

*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, part 1**

The Covenants, part 2

God’s Presence

The Human Heart

Atonement

**The Covenants**

Leviticus 1:1-9

* What was the purpose of the burnt offering?
* When a proper burnt offering was presented before the Lord, what was the result?

Leviticus 17:1-7

* What problem was happening among the Israelites regarding their sacrifices?
* If someone is presenting an offering to the Lord, why does it matter *where* the presentation takes place?

Genesis 8:20-9:17

* What was the basis for God’s covenant to never again curse the ground?
* In light of the above passages, what conclusions can we make about the sin that remained even after the Flood?
* 9:6 is often used as a reason to support the death penalty politically. Why or why not is this view justified for believers today?
* What are some differences between a Covenant and the Law?
* What is the expectation of God in this covenant? What is the expectation of Noah/man in this covenant?
* Is this covenant still in place today? What implications does that have for us?

Genesis 12:1-3

* What promises are made to Abram if he leaves his land, relatives, and father’s house and goes to an unknown land?

*Numbers 22:1-24:19*

* Why was Balaam so adamant against Balak’s request?
* Why was God’s anger kindled against Balaam for going and how was that anger manifested?
* What was it about Balaam’s reputation was so attractive to Balak to summon him?
* In week one, we briefly discussed how Balaam’s fourth oracle pointed to Christ as the future ruler of Israel through which all nations of the earth will be blessed. What other aspects of God’s covenant with Abram are affirmed in this narrative?

1 Chronicles 16:7-24

* The final book of the Hebrew Bible is the Book of Chronicles. How does this psalm of David connect the events of King Balak to God’s covenant with Abram?

Questions to Consider

* God’s track record demonstrates He is faithful to his covenant promises. What are the covenant promises God has made that affect believers today, and what assurance does the believer 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?
* The Balaam narrative (Num. 22-24) is foreign to many believers today. If it was new to you, what things struck you the most about the narrative? If you were familiar with the narrative, what new insights did you gain from reading it again?
* Balaam is a curious figure in the Bible. In Numbers 22-24, he serves as a prophet and agent of God, yet in chapter 25 he seduces the Moabite women to engage in sexual immorality with the People of Israel and is executed for doing so in chapter 31. How is God’s promise to Abraham accomplished and understood through this strange character?
* Habakkuk tells of God using Israel’s enemy to execute His good justice, and although He later judges Israel’s enemy, this is an example of God using unusual means to accomplish His purpose. The Balaam account could definitely fall into this category as well. Are there ways today where it seems like God is using unusual means to accomplish one or many of His purposes?