

Deuteronomy

A Call to Covenant Renewal



Remember the Covenant?

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

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And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today.

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently,
lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen,
and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.

Make them known to your children and your children's children—
how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb,
the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them
hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that
they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.”

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom.

Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

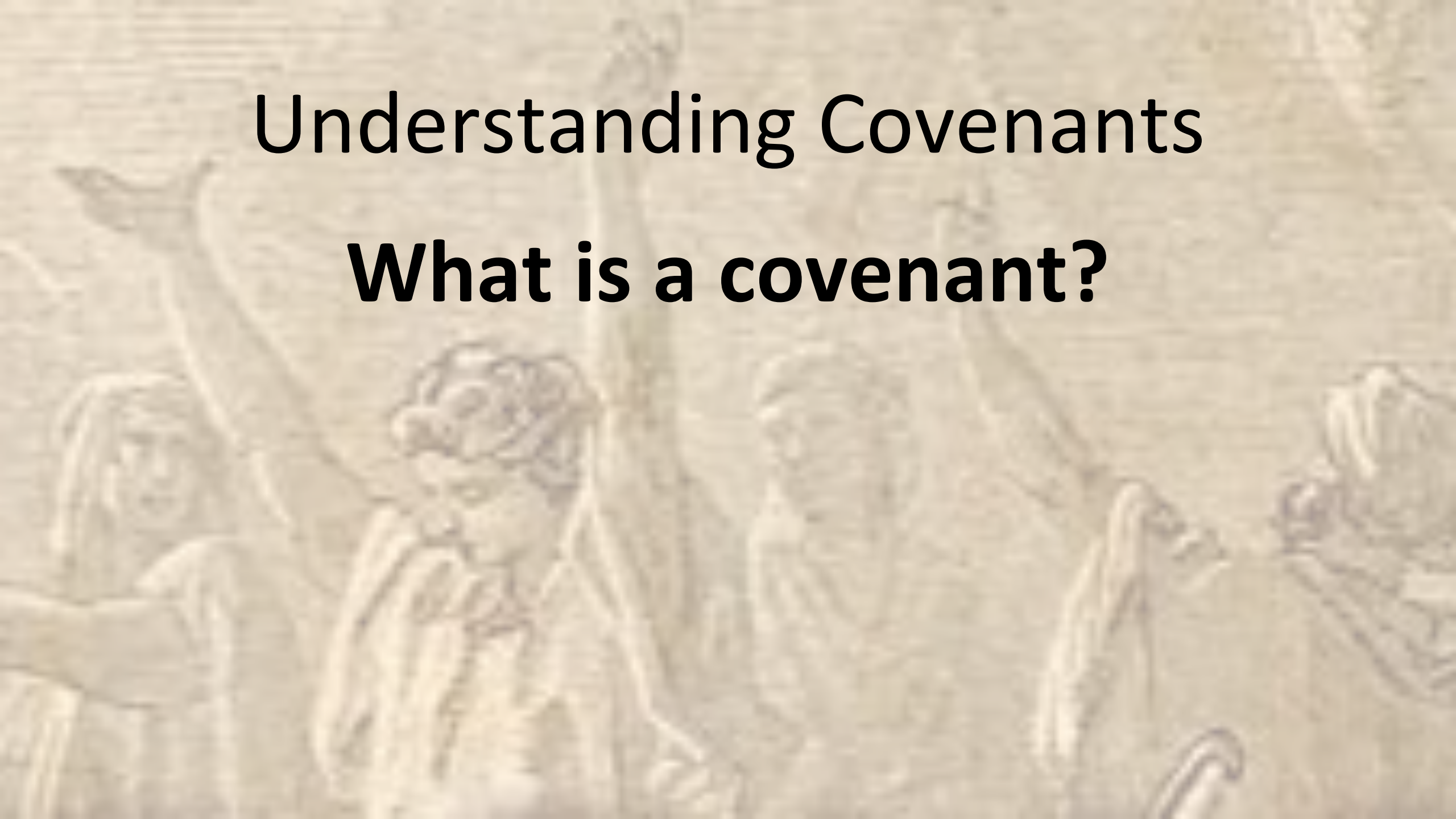
And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

Remember the Covenant?

Understanding Covenants

Understanding Covenants

What is a covenant?



We are talking about a covenant.

Deuteronomy 4:13

And he declared to you **His covenant**,
which he commanded you to perform...

Moses uses the word *covenant* at least 27x,
but the concept is throughout.

The word *covenant* is used over 250x in the
OT, but the concept is throughout.

What is a covenant?

The Hebrew word most likely means
“to bind” or “a bond”.

