

Date : 12th April 2026
Theme : From Salvation to Sanctification.
Topic : Relating with God through the Covenant Blood & Covenant Book.
Passage : Exodus 23:20 – 24:1-8
Key Verse : *⁶And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.” ⁸ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the Blood of the Covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.”...Exodus 24:6-8 nkjv*

Introduction

Last Sunday, we started on *Exodus*, after having spent 3 months in *Genesis*.

Genesis and *Exodus* are connected. **Genesis chapters 15 – 50** provides the ancestral backstory of the covenant with Abraham and the family’s move to Egypt.

Exodus details the fulfilment of God’s promise to them.

Exodus 1-15 describes their enslavement, rapid multiplication and miraculous deliverance from slavery, commonly known as the exodus from Egypt.

- Period of transition for the Israelites.
The historical context is the Sinai desert. Here the Israelites were encamped after their 2-month journey from slavery to freedom under the leadership of Moses.
 - Departed Egypt 15th day, 1st month. *Numbers 33:3*
Arrived Mount Sinai start of 3rd month. *Exodus 19:1*
 - How long did they camp at Mount Sinai? Roughly 11 months.
Arrived: first day, 3rd month, 1st year. *Exodus 19:1*
Departed: 20th day, 2nd month, second year. *Deuteronomy 1:2*
- Why did God want the Israelites at Mount Sinai?
 - To fulfil His sign to Moses to worship Him on Mount Sinai.
...And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain... Exodus 3:12.
 - To prepare, purify and separate the Israelites as one nation unto God.
...they entered the desert of Sinai, and Israel (in the singular, signifying a united community) camped there in the desert in front of the mountain... Exodus 19:2
They camped, as one man with one heart, to receive God’s law.
 - God desired a covenant relationship with Israel.
*...I carried you on eagles’ wings and bring you to Myself.
...you will be My treasured possession...
...you will be for Me a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation... Exodus 19:4-6*

The Israelites needed to transit, from slavery, into a covenant relationship with God.

Why did the Israelites' faith journey involve a Blood Covenant as well as a Book Covenant?

- What was the big picture moment at Mount Sinai?
The event at Mount Sinai marked the shift from the salvation event (exodus from Egypt) to being a covenant people.
 - What does this look like in the faith journey of believers of Jesus?
 - identity shift (becoming a child of God)
 - lifestyle shift (receiving grace to live for God)
- 1. **How do we begin our journey to be saved from sin (Salvation)?**
 - a) **Salvation is a journey of faith**
 - b) **Sanctification is a journey of ongoing relationship to please God.**
- a) **Salvation is a journey of faith.**
 - All journeys have 3 parts:
 - The starting out.
For the Israelites this was the Passover, with faith in the blood of the lamb.
All the household needed to do was to post the lamb's blood on the door and judgment by death was averted.
 - The travel route.
Faith is demonstrated by choices and actions which reflect trust in God.
For the Israelites, they needed to leave Egypt and cross the Red Sea.
 - The end of the journey — arrival at their destination.
 - This faith journey is described in the book of **Romans**:
...For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace... Romans 6:14
 - The starting out (= picture of the Passover).
Like the lamb provided for the Israelites, God provided Jesus as the ultimate Lamb when He died on the Cross. I begin my journey of faith when I trust Jesus as my Passover Lamb, who took my sin. The Blood of Jesus breaks the power of sin, which leads to death, so that I am no longer under the law of sin and death.
 - The travel route (= transfer of allegiance).
*...But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance....
...You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness....
Romans 6:17-18*
The parallel picture in *Exodus 24:7, 8* being the Blood Covenant and the Book Covenant.
 - What actions show our separation from sin to a transfer of allegiance to God?
 - i) Decide to stop a life of sin so as to obey the teaching of God.
We are not saved by keeping the Covenant Book. His Word sanctifies us so that we have power to keep our covenant relationship with God.

Baptism is a picture of dying to sin (going under the water) and rising to a new life of obedience to God. The Israelites crossing the Red Sea is a picture of baptism.

ii) Meet God where His people are.

