



INFORMED AND FAITHFUL



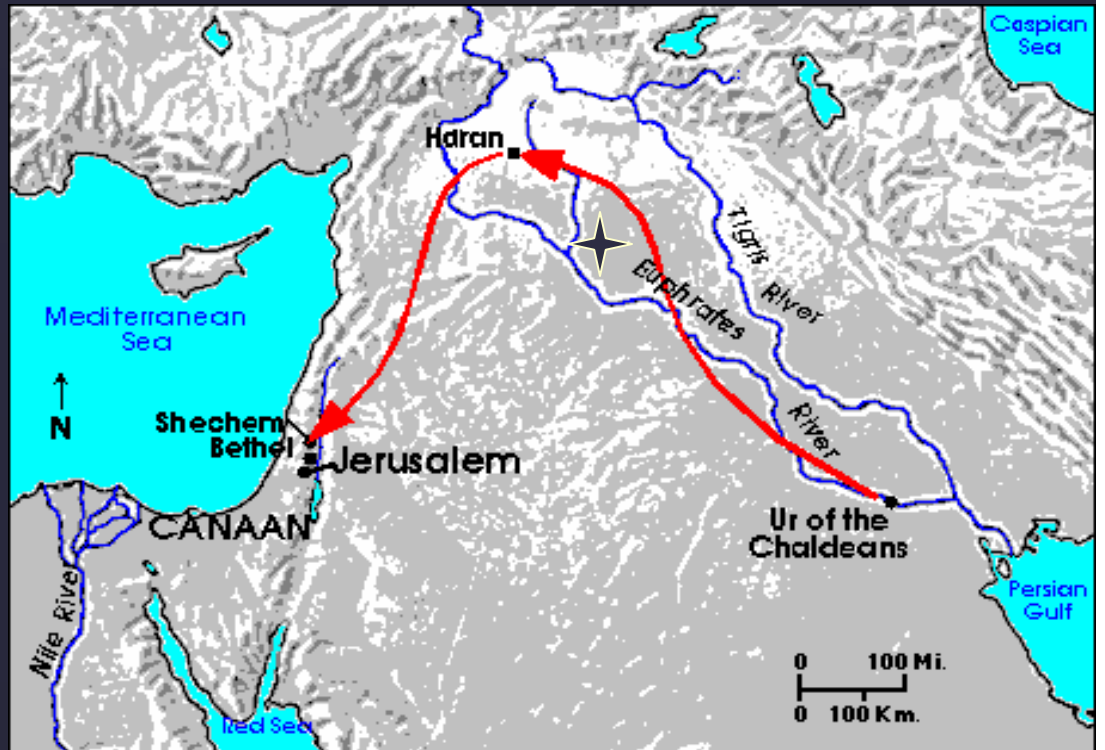
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THE CONCEPT OF COVENANT

- ❖ OLD TESTAMENT: *beriyth*: treaty, pledge, agreement between two parties; conditional or unconditional
- ❖ NEW TESTAMENT: *diatheke*: a covenant, or contract serving as a last will and testament or disposition after death
- ❖ **Hebrews 9:16** For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.
- ❖ God made an important covenant with Abram
- ❖ God made an important covenant with the Israelites that we know as the Law

ABOUT ABRAHAM

- ❖ Abram was from Ur of the Chaldeans
- ❖ Abram later moved with his father, Terah, his wife Sarai, and Lot, his nephew, to Haran
- ❖ Terah died in Haran
- ❖ Joshua 24:2 Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'from ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor, and they served other gods.'"



ABRAM'S JOURNEY

- ❖ Haran to Shechem to Bethel area
- ❖ Continued toward Negev and then to Egypt (famine)
- ❖ Back to Negev and then to Bethel
- ❖ **Genesis 13:2-3** Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai...
- ❖ Lot separates; Rebellion against Chedorlaomer; Lot captured
- ❖ **Genesis 14:14** When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

DON'T MESS WITH ABRAM



- ❖ Genesis 14:16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.
- ❖ Met Melchizedek, king and priest of Salem (bread and wine); received blessing
- ❖ Abram gave him a tithe 10%
- ❖ Abram kept none of the spoils for himself

GOD'S PROMISE

❖ **Genesis 15:7-21**

❖ The walk of death was a well recorded way of making agreements in the area where Abram had lived

❖ **Genesis 15:17-21** It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."

