



# The Old Testament Covenant and The Tabernacle.

(2019)

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# The Old Testament Covenant and the Tabernacle.

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## Topics.

- The covenant and the Tabernacle.
- God's covenant with Noah, Abram, Isaac, Jacob and their Offspring.
- The covenant given to Moses on Mount Sinai.
- The first (temporary) and final tabernacle of Moses.
- The covenant of judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai.
- The covenant of blessing and the covenant of the curse.
- Judgments, rules and statutes of the covenant.
- The book of the covenant and the song of Moses.

**NOTE:** the covenant was firstly made with Israel at Mount Sinai, but this generation of adults died in the wilderness so Moses renewed the covenant with the new generation of Israel prior to them crossing the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land.

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**God's covenant with Noah and his offspring:** God's told Noah and his offspring that he would make a covenant with him and his offspring (Gen 9:9). This covenant was that God would never again destroy all flesh (every living creature) or the earth by a flood (Gen. 9:11, 15).

**God's covenant with Abram and his offspring:** God's covenant with Abram and his offspring was that He would give Abram and his offspring the land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates (Gen. 15:18).

**God's covenant with Abram:** God's covenant with Abram is that Abram will be a father of a multitude of nations (Gen. 17:4).

**God's covenant with Abram and his offspring:** God's covenant with Abram and his offspring is that Abram and his offspring would be circumcised (Gen. 17:9-10).

**God's covenant with Abram and Isaac:** God's covenant with Abram and Isaac is that Sarah his wife will have a son named Isaac and God will establish His covenant with Isaac and his offspring (Gen. 17:19).

**God's covenant with Jacob:** God's covenant with Jacob is that Jacob would be called Israel; that a nation and a company of nations and kings would come from his own body and the land that God gave to Abraham and Isaac God will give to Jacob and his offspring forever (Gen. 35:9-12).

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## SUMMARY OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM, ISAAC, JACOB AND ISRAEL

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Abraham and his offspring were to keep God's covenant of circumcision forever (Gen 17:9). Prior to the tabernacle being erected Moses had built altars and the nation of Israel was led by a pillar of fire during the night and a pillar of cloud during the day when the LORD wanted them to move camp, but once the tabernacle was built the pillar of cloud was over the tabernacle.

**The first (temporary) tabernacle:** It appears the tabernacle began as a temporary tent that Moses used and named the Tent of Meeting or the Tabernacle of the Congregation prior to the erection of the final tabernacle. When the final tabernacle was built the names remained the same. God lead Israel by a pillar of cloud that would be in front of the first temporary tent and when the final tabernacle was built the cloud was over the Most Holy Place contained within it.

**The final tabernacle was also called:**

- The tabernacle of the testimony and the tent of meeting.
- (Exod. 38:21 Exod. 38:30) (Exod. 35:21) (Exod. 38:21).
- The tabernacle of the tent of meeting (ESV) (Exod. 40:2).
- The tent of the congregation (KJV) (Exod. 40:2).

**The Ark is called:** the ark of the testimony (Exod. 40:3) (Exod. 40:5).

The following chapters show the history of Israel, the covenant and of the development of tabernacle.

**In Exodus 13:** Pharaoh is pursuing Israel to the Red Sea and Israel is being led by a pillar of cloud (Exod. 13:21-22).

**In Exodus 14** the pillar of cloud stood before Israel and Egypt at the Red Sea (Exod. 14:19-20). The Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea (Exod. 14:30-31) and there is still no tabernacle built.

**In Exodus 16:** two months after Israel left Egypt, they came to the wilderness of Sin between Elim and Sinai (Exod. 16:1) as the LORD commanded Moses Aaron placed an omer of manna before the Testimony (the Ten Commandments) (Exodus 31:18) for it to be kept (Exod. 16:34). Israel ate the manna forty years until they came to the border of the land of Canaan (Exod. 16:35).

**In Exodus 17:** Moses built an altar and called it, "The LORD is my Banner" (Exodus 17:15).

**Tabernacle:** means testimony, a witness (specifically a recorder, prince) the testimony in this context is the Ten Commandments (Exod. 31:18). Israel was led by pillar of cloud up to Exodus chapter seventeen, but still no tabernacle is built.

**Exodus 18:** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law came to Moses in the wilderness at Mount Sinai and told him to look for men who feared God, were trustworthy and hated a bribe then place them over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens and let them judge the people at all times.

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## EXODUS 19

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**The beginning of the Old Testament covenant:** God has made a covenant with Abraham, Jacob and Isaac and is now making the same covenant with the nation of Israel which begins in Exodus chapter nineteen. The nation of Israel, agree to keep the covenant at Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb). Israel had left Egypt and been journeying three months until they came to Mount Sinai and camped there. At Mount Sinai the LORD told Moses to tell Israel if they obey the LORD and keep His covenant God will promise that:

- Israel would be a peculiar people for the LORD.
- Israel would be God's treasured possession above all peoples.