God required them to meet Him at Mount Sinai, the place of the transfer of allegiance. Keep the Sabbath holy... *Exodus 20:8-11*. God required the Israelites to meet Him and when they came...*no one is to appear before Me empty-handed... Exodus 23:15*.

Today, we meet weekly for worship to renew our commitment to God.

iii) Put away all other gods.

... *You shall have no other gods before Me... Exodus 20:3*.

(Unfortunately, though they had left Egypt, they had not left the gods of Egypt behind. Later, they reverted to worship the golden calf — a god of Egypt. *Exodus 32*).

The Blood of the covenant frees us from slavery to sin and Satan.

Being free from sin alone leaves us directionless unless we know what we are free for.

God not only wants us to be free, He wants us to be free to be holy unto God.

We need to be free to pursue God's way; free to live righteously.

b) Sanctification is a journey of an ongoing relationship to please God. *Exodus 24*

Sanctification = set apart for God.

Christ is not only our Salvation, He is also our Sanctification.

He does this through His Word.

i) The Book of the Covenant in His Word.

Our covenant-relationship with God is confirmed by obedience to God's written word.

...*Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said... Exodus 24:4*

○ What is the Book of Covenant?

For the Israelites, it was the written scroll from *Genesis* through *Exodus*, including the 10 Commandments and the legal code (regarding worship, social justice and daily life) that Moses received and read to the people.

○ For Christians today, the Book of the Covenant is the Bible.

Keeping God's commandments is not about working for but working out our salvation. God's commandments are teachings to free us from sinful living to obedience to God. Following the Book of the Covenant is a choice to obey God. *Exodus 24:7*

○ The Book of the Covenant carries God's agreement of blessings.

This Covenant is not one sided. God's part is spelt out in *Exodus 23:20-33*.

i) His presence to keep us on the journey of faith.

ii) His 7-fold blessings: food, freedom, fruit, full life span, fight, protection and inheritance were promised to the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness. The blessings can be applied to us as well.

ii) The Blood of the Covenant

God's covenant with us is only made in the context of sacrifice.

Sacrifice admits our own sin and failing before God who, by grace, overlooks sin through the death of a substitute.

○ What is the Blood of the Covenant?

For the Israelites, it was the sacrificial blood from burnt offerings and peace offerings that symbolised the sealing of the relationship between God and Israel.

In *Exodus 24:6-8*, Moses took half of the blood and sprinkled on the altar, symbolising God’s part in the covenant. Half of it he sprinkled on the people, signifying their obligation to the covenant. It foreshadowed the new covenant to come through Christ.

Jesus said...*this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:28*

2. How do we continue our journey to live exclusively for God (Sanctification)?

From freedom from sin to an exclusive relationship with God

Action / Choice	Purpose – Relationship Change	Relationship Key Word
a) Passover (leave Egypt)	Avoid judgement and death.	Set free by the Blood of the Covenant.
b) Pass through (Red Sea)	Separate from others gods to the one true God.	Allegiance through baptism
c) Pass from “dating” to exclusivity	Enter into solemn covenant with God; forsake all others.	Be Covenanted to set apart.
d) Pass on God’s righteous ways	Reflect God’s image in my life.	Obey the Book of the Covenant.

Question: Which stage are you in your relationship with God?

3. Application

- A verse Christians commonly misquote ...*You are not under the law but under grace...*
- Why is the misquoted verse prone to misinterpretation?
 - Misquoted, it implies that Christians are not under God’s _____ (ie no need to keep God’s law, like 10 Commandments); now under grace (it gives them liberty to sin).
 - What is the context of this verse? *Romans 6:14-17*
The correct verse ...shall we sin because you are not under the law but under grace... means God’s grace gives us:
 - i) New power — grace gives power to live a new life, not a license to sin.
 - ii) New allegiance — shift from old allegiance under sin to our new Master, God.
 - iii) New standing — we are in the process of working out being righteous in practice now that God has made us righteous through His blood.
- How does Exodus 24:7-8 show the complete picture?

The B _____ of the Covenant and the B _____ of the Covenant must go together.

Ambitious Assignment: Why must Grace and Truth go together.

Why must the Blood of the Covenant and the Book of Covenant be taken together?