In general, a covenant is an agreement
between parties to form a binding relationship...
based on mutual commitments...
sworn to by oaths...
signified by some visible sign.

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned image of an ancient stone relief. It depicts several figures in traditional, possibly biblical, attire. One figure in the center is seated and appears to be in conversation with others. The relief is carved into a textured stone surface, and the overall tone is historical and scholarly.

Understanding Covenants

What is a covenant?

Are all covenants the same?

Types of Covenants

Between individuals

Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 21:27) Marriage

Between nations

Israel and the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:15)

Between God and man

Noah, Abraham, Israel, David, etc.

God has always related to His people by way of covenant.

God's Covenants

Conditional Covenants

[Covenants of Law]

Deuteronomy 4:12

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God's Covenants

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[Covenants of Law]

Unconditional Covenants
[Covenants of Promise]

Deuteronomy 4:31

For the LORD your God is a merciful God.
He will not leave you or destroy you or forget
the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them.

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the covenant with your fathers **that He swore to them.**

How important is this, really?

If you misunderstand and misapply these different covenants, you will misunderstand how you relate to God and may find yourself condemned!

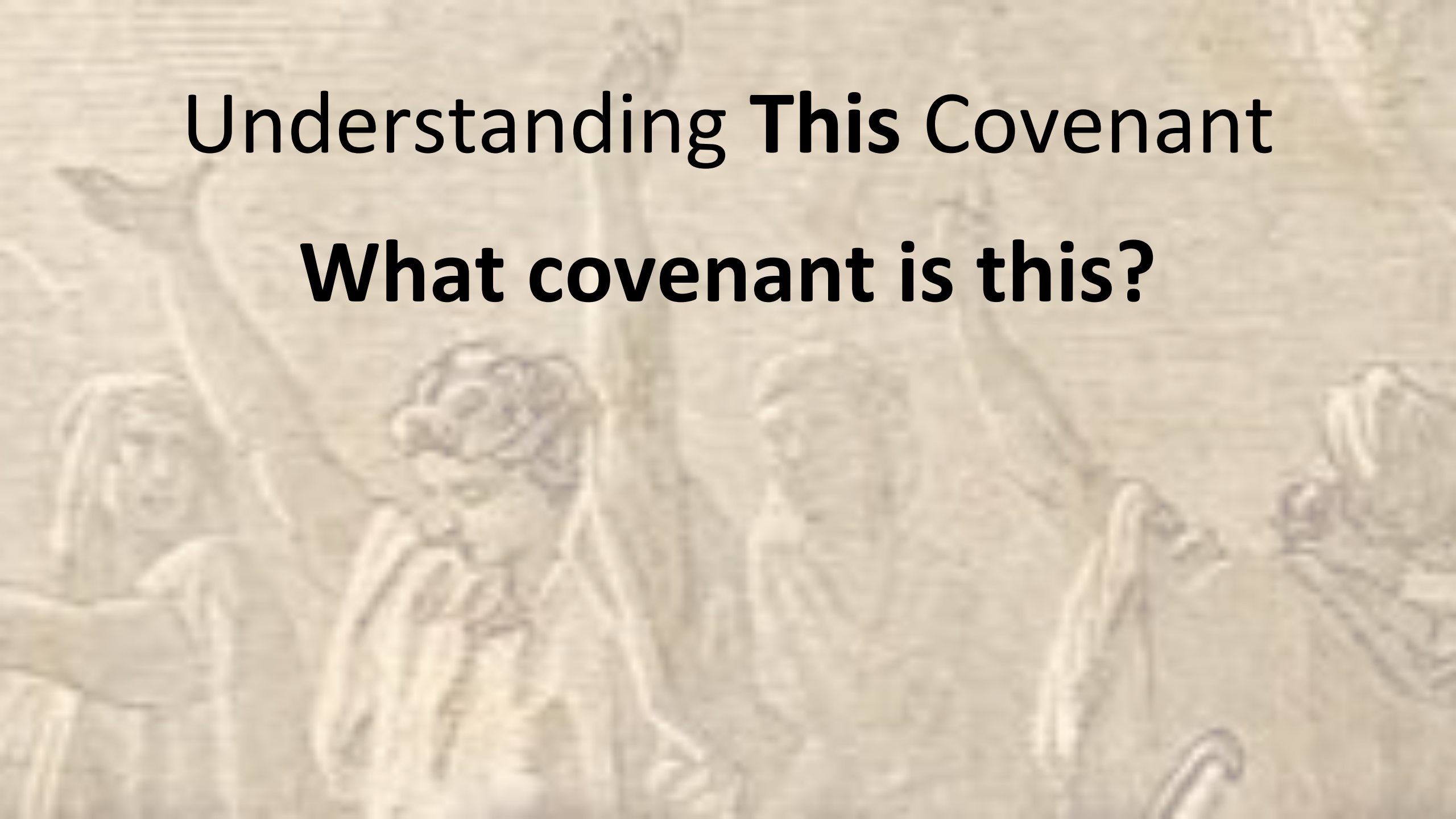
Remember the Covenant?

