

1.4.1 Mount Sinai to the River Jordan



Benchmarks...

God's promise to his people meant God's presence with his people. How can a sinful people be in the presence of a Holy God?

Stories and rules. Overlap and repetition.

Exodus 19-40 – Law and order

Sinai – God's Holy presence revealed.

- 19:4-6. Requirement of obedience: two-sided deal compared to one-sided promise.
- 19:16-19. God is revealed in his power, and speaks.
- 20:18-19. People terrified about hearing his voice.

The Ten Commandments, 20:1-17.

- How the people are to relate to God, 1-4.
- How the people are to relate to each other to show they are God's people, 6-10.
- Written on stone tablets and kept in a special box, **The Ark of the Covenant**.



The Law covenant.

- A familiar treaty format (declaration of lordship, historical prologue, stipulations and requirements, blessings and curses, succession arrangements). Like you know a newspaper is a newspaper because of the format.
- Exodus 19-24 and Deuteronomy follow this outline.
- Choose life! Deuteronomy 30:15-20.
- Revelation of God's holiness. A testamentary showcase to the surrounding nations.
- Right living, fairness and welfare, 21-23.
- Tabernacle, furnishings and Priesthood – lots of details, 25-31, 35-40. God's presence represented in the midst of the camp, 40:34-38.
- Connection with the covenant of creation.
- Blood sprinkled to confirm the covenant, 24:8.

Meanwhile, back at the camp... a golden calf, 32-34. Does this need a promise reboot, 33:1-3? Moses' intercession, 33:12-23.

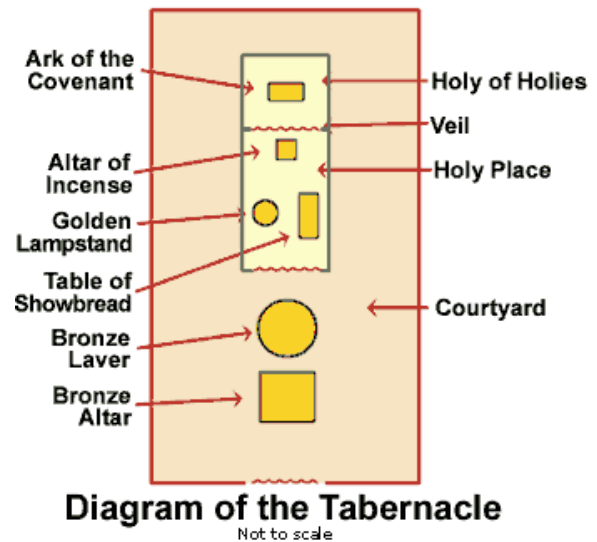
Problem! How can God make a one-sided promise to his people, and then introduce a two-sided deal that the people can't possibly keep? Is God stinging his people with the small print?

God had always required his people to acknowledge his holiness in some way, eg. burning bush, Passover, Sinai. The law merely systemises this. It declares God's holiness comprehensively.

Leviticus – How 'clean' is your house?

Tabernacle and offerings.

- Life regulated by ceremony and ritual to show God is holy and people are sinful. Bridging the gap.
- Offerings (1-7) showed that a price had to be paid for the sin of the people.
- Holy and common. Priests must represent God rightly, atoning for their own sins first. Consecration, 8-10. Priestly life and duties, 21-22
- Clean and unclean. People must live every part of their lives in a way that is ceremonially clean, 11-15, and morally upright, 17-20.



The Day of Atonement, 16. Centrepiece of the sacrificial system.

- The one time each year that the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, behind the curtain, representing the people before God, and God to the people.
- 16:15-17, "...atone for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been."
- The blood of the goat and the bull ceremonially re-established the bond encapsulated in the ark of the covenant (containing the Ten Commandments). The scapegoat bearing sin.
- Spiritual bleach! A life for a life. Atonement. A shadow of things to come...

Calendar of holy days and feasts, 23-25. God at the centre of life.

