

The Old Covenant

What is meant by a covenant with God: A covenant is a relationship initiated by God, to which a body of people responds in faith.

- The Old (first) covenant is found in the pages we call “The Old Testament,” or “The Hebrew scriptures.”
- **Genesis 17:1-7, Genesis 18:16-19**; God covenants w/ Abraham to make him a nation that blesses all nations
- Exodus 19/20: God enters into covenant through the law “Mt. Sinai” with Nation of Israel started in Abraham

Where is this Old Covenant to be found: The covenant with the Hebrew people is to be found in the books which we call the Old Testament.

- The Old Testament is the book of God’s Covenant with Israel and the primary Christian scriptures after Easter
- The Old Testament has many literary genres; History/Wisdom/Poetry/Pastoral; all various ways of telling story
- **2 Timothy 3:16**; Paul is talking about Old Testament: in it we learn ways/styles/language/diversity/equipping

What response did God require from the chosen people: God required the chosen people to be faithful; to love justice, to do mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.

- **Deuteronomy 4:11-14**; Abraham has now become a nation and that nation is being taught the covenant
- **Micah 6:8**; the prophets are always calling Israel (us) back to the basic tenants of the faith; blessing the world
- The 10 commandments are the essence of what God desires and what the prophets call us back too

Where in the Old Testament is God's will for us shown most clearly: God's will for us is shown most clearly in the Ten Commandments.

- Before we discuss the 10 Commandments, we have to see Christ in the Old Covenant as well; He is our hope
- **Matthew 5:17**: Jesus came as “Adam” and “Israel” to walk through the covenant as the perfect Man + Nation
- **Genesis 15:7-18**; God put Himself on both ends of the covenant; the whole and the broken (**Jesus on cross**)
 - **Genesis 3:21**; a death occurred to cover Adam and Eve and that death is Christ
 - **Luke 9:28-31**; The whole Law and Prophets talk to Jesus about His “Exodus.”
 - *Confirmation is us joining Jesus is the redemptive work of blessing all nations and people*