Understanding Covenants

Understanding **this** covenant

Understanding **This** Covenant

What covenant is this?



Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently,
lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen,
and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.
Make them known to your children and your children's children
how on the day that you stood before the LORD
your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me,
“Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words,
so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live
on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.”

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“Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words,
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on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.”

When was this?

Exodus 24:3-4a

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."
And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

Exodus 24:7

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

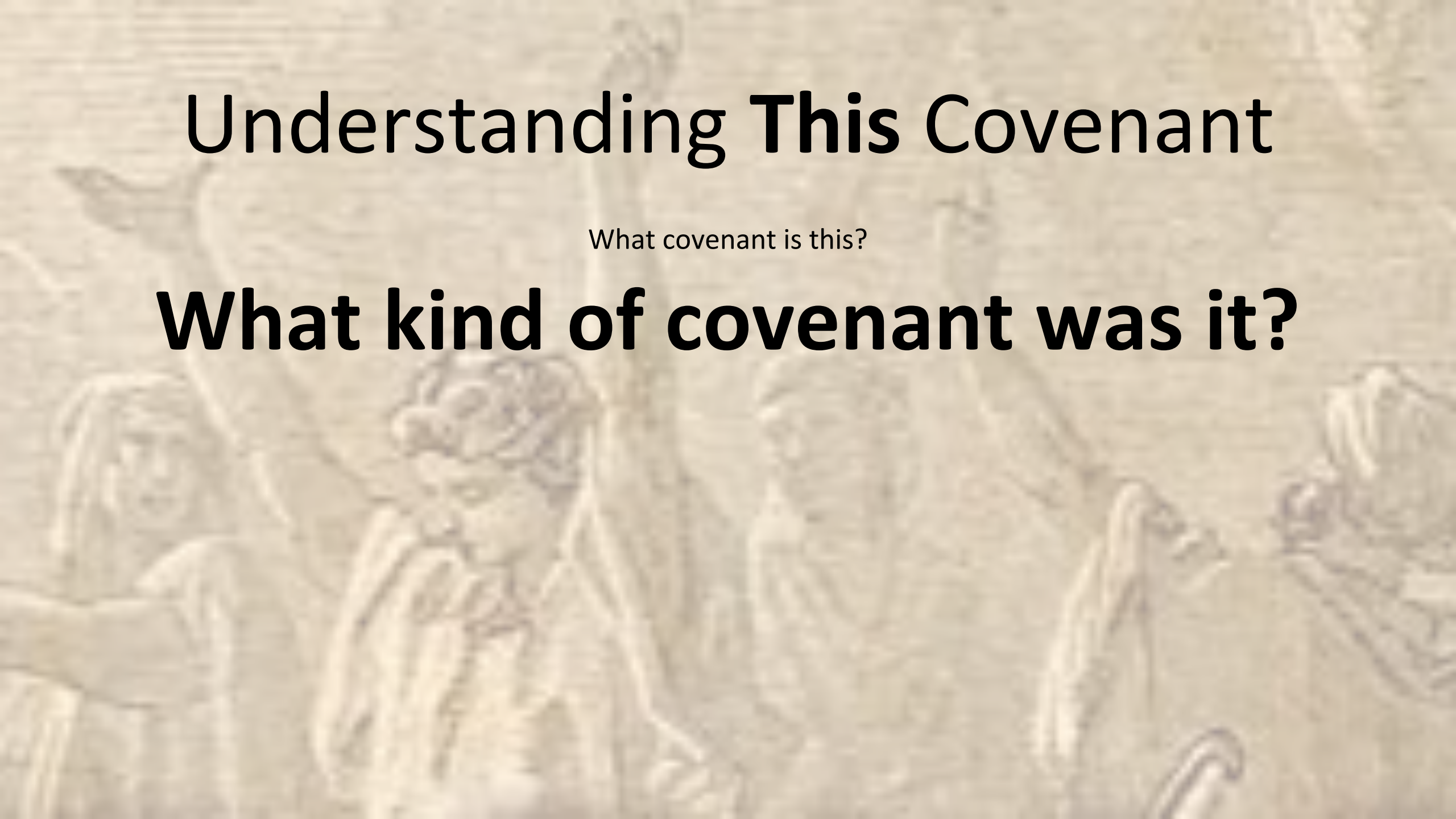
Moses was reminding this generation of the original covenant God made with this people at Horeb (Sinai).