THE *OTHER* SON

- ❖ Twice (Genesis 12 and 15) God promised Abram a son
- ❖ When Abram was 75 and Sarai was 65, they had given up hope of having a child
- ❖ Sarai gave her maid, Hagar, to Abram; their son was Ishmael; Abram was 86; Mohammed claims to have descended from him
- ❖ When Abram was 100 and Sarai was 90, they had a son, Isaac
- ❖ **Genesis 21:10-12** Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

THE ALLEGORY

- ❖ **Galatians 4:22-26** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.
- ❖ **HAGAR MT. SINAI SLAVERY EARTHLY JERUSALEM**
- ❖ **SARAH MT. ZION FREE NEW JERUSALEM**
- ❖ **Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels....

SLAVERY AND FREEDOM

- ❖ **Romans 3:23**... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..
- ❖ **John 8:34** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin."
- ❖ **Romans 8:1-4** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

THE 12 TRIBES

- ❖ ABRAHAM → ISAAC → JACOB (Israel)
- ❖ Jacob had 12 sons with 2 wives and 2 concubines
- ❖ These sons' family groups are known as the 12 tribes of Israel
- ❖ Jacob favored Joseph (a lot!) The strife caused by this eventually led other sons to sell Joseph into slavery
- ❖ Joseph found favor in Egypt because God was with Him
- ❖ Because of famine, the family was eventually reunited

SETTLING IN EGYPT

- ❖ **Genesis 15:13** God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years."
- ❖ The Israelites lived in NE Egypt in "Goshen"
- ❖ **Exodus 1:8** Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
- ❖ **Exodus 2:23** ...And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God.
- ❖ After almost 400 years, God miraculously raised up Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage; we call this the Exodus

SETTING OUT: PASSOVER

- ❖ **When Moses initially went to Pharaoh, he refused to let the Israelites be freed**
- ❖ After a series of miraculous plagues, still no release
- ❖ The final plague was different: **Exodus 12:18-23** 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 'Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land. You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.' " Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb. You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not
12 allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.

LEAVING EGYPT

- ❖ **Exodus 12:40-41** Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.
- ❖ **Delivered at the red sea: Exodus 15:1-2** Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him.

ON TO SINAI

- ❖ Named for moon god Sin



- ❖ Sometimes also pictured as a golden calf with the crescent moon as his horns and the star between



Ishtar's egg thrown to earth was the moon egg, Sin was her father
The star represented her children;
sometimes she is represented with
12 stars around her head

AT SINAI

- ❖ **Exodus 19:1** In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. (50TH DAY?)
- ❖ **Exodus 19:10-13** The Lord also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. 'No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

THE OTHER MOUNTAIN

❖ **Hebrews 12:18-22** For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the MOUNTAIN, it will BE STONED." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...

❖ **THE LAW (OLD COVENANT) WAS RECEIVED ON SINAI**

TIMELINE

- ❖ Noah to Abraham: 10 generations
- ❖ Abraham to Jacob (Israel): 3 generations
- ❖ Jacob to Moses: around 400 years
- ❖ Best guess for date of exodus: 1400 B.C.
- ❖ The Law, comprised of the Ten Commandments and many other directions from God, was given in about 1400 BC
- ❖ David dates to around 1000 BC
- ❖ Jesus we can place at 0 (there really is no 0)

WHY THE LAW?

- ❖ Reveals sin
- ❖ Cannot impart life
- ❖ Doesn't save anyone
- ❖ **The Jews obviously intended to keep the Law to the best of their ability**
- ❖ **If the Law could have saved people, then Jesus wouldn't have needed to come**
- ❖ **Jeremiah 31:31-33** "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

MINISTRY OF GLORY

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 3:7-9** But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.
- ❖ **Titus 3:5-7** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

SUMMARY

- ❖ Only when we understand the Law can we begin to understand the ways that Jesus has fulfilled it
- ❖ Our salvation doesn't depend on our keeping of the Law; salvation is a gift of grace for those who confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord and who believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead
- ❖ Jesus fulfilled the Law, removing the requirement for us to live under it
- ❖ Nevertheless, God hasn't changed; the righteous standard that was revealed by the Law is still God's righteous standard