

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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PART 5: THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE

THE COVENANT LAWS

There were several covenants between God and mankind prior to Moses.

Covenant with Noah

The first covenant was with Noah, his descendants, and every living creature after the flood. God promised to never again destroy all life on earth in such a manner and set a rainbow in the clouds as a visible reminder. This covenant revealed God's mercy and faithfulness, showing His enduring commitment to preserve life and maintain order in the world. **Genesis 9:8-17**

Covenant with Abraham

The second covenant was between God and Abraham. Jesus assured him that his offspring would inherit and instructs Abraham to look at the stars, promising that his descendants will be just as numerous. Abram decides to believe God, and it is counted to him for righteousness. Jesus promised to give Abram's descendants the land from Egypt to the Euphrates. To seal the covenant, Abraham is instructed to prepare animal sacrifices. He falls into a deep sleep and God reveals that his descendants will be strangers in a foreign land (Egypt), oppressed for four hundred years, but they will come out with great substance afterwards. When darkness falls, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp pass between the divided pieces, symbolizing God's presence and His binding commitment. **Genesis 15:1-21**

Affirmed with Isaac

God reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac. There was a great famine similar to the one that occurred in Abraham's day. Isaac traveled to Gerar, where King Abimelech of the Philistines reigned. Jesus commanded him to remain there and renewed the covenant promises given to his father. Isaac obeyed and remained in Gerar, showing his trust in God's word and faithfulness to the covenant. **Genesis 26:1-6**

Affirmed with Jacob

God reconfirmed the covenant with Jacob after he returned to Bethel. Jesus appeared and gave him a new name – Israel – affirming the covenant promises made to his father and grandfather. Jacob set up a stone pillar afterwards and poured a drink offering and oil upon it, naming the place Bethel (House of God) in remembrance of the renewed covenant and blessing. **Genesis 35:9-15**

When God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, He began revealing new laws for Moses to teach and for the Israelites to obey. Most of them dealt with everyday life, sacrifices, and the setup of the tabernacle.



But God also gave Moses a universal moral law to govern mankind which became known as the Ten Commandments. These laws formed the foundation of Jesus' covenant with Israel, expressing His holiness and His will for how His people are to live with respect to God and with one another. **Exodus 20:1-17**

GOD AND ISRAEL

All the aforementioned covenants were made between God and individuals. It was in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt that God made a covenant with the people of Israel that came to be known as "The First Covenant."

Jesus instructs Moses, along with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders, to come up the mountain to worship from a distance, while only Moses is allowed to come closer to the Son of God. Moses reports all the Lord tells him and the people respond in unity that they are going to obey.

Moses writes down all the Lord's commands, builds an altar at the foot of the mountain, and sets up twelve pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Young men offer burnt offerings and peace offerings unto the Lord. Moses collects the blood from the sacrifices, sprinkling half on the altar and half upon the people. This final act at Mount Sinai seals the covenant, signifying Israel's commitment to obey God's law and His acceptance of them as His people. **Exodus 24:1-8**

Moses renewed the covenant between God and Israel in the land of Moab, in addition to the one made at Horeb (Sinai). **Deuteronomy 29:1-15**

The First Covenant was initiated 920 years after Noah and consisted of two parts:

1. The Atonement
2. The Promised Land

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?