **Third** were **ceremonial laws** (*observed to symbolize the work of Jesus*).

There were **moral laws, civil laws, ceremonial laws.**

Remember, the purpose of **the Mosaic Covenant** was to segregate Israel from the other nations around them. It set them apart from wicked Canaanite culture.

Three times in the Law it reads, **"You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."** *We read that and think what's the big deal?* But the Jews turned it into a huge deal! It became the basis of an intricate set of kosher or dietary rules - separating milk and meat products.

Yet in reality though, boiling a goat in its mother's milk had to do with a Canaanite fertility ritual that God didn't want His people to become participate in.

Again, the Law set Israel apart from the Nicki Minja-type culture of Canaan. It defined Israel as God's people by way of **character, culture, and ceremony.**

It's been pointed out that after being subjected to 400 years of brutish slavery the bar of decency and morality needed to be raised for the Israelites.

When any people lives year in, year out - generation after generation - fighting for their survival they tend to cut corners, and lose their moral sensitivities.

For example, Leviticus 19:14, **"You shall not... put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God..."** I mean, what kind of society needs to be told they shouldn't trip blind-folk? But the Israelites coming out of Egypt obviously had a low morality. They needed to be re-sensitized to their communal obligations.

In short, **the Law taught the nation how to love God and love one another.** Just look at the Ten Commandments. Commands 1-5 deal with our love for God. Numbers 6-10 address our love for other people.

In Matthew 22 a rabbinical scholar asks Jesus, **"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"**

He answered, **"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as Yourself."** Then Jesus tells him, **"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."**

Jesus is saying this is what the Law is all about: *how to love God and how to love one another*. The Mosaic Covenant gave us a picture of what love looks like.

But there was more to the Covenant than just laws.

It's interesting in Exodus 20, immediately following God's Top Ten, the very next set of commands, verse 22-26, relate to the construction of a sacrificial altar.

That means God knew His people, Israel, would *break His commandments, and need His forgiveness*.

It's amazing, as soon as God gave Israel His laws, He prepared for them to be broken. **The Mosaic Covenant** set up a **system of acceptable sacrifice**.

In the Garden of Eden, immediately after the original sin, God revealed the need for a sacrifice.

Adam and Eve clothed themselves in *fig leaves - the work of their hands*. God replaced their leaves with *skins - requiring the death of an animal, a sacrifice*.

Up until the Mosaic Covenant, God expected a sacrifice, but *the how, when, who, and where* were never codified. This caused confusion. The pagans sacrificed to idols. God wanted to keep His worship pure and separate, so He authorized a sacrificial system. It included four elements: **the sacrifices, the priests, the Tabernacle, and the feast days**.

Leviticus 1-9 outlines different types of sacrifices... Leviticus also instructed the people authorized to make sacrifice, the priests... Sections of Exodus are like a set of blueprints. They give schematics on how to build the place of sacrifice, the



Tabernacle... And Leviticus 23-25 is God's Calendar for Israel. He instructs His people on the times of the sacrifices, or the feasts...

Ultimately, everything about the **sacrifices** looked to Jesus. The NT calls Jesus "the Lamb of God." All the Mosaic sacrifices were fulfilled on Calvary's cross.

The NT also calls Jesus our **priest**. Hebrews 4:14 refers to Him as "Our Great High Priest." The book of Hebrews describes His ministry of intercession for us.

John 1:14 says of Jesus, "The Word became flesh and (tabernacled) among us." When Jesus mentioned toppling the **Temple** and rebuilding it in three days He was speaking of His bodily resurrection. As was the Tabernacle Jesus was God's one dwelling place on Earth. He's the *one stop shop* where we can find God.

And Jesus fulfills all the Jewish **feasts**. 1 Corinthians 5:7 refers to Him as our **Passover**. By faith we apply His blood to the doorposts of our heart, and death passes over us. **The point is, the entire sacrificial system illustrated the ultimate sacrifice, Jesus!**

And the third part of the Mosaic Covenant was **the blessings and the curses**. Or as some people refer to as, **the choice**. Israel would always be under this covenant, but how it played out would be up to them!

If the nation of Israel **obeyed** God... then He would **bless them extravagantly**. But if Israel **disobeyed** the covenant... God would **curse them brutally**.

Either way, through *extreme blessing* or *extreme cursing* - the world will look on the plight of the people of Israel and say the God of Israel must be God!

One author writes of the Mosaic covenant, “It was like a marriage. God married Israel. God irrevocably linked Himself to a nation, and the nation Israel irrevocably linked themselves to God.” Indeed, like a marriage it was a “**for better or for worse**” union.