Deuteronomy is about renewing this covenant.

Understanding **This** Covenant

What covenant is this?

What kind of covenant was it?



What kind of covenant?

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What kind of covenant?

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all the rules. **And all the people answered
with one voice** and said,

"All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."

And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

It was the people who swore to the covenant!

Exodus 24:3-4a

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Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

This was a *conditional* covenant!

Exodus 24:3-4a

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Exodus 24:7

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said,

**“All that the LORD has spoken we will do,
and we will be obedient.”**

What was the basis for or condition
of this relationship between the
people and the LORD?

It was conditioned on continuing obedience.

- v 1 Listen to the statutes and rules and do them.
- v 2 Do not add to or subtract from this covenant.
- v 6 Keep them and do them.
- v 9 Take care, keep your soul diligently.
- v 11 Make them known to your children and grandchildren.
- v 14 Do the statutes and rules in the land.

Conditions and Consequences

Deuteronomy 30:15-18

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

Conditions

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and that the LORD your God may bless you
in the land where you are entering to possess it.

But Also!

Deuteronomy 30:15-18

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and **death and**

adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God,

to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

Conditions and Consequences

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

BEWARE!

If you apply these things to yourself, you will either end up with a prosperity gospel or a form of legalistic perfectionism.

Either way, you will have put yourself under the Law!

What will that mean for you?

Deuteronomy 27:26

“Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law *by doing them.*”

Galatians 3:10

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” (ESV)

What will that mean for you?

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James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles
in one point, he has become guilty of all.

If you believe that you can have a relationship with God based on your obedience to the Law or to **any** standard of righteousness, you have thoroughly misunderstood the nature of Law and of sin.

Remember the Covenant?

Understanding Covenants

Understanding this covenant

Understanding God's purposes
in **this** covenant.

So, what were God's purposes?

To illustrate the perfections
of **His** person and character.

Deuteronomy 4:6-8

Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,

“Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Leviticus 11:44-45

“For I am the LORD your God.

Consecrate yourselves therefore, and **be holy; for I am holy.**

And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.

For I am the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus you shall **be holy for I am holy.**”

**The commandments of God teach
us about who God is.**

What were God's purposes?

To illustrate the perfections of His person and character.

To illustrate what would be required of people to dwell in the presence of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 4:1

And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, **that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land** that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

Deuteronomy 4:25-26

“If you act corruptly...I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. **You will not live long in it,** but will be utterly destroyed.

Remember those conditions?

- v 1 **Listen** to the statutes and rules and **do** them.
- v 6 **Keep** them and **do** them.
- v 9 **Take care, keep** your soul **diligently**.
- v 14 **Do** the statutes and rules in the land.

So, who can dwell with the Lord?

Psalm 15:1-3

O Lord, who may abide in Your tent?
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,
And speaks truth in his heart.
He does not slander with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor takes up a reproach against his friend.

Even now, who can dwell with the Lord?

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, **you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:48

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

If you are basing your relationship with the LORD on your obedience to His Law or to **any** other standard of righteousness, understand this....

His standard is perfection!

What were God's purposes?

To illustrate the perfections of His person and character.

To illustrate what would be required of people to dwell in the presence of the Lord.

To crush the people under the weight of the Law in order to convince them of their need for a Savior.

What does the Law do?

Galatians 3:22-24

But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

The Law was given to crush you under its weight and to convince you that your only hope is Christ!

What were God's purposes?

To illustrate the perfections of His person and character.

To illustrate what would be required of people to dwell in the presence of the Lord.

To crush the people under the weight of the Law in order to convince them of their need of a Savior.

To provide pictures and shadows of the coming Christ who would be the fulfillment of the whole Law.

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,
He explained to them the things concerning Himself
in all the Scriptures.

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And **beginning with Moses** and with all the prophets,
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Hebrews 10:1

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.

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Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

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What did Christ do?

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore 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, in order 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 Greatest Picture

Deuteronomy 4:7

For what great nation is there **that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us**, whenever we call upon him?

Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, "**God with us.**"

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off **have been brought near** by the blood of Christ.

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But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near **by the blood of Christ.**

Concluding Thoughts:

The Law is good and right and holy because it holds out to us the goodness and righteousness and holiness of our great God.

The Law is a gift of God that teaches us that Christ, His perfect son, is our only hope.

The Law is glorious because it helps us to see the beauty and glory of Christ who fulfilled it and bore the curse of it for all who believe in Him.