- Israel would be a kingdom of Priest, a holy nation and the LORD'S people.

Three months after God delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt, they arrived at Mount Sinai and on the third day:

- Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai.
- God begins to make the covenant with Israel.
- There were lightening thunders and a thick cloud.
- God descends on Mount Sinai.
- Moses went up Mount Sinai.
- God came down on Mount Sinai and called Moses up.
- God spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai.
- Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai.

They are in fear because they see thunder and flashes of lightning so they tell Moses to speak to God). God tells Moses to tell Israel they have seen for themselves that God has talked with them from heaven and gives Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The reason God spoke to Israel out of heaven was to test them that they would not sin (Exodus 20:18-22).

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## EXODUS 20

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**Covenant judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai:** (also called Mount Horeb). In this chapter Israel is given the following Ten Commandments that the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai:

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1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make carved image of anything and you shall not bow down to them or serve them.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's.

**God's covenant promise:** was that in every place where God causes His name to be remembered he will come to Israel and bless them.

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## SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT

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The Old Testament Covenant (Exodus chapters 19 and 20). The beginning of the Old Testament covenant was made at Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) prior to Israel crossing the River Jordan and entering the Land. God said to Moses that He is making a covenant to the nation of

Israel (Exod. 34:10-11, 27) (Deut. 4:10-11) and then prior to crossing the Jordan River and entering the land Moses renews the covenant at Moab (Deut. 1:1-5) (Deut. 29:10-11) (Deut. 30 and 31).

**The covenant embraced the following laws:**

- The Ten Commandments.
- All the testimonies judgements, rules and laws for the nation of Israel.
- The feasts sacrifices, and the offerings. (Exod. 20:7-18) (Exod. 21:1) (Exod. 23:23, 30) (Exod. 34:28) (Deut. 4:44-47) (Deut. 29:18-20) (Deut. 30:2) (Deut. 30:15-16).

All these testimonies, judgements, rules and laws for the nation of Israel were written in the Book of Law (Deut. 30:10). If Israel turned away from the covenant the following curses would come upon them:

- The land would not produce and the cattle would fail.
- Woman would be barren and Israel would be small in number.
- The nation would not prosper.
- Whatever they put their hand to do it would come to nothing.
- They would have bad health and be the tail of all nations. (Deuteronomy 28:14 -62).
- They would not dwell long in the Promised Land and would be few in numbers (Deut. 30:17-18).

All these curses were written in a book called, the Book of the Law (Deuteronomy 29:27).

**The covenant embraced the following blessings and promises:**

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- God would multiply Abraham's offspring and give the land to Israel's offspring. (Exod. 32:13) (Exod. 34:10-11, 27) (Deut. 28:1-14).
- God will send His angel and drive out the inhabitants of the land little by little. (Exod. 23:22-25, 30) (Exod. 34:10-11, 27).
- God would not leave or forsake Israel (Deut. 31:6, 8).
- God would bless Israel's land bread and water and take sickness away from them (Deut. 28:1-14).
- God would bless their health and none will miscarry or be barren and they will live to old age (Deut. 28:1-14).
- God would prosper the nation and all they do (Deut. 28:1-14).
- Israel's enemies would be in terror and turn their backs to Israel (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).
- God would do a marvellous and awesome thing with Israel (Exod. 34).
- God would drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, Hittites Amorites, Perizzites and Jebusites until Israel possess the land (Exod. 32:13) (Exod. 34:10-11, 27).

**The covenant gave Israel the choice:** of life and blessing or the curse and death. Israel was to choose life by loving obeying and holding fast to the LORD their God (Deut. 30:1) (Deut. 15-16) (Deut. 30:19-20).

**Israel as a nation agreed to do and obey the covenant:** Moses read the book of the covenant and all Israel agree to obey and do it (Exod. 24:7). (Deut. 5:27-28) then Moses took the bowl of the blood from an oxen that had been sacrificed on the altar and threw it over the altar, over

the book of Law and over the people to seal the covenant (Exod. 24:3, 7-8). All the words of the covenant are found in (Exodus chapters 21, 22, 23).

**The LORD knew when Moses died Israel would forsake the covenant:** prior to Moses death God told Moses:

- Israel will forsake the LORD and go whoring after foreign gods in the land that they are entering (Deut. 31:16-18) (Deut. 31:20-21).
- The LORD'S anger will be kindled against Israel and because they forsake the LORD their God, He will forsake them (Deut. 31:16-18) (Deut. 31:20-21).
- Many evils, hardships and troubles will come upon Israel (Deut. 31:16-18) (Deut. 31:20-21).

