

# The Covenant of Grace

Oakwood Presbyterian Church

2016



# Covenants Within the Covenant

- Adamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Commencement”
- Noahic Covenant – “The Covenant of Preservation”
- Abrahamic Covenant – “The Covenant of Promise”
- **Mosaic Covenant – “The Covenant of Law”**
- Davidic Covenant – “The Covenant of the Kingdom
- The New Covenant – “The Covenant of Consummation”

# The Promise to Abraham & His Offspring

“Now the LORD said to Abram,  
‘Go from your country and your  
kindred and your father's house  
to the land that I will show  
you. And I will make of you a  
great nation, and I will bless you  
and make your name great, so  
that you will be a blessing. I will  
bless those who bless you, and  
him who dishonors you I will  
curse, and in you all the families  
of the earth shall be blessed...  
Then the LORD appeared to  
Abram and said, ‘To your  
offspring I will give this land.’ So  
he built there an altar to the  
LORD...”      Genesis 12:1-3,7





# The Covenant of Grace Remembered



“...the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and ***God remembered His covenant*** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

Exodus 2:23,24

# The Next Covenant Mediator



“God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!... I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob... I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...”

Exodus 3:4-8

# Abraham's Family Becomes a Nation



“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19:4-6

# More Light: God's Will

‘And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.’ ...And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.”

Exodus 34:27,28

“A law has been written, a will has been decreed; but this law stands outside of man, demanding conformity... law denotes an externalized summation of God's will.”

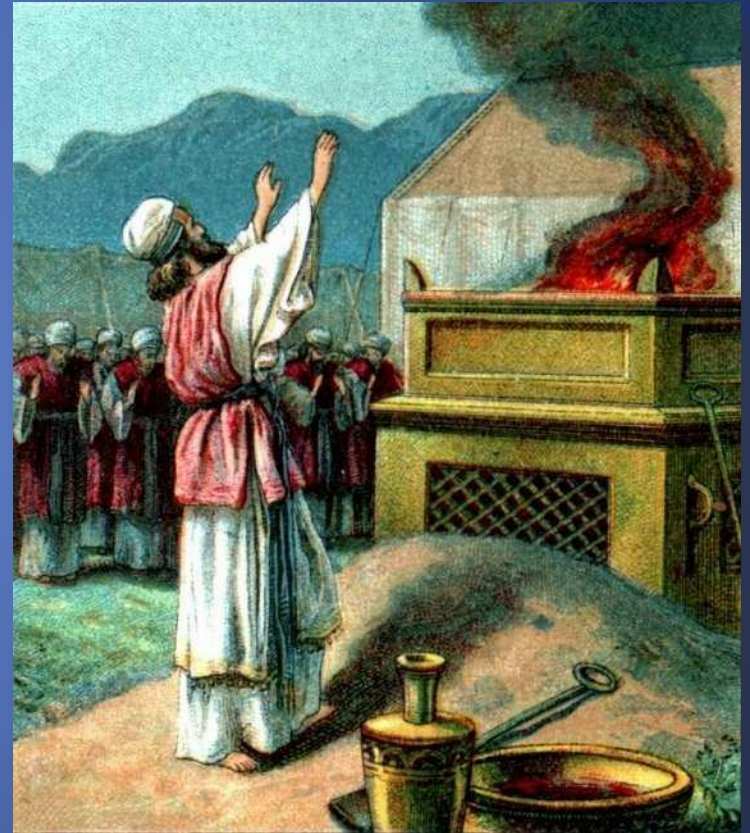
Robertson,  
The Christ of the Covenants





# Covenant of Works Redux?

“The phrase ‘covenant of works’ customarily refers to the situation at creation in which man was required to obey God perfectly in order to enter into a state of eternal blessedness. Contrary to this relation established with man in innocence, the Mosaic Covenant of law clearly addresses itself to man in sin... The integral role of a substitutionary sacrificial system within the legal provisions of the Mosaic Covenant clearly indicates a sober awareness of the distinction between God’s dealings with man in innocence and with man in sin... the law that came through Moses did not in any way disannul or suspend the covenant of promise.” O. Palmer Robertson