Numbers - The wilderness years



Travel diary, 1-2, 33.

Worship on the move, 3-10, 15, 17-19, 28-30.

Old generation (1) to new generation (26), 14:26-35. 40 years. Be the new generation!

Strife and setbacks

- Fire, quail and manna, 11 (Ex 16)
- Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses because of his foreign wife, 12.
- Scaremongering reports and mass rebellion, 13-14.
- Korah, Dathan and Abiram oppose Moses and are swallowed up by the earth, 16.
- Water from the rock, 20. Moses' anger means he won't go into the land, 20:12. (Ex 17)
- Defiling the sanctuary, 25.

Defining moment for rebellion (Ps 95:8-11, Heb 3:7-13). Moses' intercession, 14:17-19. Christ in the wilderness 40 days, but without sin, Matt 4:1-11, Heb 4:15.

Providence and promise-keeping

- Iconic victories: Sihon and Og, 21:21-35. Vengeance on Midian, 31.
- Baalam and the talking donkey, 22-24.
- The first settlers: Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh, 32.
- Land and inheritance, 34-36.

Defining moment for salvation, 21:4-8 (John 3:14). Faith.

Deuteronomy – Deal or no deal?

The book of the covenant (29:9-15).

The book of the Law (Found by Josiah, 2 Kings 22)?

1. Preamble (1:1-5)
2. Historical Prologue (1:6-3:29)
3. Stipulations (4-26)
 - a. Basic (4:1-11:32)
 - b. Detailed (12:1-26:19)
4. Curses and Blessings, Ratification (27-30)
5. Succession Arrangements (31-34)
 - a. Invocation of witnesses
 - b. Provision of public reading

Commandments, 5:1-21. Different reason for the Sabbath!

Speech by Moses before the people crossed the Jordan River, and he died in the desert.

Gospel anticipation:

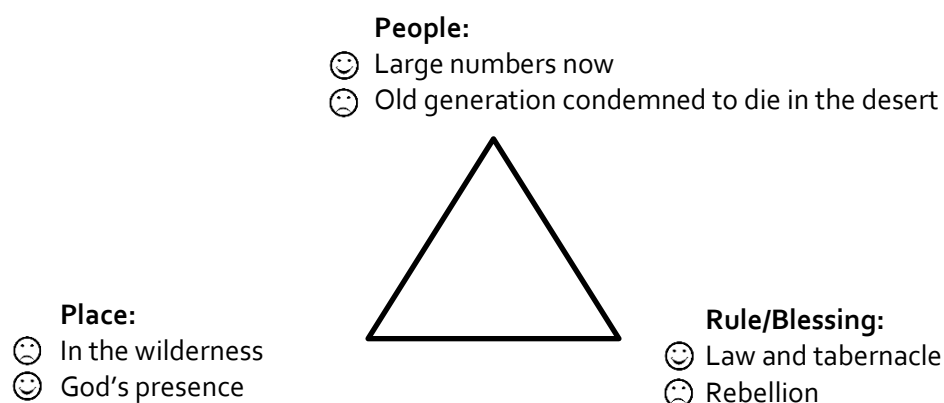
- Covenant of love to a thousand generations, 7:6-10.
- Man does not live by bread alone, 8:1-3.
- A prophet greater than Moses, 18:14-22.
- The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts, 30:1-10.

Looking back and looking forward

God's relationship with his people based on his word?

- Clear covenant-based life: God dwelling with his people, living by his Word.
- Atonement by blood.
- Shadow of things to come.

People, place, rule/blessing...



Pointing to Christ, the picture now:

Promised seed
Seed of Abraham.
Inheritor of rule/blessing

Serpent crusher.

Seed of woman.

Reverses the curse of sin.

Suffers for it.

Sacrificial goat.

Substitute sin-bearer.

Must be perfect endless

life to be an adequate

substitute to bear the

guilt of every repentant

sinner in history.