I like to think of it as more a parent/child relationship.

My boys were always be my boys - *no matter what, we were family*. But at times they were at the head of the table. At other times they were in the woodshed. It depended on the respect they showed our covenant.

And for the last 3500 years this has been the case with the nation Israel. It reminds me of a line from “**Fiddler on the Roof**.” Tevye is talking to God and he says, “I know, I know. **We are Your chosen people. But, once in a while, can't You choose someone else?**”

Israel's role in the Mosaic Covenant placed the Jews center stage. Even today, global attention is on this tiny nation. For better or worse - in blessing or in cursing - the nation Israel remains God's witness to the world!

If you comb through the two chapters that lay out the blessings and curses, **Leviticus 26** and **Deuteronomy 28**, you see how precise these predictions have been. The annals of history have fulfilled these passages.

For example, the reign of Kings David and Solomon were a highpoint. When Israel followed after God, He blessed the nation with military victories, increased wealth, burgeoning storehouses. Deuteronomy 28:13 sums it up, “the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD...”

1 Kings 10 is a great case study of OT evangelism at work. The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s wisdom and wealth, and caravanned to Jerusalem to see for herself. When she arrived, she confessed to him, “the half was not told me.” She went on to praise God for His obvious blessing on the reign of Solomon.

But OT evangelism also worked in reverse.

Deuteronomy 28 predicts terrible days ahead. Verse 52 foresees cities under siege, and populations facing starvation. It forecasts Jewish residents so desperate they resort to cannibalism in an effort to survive.

And this happened in their history. In 586 BC, as the Babylonian sieged Jerusalem, and again in 70 AD, when the Romans burned down the Temple, Jerusalem parents were so desperate they ate their own babies.

In 70 AD, *the Jews who weren’t crucified by the Romans, were taken to Egypt and sold into slavery.* It was an ironic twist of history, and it happened exactly as predicted in the last verse of Deuteronomy 28.

I once saw a documentary on the Holocaust where photos were shown, and at the bottom of each of the photographs were verses from Deuteronomy 28. Like verse 67, “In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it was evening!’ At evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.”

In fact, verses 64-66 summarize the last 2000 years of Jewish history, "The LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other...

And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt... you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.” This has been the plight of the Jew.

Sadly, under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant Israel has experienced a lot more *cursing* than *blessing*.

They disobeyed God and refused to live by faith.

In fact, on the day of the covenant’s dedication, when Moses leaves camp to behold God’s glory, He doesn’t even get off the mountain before Israel erects a golden calf, and dances around the idol in Nicki Minja-like lewdness. God sent a plague to shut it down.

In Numbers 14 Israel leaves Mount Sinai and marches to the edge of the Promised Land, where they send men to spy

out the land. When they report back the Hebrews refuse to enter because of “the giants.”

They refuse to trust God to give them what He promised. And true to His covenant, God curses Israel.

The generation that exited Egypt dies in the wilderness. After forty years God repeats the covenant with their kids. Thus the word “Deuteronomy” means “second law.” God is preparing a new generation.

When the Israel finally cross the Jordan River and notches a few victories on their belt - their new leader, Joshua, ushers them to the heart of the land. They go to the Shechem Valley for *a Promised Land Pep Rally*.

*And this was a significant site.* Shechem was the initial location in Canaan where God promised the land to Abram. At the time of the promise he had no child.

But now upon Joshua’s return, God’s word is fulfilled. Abraham is “a great nation” - several million strong.

And Israel is back in the land. They’ve regained a foothold. Their army is on the march. And they’re taking possession of all that God has promised them.

In Joshua 8, here’s what Joshua does. It’s dramatic.

North of Shechem’s slender valley is **Mount Ebal**. On the south side of the valley is **Mount Gerizim**. Both peaks rise 3000 feet. General Joshua splits the tribes of Israel, and sends half to each mountainside.

From *Mount Ebal* **the curses** are shouted. Then from *Mount Gerizim* they shout out **the blessings**. It was an awesome experience. They were declaring their future before it came to pass. *The choice would be theirs...*

As I said earlier, history shows Israel's future held far more *cursing* than *blessing*. The nation was unable to keep the Law. The sacrifices merely covered sin. They didn't remove man's uncleanness or change his heart.

Ultimately, the Law proved that men and women can't keep it. We're powerless to love God or others.

So again God comes to the rescue with a covenant.

The Law showed that Israel and all mankind need a Savior, so God makes another covenant with a king named David, and a future heir who'll usher in God's kingdom. Next week we tackle **The Davidic Covenant**.