# Grace First, Then the Law

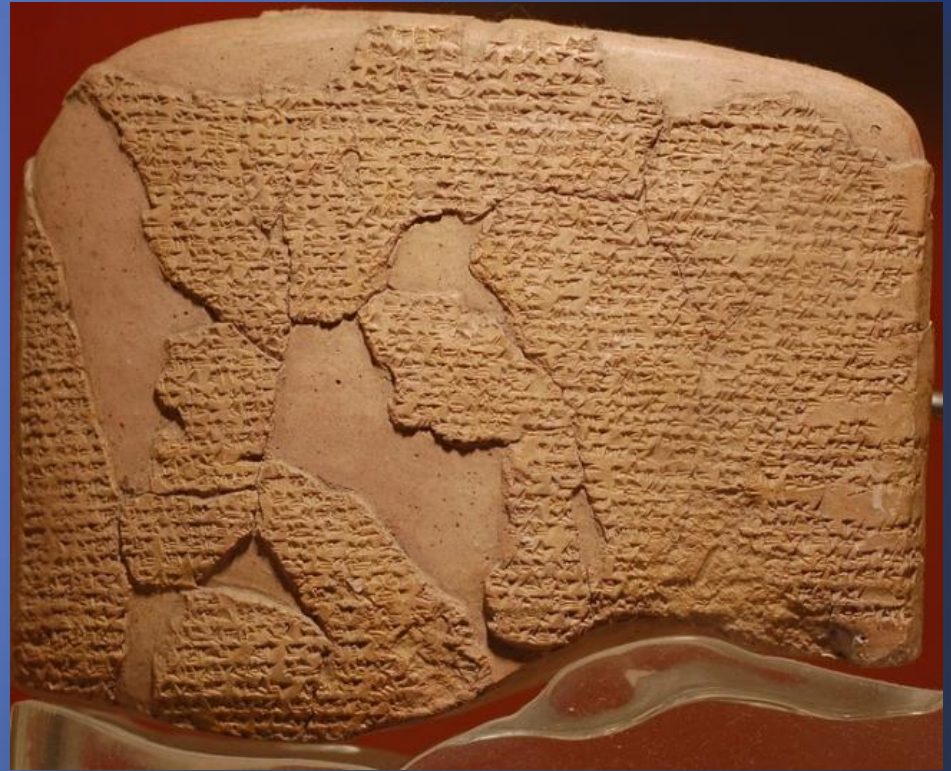
“And because [God] loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with His own presence, by His great power... **Therefore** you shall keep His statutes and His commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.” Deuteronomy 4:37-40

“...the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.” Galatians 3:17,18



# Ancient Suzerain-Vassal Treaties

- Preamble
- Historical Prologue
- **Stipulations**
- Sanctions
- Periodic Public Readings
- Sealing Rituals



# Law Before Moses



- The Dominion Mandate
- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- Blood Restriction & Capital Punishment
- Call of Abram
- Circumcision
- Sacrifice of Isaac



# The Law and the New Covenant

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband... I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

# A Difference in Degree, not Kind



“The believer under the old covenant may have experienced in essence the same realities of redemption experienced by believers under the new covenant. But heightened revelation also involves a deeper and richer experience of deliverance from sin and its consequences... The fuller revelation available today brings with it a richer experience of redemption’s grace.”

O Palmer Robertson

# Jesus Christ and the Law

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:17-20





# Three Kinds of Law

- Moral
- Ceremonial
- Civil

“Besides this law, commonly called *moral*, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, *ceremonial* laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits... All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the New Testament. To them also, as a body politic, He gave sundry *judicial* laws, which expired together with the State of that people; not obliging under any now, further than the general equity thereof may require...”

Westminster Confession of Faith,  
Chapter XIX, paragraph III, IV



# What Do We Mean by “the Law”?



“For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”  
Romans 6:14

“But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.”

Romans 7:6

# The Law Restrains Wickedness

“The law, in and of itself, cannot change human hearts. It can, however, serve to protect the righteous from the unjust... The law allows for a limited measure of justice on this earth, until the last judgment is realized.” R.C. Sproul





# The Law Points Us to Christ



“Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

Galatians 3:23-26

“The law orders, that we, after attempting to do what is ordered, and so feeling our weakness under the law, may learn to implore the help of grace.”

Augustine

# The Law is the Path to Christlikeness

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

“Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day... Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.”

Psalms 119:97, 111, 112

Jesus: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

John 14:15

