

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. –Luke 24:27*

Themes

Messianic Seed

Sin and the Law

**The Covenants**

God’s Presence

The Human Heart

Atonement

**The Old/New Covenant**

A problem many face when we reread familiar passages is to skim over them. As we begin this week with the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17), try to look at this passage as if it was the first time and afterwards discuss some observations about the text.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 and 13-14

* What is God’s role in the covenant? What is Israel’s role in the covenant? What is the outcome of the covenant?

Deuteronomy 11:18-32

* What themes or concepts are mentioned in this passage?
* For what purpose was the Law given? What was it preparing them for?

In Deuteronomy 28, God promises that if Israel obeys the Law, they will remain His holy people. In ch. 29, Israel breaks the covenant and God scatters them. In ch. 30, God promises He will unscatter Israel and restore them if they first return to Him. In light of these three promises, read Deut. 30:9-20.

* What was the result of the promise of the Old Covenant?

Jeremiah 31:27-34

* What does the phrase “each will die for his own wrongdoing” in vs. 30 mean for believers today?
* In what ways does this passage describe the promised new covenant as “not like the covenant that [God] made with their fathers?”

Ezekiel 11:17-20

* In light of the exchanges in Deuteronomy 28-30, what role does repentance have in the execution of God’s blessing?
* What is a promised result of repentance?

Ezekiel 16:59-63

* What does God say He will do when He establishes a new everlasting covenant?

Ezekiel 36:22-36

* The passage begins in the past tense, referring to what Israel did in the nations they lived in during exile; however, the passage shifts to future tense following a reference back to repentance. What results or consequences does this passage describe as results of repentance demonstrated through the new covenant?

Ezekiel 37:1-14

* This is a rather strange/confusion passage. Jesus references this passage during teaching to His disciples in Matthew 24:15-31 regarding the tribulation and Matthew references this passage in his description of the immediate aftermath of Jesus’ death on the cross in 27:50-53. How do these two Matthew passages help us better understand this passage?

Luke 22:14-20

* In what ways does communion make us participants in the new covenant?

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

* In what ways does the grace component in verse 12 remind us of why God chose to place the Spirit within us as part of the new covenant?

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

* This passage references Exodus 34:27-38. What role does the veil, repentance, and the Spirit play in the lives of believers today?

Hebrews 8:6-13

* What fault did God find with His people that made the first covenant imperfect?
* What was the solution that God accomplished through the New Covenant?

Hebrews 9:11-28

* Why was Jesus’ sacrifice sufficient to only be offered once?

Questions to Consider

* What covenant promises has God made that affect believers today, and what assurance do believers have that God will follow through?
* The concept of blood is all over Scripture and was considered by the Hebrew people to be the life-source of a person and animal. Why does God place such a high value on life? Why is sacrifice the means for cleansing and purifying?
* In Genesis 2, God creates Eve as a suitable helper to Adam, so he (and she) could follow God’s commands. How is the Holy Spirit a truly suitable helper for believers today to follow God’s commands?
* We see this theme of preparation for the Promised Land continue to rise up in Deuteronomy. In what ways are believers today being prepared for our own Promised Land?
* In the Old Covenant, the people of Israel had to be continually instructed to do and remember the Law (Deut. 4:23, 5:1, 5:32, 6:3, 6:12, 8:11, etc.). How does the New Covenant address this issue?
* The end of the last Hebrews passage above (9:27-28) refers to Jesus’ second coming as one not concerned with sin. What does this mean and what implications does this have on believers today?

Hebrews 13:20-21