

Covenant

INTRODUCTION

The writers of the Old Testament were undone by the notion that God, who is free to do whatever He wanted, would bind Himself, restrict Himself, to the covenant.

DISCUSSION

What are the reasons you obey (or disobey) God?

EXPLANATION

In the message, we talked about how there are two great reasons for obeying God.

1. *Obedience to God increases freedom.*
2. *God alone, in the entire universe, is worth obeying.*

Discuss both of these and what they mean.

APPLICATION

Read 2 Peter 2:9-10.

In Exodus 19, when God makes no proclamation to the people of Israel they respond with, “whatever the Lord tells us to do we will do.” Have you ever made that proclamation?

Why (or why not)?

Do you believe the words of God have a claim on you?

How so?

MISSION

A priest was to show people what their God was like. If you looked at a priest you should be able to get a better idea of their God.

How should a priest of Jesus live?

If God has called all of who believe a “kingdom of priests” for Him, how should we then live?

Do you think Christians do a good job of this?

Do you do a good job of this?

Read Ahead

This week, read through Genesis 9:18-28

Week 17

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Genesis 9:1-17

Week 17

Week 17

Genesis

Covenant

Luke 1:70-72

Genesis 9:1-17

2 Corinthians 7:14

Exodus 19:3-6

Exodus 19:8

Exodus 20:2-17

Psalm 119:44-45

James 1:25

Galatians 5:13-14

NOTES & SCRIPTURE

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Week 17

SERMON OUTLINE

Covenant

Luke 1:70-72 “He spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.”

As we saw last week, Noah’s first recorded act on emerging from the ark is to build an **altar to the LORD**. On it he presents whole-burnt offerings, using some of the clean animals and birds. The comments about the effect of the sacrifice underlines the importance of sacrifice in the Bible’s plan of salvation.

God restores covenant, usually seen as an agreement between two people, but for God its reality becomes the basis for our relationship with him.

There were two kinds of covenants in the ancient world.

- *Unilateral Covenant*: made between a more powerful party and a less powerful party
- *Bilateral Covenant*: would be made between two equal parties

ANY COVENANT God made with Israel was a unilateral covenant. There was a higher power (that’s God); there is a weaker power (us).

What does Israel, and ultimately us, get out of the covenants:

- Deliverance in Exodus.
- A way of life that makes sense.
- A community.
- An identity.
- A value.
- A destiny.

What does God get out of any covenant?

- Heartache.
- Ingratitude.
- The sin of all of us.

What does God get to do in covenant?

- To continue to show His glory and His goodness.
- God gets to bless.
- God gets to love.
- God gets to pour out all the affection and warmth and care of His infinite heart.

God in return gets?

- *Rebellious, stiff-necked, stubborn little sons and daughters...that He chooses to love.*

That’s God...and it should make us immensely humble people. This is why writers of the Old Testament were undone by the notion that God, who is free to do whatever He wanted, would bind Himself, restrict Himself, to the covenant. 285 times He is called “the God of the covenant.” No other God in any other religious faith is like this, because there is no other God.

There were the 2 kinds of covenants (unilateral and Bi-lateral), but there were also different **types** as well:

- Limited – Between select individuals.
- Conditional – Based upon terms.
- Unlimited – For all time, for everyone.
- Unconditional – One party chooses to save all the conditions.

Unconditional/Unlimited is God’s ‘New Covenant’ with Christians.

There are two great reasons for obeying God.

1. *Obedience to God increases freedom.*
2. *God alone, in the entire universe, is worth obeying.*

Mom’s Day Out

Relaxation, Pedicure, Food & Fellowship
Sunday, June 3rd - \$20
<http://goo.gl/iZla6>

