



Exodus 24:1-18

RATIFYING THE COVENANT

Israel was founded once as a family and once as a nation, but founded both times through a covenant. The second founding, the national founding at Sinai, was truly revolutionary... “For nowhere else do we find anything like the politics of Mount Sinai, with its radical vision of a society held together not by power but by the free consent of its citizens to be bound, individually and collectively, by a moral code and a covenant with God” [Rabbi Jonathan Sacks]. Standard thinking traces freedom back to Athens...but long before the Greek philosophers, and far more profoundly, at Mount Sinai the concept of a free society was born. “At Sinai the politics of freedom was born” [Rabbi Sacks]... What constituted Judaism and what made the Jew a Jew was the covenant and all that the covenant meant.

—Os Guinness, *The Magna Carta of Humanity*

The Mosaic Covenant is ratified in Exodus 24. All that God has said in the Ten Commandments and in the Book of the Covenant is received by all the people. Thus, the covenant between God and Israel begins.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT (23:20-33)

- The Priority of God’s Covenant with Abraham

National Covenant (Deuteronomy 29-30)	Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7; Psalm 89)	Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19-24)
ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21)		

- The Identity of God’s Messenger
- The Totality of God’s Promises
- The Necessity of Israel’s Obedience

Covenant. Hebrew, *berith*, “a binding agreement between two or more parties.” The root word refers to “cutting” since it was the custom of the day for the two parties to pass between animals cut in half (cf. Genesis 15:7-21).

A proper understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant is key to understanding God’s purpose for Israel and the Nations, as well as His way of dealing with human-kind in general—as this covenant is also the basis for the development of other covenants.

—Olivier J. Melnick

Angel. Hebrew, *malak*, “one sent; a messenger or representative.” Used 214x in the OT to describe prophets (2 Chr. 36:15-16), priests (Mal. 2:7), human messengers (Gen. 32:3), angels (Gen. 32:1), and the pre-incarnate Christ, i.e., God’s messenger (Gen. 16:10; 22:11).

It becomes clearer as the discourse progresses that the Angel and Yahweh are one and the same. Here “what he says” and “all that I say” are treated syntactically as synonymous. —Douglas K. Stuart

THE RATIFICATION OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT (24:1-8)

- The _____ of God's words and laws.
- The _____ of God's words and laws.
- The _____ of God's words and laws.
- The _____ of the covenant between God & Israel.

For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you."

—Hebrews 9:19-20

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT (24:9-18)

- The _____ of God in His glory.

And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

—Ezekiel 1:26-28a

- The _____ of God with His people.
- The _____ of God to His servant, Moses.

The Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses were written in Proto-Sinaitic. Moses was not only the founding father of Judaism and Christianity but also the progenitor of the Hebrew, Canaanite, Phoenician, Greek and therefore modern western alphabetic scripts.

—David Rohl

Israel was the first and only nation to receive and learn its laws before it entered its land... The Hebrew alphabet was simple enough to be taught to anyone, which created the possibility of universal literacy and equal access to knowledge.

—Os Guinness

*This is commendable enthusiasm but frankly it is delusional. Israel actually believes that she will obey **all** the Word of God... The people should have said, "God, please help us to obey you because we can't do this ourselves..."*

—David Thompson

A far-reaching principle is here articulated for the first time: there is no legitimate government without the consent of the governed...

—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

The covenant meal was a special eating ceremony between parties to the covenant without which the covenant would not have been understood to make them allies/friends/kin. Eating was understood to convey acceptance, to declare approval of those with whom one dined.

—Douglas Stuart

Israel discovered the huge gap between promise and performance. Into this gap stepped the Lord with his gracious provision of the tabernacle which...spoke day and night of atonement, forgiveness, and cleansing.

—J. Alec Motyer