



## 2. TERMS OF THE COVENANT

34:12-26

### WORSHIP OF GOD

God wants Israel to worship only Him. That is what this section is about. When they worshipped the golden calf, they tried to worship the true God, but they were totally wrong. They didn't worship by His commands. They appointed their own festival, not according to His command. God is saying here, worship me, worship only me. Worship me according to my command, the way I want you to. What we have seen in the earlier part of Exodus was Moses asking Pharaoh to let the people go to the wilderness so they could worship their God. This was the whole intention of the Lord for them. They were made to worship. In John 4, God is said to seek for worshippers. God, in the first commandment, says worship Me. In the second commandment, He says, worship Me My way.

### A. COVENANT LOYALTY

12-17

#### 1. No covenants with others

When God reinstates the covenant, He says worship Me alone. Don't be tempted to make any treaty with other nations, because that would involve recognition of the Canaanite gods who the Canaanites would call on as witnesses to such a covenant. They didn't need to depend on anybody else but Yahweh. They didn't have to put themselves in a compromising situation.

#### 2. Destroy all their idols

Israel was to told to destroy all traces of the worship of those gods. Why would God seem to take such a violent approach to destroying idols and even men, women, and children? Did He just have an ethnic hatred? All pagan religions are wrong. The Canaanite religion believed that the world was ultimate. Everything in the world was continuous with everything else. This made their religion very acceptable because it put man in control. Man always likes this idea, but it is entirely wrong. The result of this is that the world came from nowhere and is going nowhere and has no purpose nor meaning. It is a world of moral relativism where individual humans are really of no significance. This is quite contradictory of what God was all about and what He was teaching the Israelites. The true worship of God cannot be side by side with any other religions. That is why some day, God will destroy all false religions. This is typified in the way Israel was to do with the idolatry in the land they were going to.

#### 3. God is Jealous

Worship is central to all of life. When God's people do otherwise and go after other endeavors without Him, He is jealous. He wants all of our attention and doesn't want us to hurt ourselves by going out after other gods. He demands full and exclusive devotion. Since He is a faithful God, His covenant people are also to be loyal and faithful. That is what is expected when covenants are made.

#### 4. The language of marriage

God's revelation of Himself is about a love relationship with His

people. If one chose paganism, it was to leave a true lover and sell oneself to someone who doesn't care. It is to break a covenant with your loving spouse and try to find pleasure with another. Paganism pretends to satisfy the longings of the human heart and does so with poison.

5. No molded gods

He repeats again what the second commandment speaks of, in not having any carved images of any likeness of Him. This seems so simple to understand and obey, but throughout the history of Israel we find that they struggled with this issue continually. The 10 tribes based their worship on the gods of the other nations. They worshipped the idols on high places. The prophets repeatedly warned the kings of stopping their false worship. God, as He gave them the law, made sure that they knew to not worship anything but Him.

To worship God is not a peripheral issue. It involves all of life. The idols have to go.

B. TRUE WORSHIP

18-26

Instead of false worship, Israel was to worship in different ways that would show that they had a relationship with Him. In this section of covenant stipulations the primary focus is on three festivals. He kept showing how they were to worship Him in tangible ways.

1. Feast of Unleavened Bread

This takes us back to the time of their departure of Egypt as that night they were to leave, they were to eat unleavened bread. They were to leave in haste and they would not have enough time for leaven to rise. The Unleavened Bread Feast would always remind them of that.

2. The First Born

They were to dedicate that first child totally to the Lord. In pagan religions, the parents would turn their children over to be sacrificed.

1 Kings 16:34, 2 Kings 3:27

God strictly forbade that practice of course and had the children to be devoted to Him.

Even the first born animals were to be dedicated to Him.

3. Sabbath

This practice of setting a day apart to the Lord definitely differentiated Israel from all other pagan practices. The Sabbath set them apart from all nations and religions.

The Sabbath is of course one of the commandments that was given to them. It played quite a big role in the lives of all the Hebrews.

4. Feast of Weeks

All these feasts set them apart from all others. Each one is a way that God revealed Himself to them in how they were to worship Him. It is another way of celebrating with God's people and enjoying the presence of God. What a time of joy and that is what they were to be. It was a time of feasting. God wanted His people to rejoice and have pleasure and all at the same time be focused on Him.

5. Feast of Ingathering

6. Feast of Passover

The Passover was the best way of telling the redemption story. It told of the exodus story which was never to be forgotten. Here we are 3500 years later and it still continues to be a world wide celebration commemorating

God's deliverance of His people.

All of these feasts were to help the people see they were to worship God in all of life.

### **3. THE MEDIATOR**

**34:27-28**

#### **NO GRACE AND NO WORSHIP WITHOUT HIM**

They could not worship God and receive His grace if they did not have a mediator. Moses was the go between man between God and Israel. Of course he was the type of who Christ would be.

#### **A. COVENANT IS MADE**

God made this covenant with Moses and the people. Moses was the one they had given up on when he was on the top of Sinai. They started saying derogatory things about him, but it is ironic that if it would not have been for his mediator work for them, they would have been destroyed.

God made that covenant with Moses and he being the mediator pleaded for them desparately. Without him, they were condemned. Moses gave the law to them. He played such a key role in their existence. God in His mercy exalted Moses to be this mediator for the people.

In Exodus 33, the people had to take notice that God met with Moses in the tent of meeting. Nobody else had that kind of blessing. God was showing them they needed a mediator.

Moses was a foreshadow of the Messiah. Christ is the ultimate Mediator.

He is the mediator of the New Covenant. He is the fulfillment of all things.

Moses pictured Him. In Christ there is no wrath or condemnation, but grace, and mercy. Christ, the Mediator quenched Sinai's flame.

#### **B. 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS—NO FOOD OR WATER**

This is quite remarkable that Moses neither ate or drank for 40 days. It doesn't take a doctorate degree to know that no one can live going anywhere near that long. This was a supernatural event as God gave Moses the law and he didn't need to eat. The same thing would happen later with Jesus in the wilderness and did not eat nor drink for 40 days. He was in battle with Satan at that time. Our salvation hung in the balance at that time as Jesus was tempted, but He did not succumb, and He won the battle. He lived a perfectly righteous life and died as He took our place on the cross, so that we could be declared righteous. Because of that we can go to the throne of grace and be in good standing because of what our Mediator did.

Moses was exalted in this passage so that we can see the exaltation of Christ in whose name and by His merits we are saved. Without this Mediator, we are without hope and helpless. Once again, we thank the Lord for His abundant grace, for nothing in ourselves will satisfy God's justice. We have entered into the new covenant and have the ultimate Mediator. Because of this, we worship in spirit and truth. It has been a pleasure to worship with God's people today.

Let's pray.