

LESSON FOUR
THE MOSAIC COVENANT
(For Group and Sunday School Members)

The Mosaic Covenant was made with the entire nation of Israel while they were encamped at Mount Sinai. This covenant formalized the relationship that God would have with His people. In keeping with the form of ancient treaties, the law laid out the type of relationship that a superior (God) would have with his subjects (the nation of Israel). This law was given as a gift of God's grace.

Through obedience to the law, God's people could live out their identity as a holy people in contrast to their pagan neighbors. They were the object of God's relentless love and had become his special treasure (Exodus 19:5). Through the law, they were given unique insight into the way God designed his people to function, relate to one another and approach Him. Their distinctive way of life would also serve to expose the surrounding nations to the glory of God. Other nations were meant to look at the nation of Israel and be drawn to know their God and desire Him.

In his video, Pastor Scott asks us to look at obedience through the life of Moses and the Israelites. We see Moses who began his quest with God, questioning his own abilities to do what God was asking him to do. "I can't" was his immediate response and demonstrated his insecurity in himself. Over time, however, as Moses came to know the magnitude and immense power and majesty of God, he became a leader of action – obedient action. But in contrast, the Israelites were quick to jump in with an attitude of assurance to God that they could do whatever God asked of them. They demonstrated immediate obedience, but they never understood the power and majesty of God, and as a result, when things became tough, they would grumble and take pity on themselves even to the point of disobedience. What a contrast, Moses became a mediator to God for a grumbling, disobedient nation who never grasped the concept of faith and grace. Through Moses we will see the scarlet thread that carries on toward the cross and then into eternity.

Read Exodus 19 and 20:18-21

Questions:

In Exodus 19: 23 we see that Mount Sinai is holy because God is holy. What exactly does it mean that God is holy?

Read for application. What are we to learn about our relationship with God from this story?

How is the God of Exodus 19 different from the God of the man on the street or the man in the pew?

What problems come from not seeing God as He really is, but rather seeing Him as we imagine Him to be?

Exodus 20.18 – 26. What is God revealing about Himself in this passage?

Verse 18. Why so afraid?

Does this picture of God sound like a God of grace to you?

Moses takes up a role that makes a thread all through Scripture, culminating in Jesus. Moses takes on the role of a *mediator*. What is a mediator?

What does a mediator do? Why do we need a mediator?

Here is a question that seems obvious, but actually trips a lot of people up. Why was the law given?