

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part-31 (chapter 29) KJV

8.30.2023

Chapter 29

The Covenant: Reviewed and Renewed, Revealed versus Secret Things

When was the earlier covenant made? What lessons should the Israelites have learned from history? What should have been the response to the covenant? Why is it that they were able to 'see' but 'not see'? (1-9)

Who are the parties to the 'renewed covenant' and what are the key elements? (10-19)

How does God deal with covenant breakers? Are the heathens able to recognize the justice of God? (20-28)

What is the difference between 'revealed and secret things'? What should be our response to 'revealed' and 'secret' things?

The Covenant

(chapters 29 & 30)

Covenant reviewed and renewed: 29:1-19

Punishment for breaking the covenant: 20:20-29

Restoration for returning to the covenant: chapter 30



Covenant (1-9)

29:1-9

These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.² And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land;³ The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles:

⁴ Yet the Lord hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.⁵ And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.

⁶ Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the Lord your God.⁷ And when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them:

⁸ And we took their land, and gave it for an inheritance unto the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half tribe of Manasseh.⁹ Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

Historic Review (Mosaic covenant) ...

These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb (1)

Earlier covenant made at Mt Sinai (Horeb) 40-years back

This one made on the plains of Moab before entering the promised land (as seen in the teachings of Deuteronomy)

Historic Review (Mosaic covenant) ...

These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb (1)

Exodus 24:1-8


Covenant

- received from God by Moses
- Moses communicated to people
- People respond (we will obey)
- Sealed by blood

Historic Review (Mosaic covenant) ...

These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb (1)

Exodus 24:1-2,7-8 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the Lord, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. ² And Moses alone shall come near the Lord: ³ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. ⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. ⁸ And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.



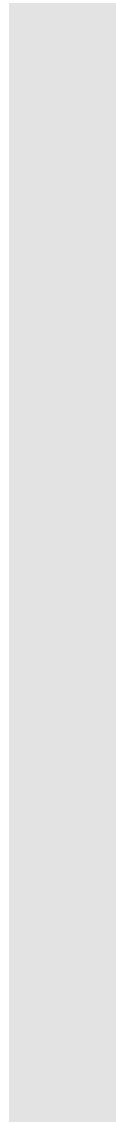
Sealed by blood

Exodus 24:6

And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

Mathew 26:28

For this is my blood of the new testament (or covenant), which is shed for many for the remission of sins.



Historical review: seen, but not seen

“Ye have seen all
that the Lord did
before your eyes
in the land of
Egypt unto
Pharaoh, ... (2)

Current audience: new generation; most of the old generation died in wilderness.

Miracles & Signs

plagues in Egypt,
parting of red Sea,
provision of manna and water in wilderness,
destruction of armies of kings Heshbon and Bashan (7),
distribution of land (before entering promised land,8), and
clothing and sandals (5)

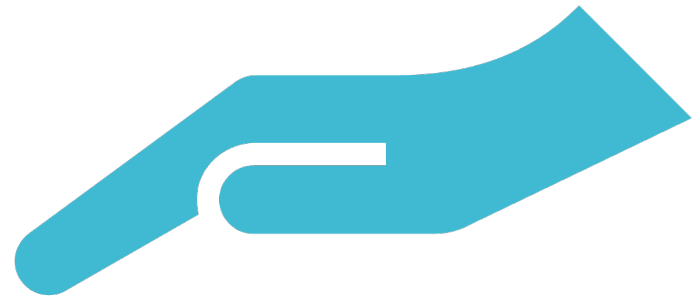
Saw great things but could not perceive, see, or hear (4) Why?

See but not see

- Despite many miracles, could not trust God in times of crisis
- Could see with physical eyes, but not spiritual eyes
- True understanding (of our eyes and ears) and change of heart is a gift of God ... we cannot perceive spiritual things unless we are changed from within.

Ezekiel 36:26-28 ²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. ²⁸ And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;



Are we able to "see" the hand of God in our lives?

During crisis, do we murmur and forget God's wonders and miracles of the past?

Continued
Obedience
required for
continued
prosperity (9)

Keep therefore the words of this covenant,
and **do** them,
that ye may **prosper** in all that ye do (9)

Salvation is a one-time experience, Obedience is for lifetime!
Obedience leads to blessings

Renewing of the covenant (10-15)

29:10-15

¹⁰ Ye stand this day all of you before the Lord your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel,

¹¹ Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that is in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water:

¹² That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the Lord thy God, and into his oath, which the Lord thy God maketh with thee this day:

¹³ That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

¹⁴ Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath;

¹⁵ But with him that standeth here with us this day before the Lord our God, and also with him that is not here with us this day:

Renewed Covenant

The renewed covenant is:

- **Divine** covenant, between God and people (12)
- **Inclusive** covenant (captains, elders, officers, all men, little ones, wives, strangers) (10-11)
- **Inter-generational** covenant (those present, and those not present or born later) (14-15)

Purpose:

- Form a people unto himself (chosen, separated, holy people)
- Fulfill the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob



Conditions of the covenant (16-20)

29:16-20

¹⁶ (For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by;

¹⁷ And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:)

¹⁸ Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;

¹⁹ And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

²⁰ The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.

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Conditions of the covenant (16-20)

Condition: Do not be tempted by the idolatry of other nations

Consequences of idolatry and living in the illusion & ‘imagination of the heart’

- Sin will take root and generate poison
- Sin will not go unpunished (at individual level or as a nation).
- God sees everything. There is no ‘secret sin’
- Curses will follow disobedience
- Name blotted out



**Punishment for
breaking covenant and
Purpose of Judgement
(21-28)**

29:21-28

²¹ And the Lord shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:²² So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid upon it;

²³ And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

²⁴ Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? ²⁵ Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt:

²⁶ For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them: ²⁷ And the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:

²⁸ And the Lord rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.

Reason for punishment

²⁵ ... Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: ²⁶ For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them:

Purpose of Judgement

Demonstrate that God is just and fair

Like blessings, judgement also exercised publicly for all to see

28:10 (Blessed) And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee.

28:37 (Cursed) And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee.

Serve as warning to others of God's fierce judgement ... even heathen will understand the hand of God (24-28)

²⁴ Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?

Revelation & Responsibility

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (29)

What is revealed belongs to us ... and to our children (so teach, 6:6-9)

We are responsible for what is revealed ... (therefore to him who knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin (James 4:17))

God does not reveal everything (so we shouldn't try to figure out everything)

Many mysteries not yet fully known (such as timing of rapture)

Revelation 22:20 Surely, **I come quickly**

I Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

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