The Lord even gave Israel a song for all the future generations of Israel to sing that would confront and witness against them (Deut. 31:20-21, 30). The song is called the Song of Moses it is a song about God the Father giving birth to Israel, God loving Israel as the apple of His eye and encircling and caring for them in the wilderness as His own children. It contrasts the LORD'S faithfulness and Holiness to the unfaithfulness and lack of Holiness of the generation that crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. The song is about how this generation stirred God to jealousy and anger and their forsaking the Rock of their Salvation by practising gross abominations and sacrificing to demons that were no gods. The lyrics sing of the generation who entered into the Promised Land becoming a perverse generation and forsaking the LORD so God abandoned them. The full song is found in (Deuteronomy 32).

**Moses knowing Israel will forsake the covenant when he dies tells the people of Israel that they are:**

- Rebellious and stubborn and will be even more rebellious after his death.
- Will provoke the LORD to anger and do what is evil in His sight so evil will befall them (Deut. 31:27-29).

Then Moses tells Israel if they return to the covenant God would: -

- Show Israel compassion and gather them from where He had scattered them.
- Bring Israel back into the land and make them more prosperous than their fathers.
- Cause Israel to love the LORD with all their heart and soul and put the curses of the covenant on their enemies.
- Make Israel abundantly prosperous in their work and bless them in the fruit of their womb.
- Make Israel's cattle and their fruit prosperous and God would delight in prospering Israel as he did their fathers (Deut. 30:2-9).

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## EXODUS 21

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**Judgments, rules and statutes for the covenant:** Israel is not yet in the Promised Land (Exod. 23:23) (Exod. 23:30). The covenant made at Mount Sinai included the following judgments, rules and statutes (Exod. 21:1) for the nation of Israel:

- Laws for selling a daughter as a slave.

- Laws for striking a man so that he dies and when he does not die.
- Laws for premeditated murder.
- Laws for striking a father or a mother.
- Laws for stealing and Kidnapping.
- Laws for cursing a father or a mother.
- Law for men quarrelling and one strikes the other with a stone.
- Laws for men striking a slave, or a male or female with a rod.
- Laws for men who strive together and hit a pregnant woman.
- Laws for men who strike the eye of a slave (male or female).
- Laws for men who knocks out the tooth of a slave (male or female).
- Laws for an ox when it gores a man or a woman to death.
- Law for men who dig a pit, and do not cover it and an ox or a donkey falls into it.
- Laws for when one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies.

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## EXODUS 22

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**Judgments, rules and statutes of the covenant:** Israel is not yet in the Promised Land (Exod. 23:23) (Exod. 23:30). The covenant made at Mount Sinai included the following judgments, rules, laws and statutes (Exod. 21:1) for the nation of Israel: -

- Laws for stealing an ox or a sheep.
- Laws for dealing with a thief and burglary.
- Laws for another man's field or vineyard to be grazed over.
- Laws for causing another man's field to be burned.
- Laws for borrowing.
- Laws for when a breach of trust is broken.
- Laws for looking after other people's property.
- Laws for seducing a virgin who is not engaged to be married.
- Laws for sorcery.
- Laws for lying with animals.
- Laws for sacrificing to other gods.
- Laws for treating a sojourner widow or the fatherless child.
- Laws for lending money to the poor.
- Laws for reviling God or a ruler of the people.
- Laws for harvest time.
- Laws for the firstborn son and animals.
- Laws for eating flesh that is torn by beasts of the field.

**Judgments, rules and statutes of the covenant:** Israel is not yet in the Promised Land (Exod. 23:23) (Exod. 23:30). Following are the covenant rules (judgments in the KJV) Moses was to set before Israel (Exodus 21:1).

- Do not give a false report or a malicious witness.
- Do not do evil or a false witness in a lawsuit.
- Do not perverting justice or partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.
- Return an enemy's ox or his donkey if it is going astray.
- Do not pervert the justice due to the poor in a lawsuit or bring a false charge.
- Do not kill the innocent and righteous or take a bribe.
- Do not oppress a sojourner.
- Work only six days and keep the seventh day holy as a Sabbath.
- Do not mention the name of other gods.
- Keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, of Harvest and of Ingathering.
- Keep the blood sacrifices and do not offer them with anything leavened.
- Offer the firstfruits of the ground and do not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.
- Do not bow down to other gods or serve them.
- Completely destroy the gods of other nations.
- Do not make covenants with other nations gods or serve them.

**God's covenant promises prior to Israel entering the Promised Land were that:**

- His angel would go before Israel and drive out the inhabitants of the land.
- He would bless Israel's bread and water and take sickness away from them.
- No woman would miscarry or be barren and everyone would live to old age.
- Israel would be a terror to their enemies and flee from Israel in fear.
- He would drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, Hittites until Israel increased and possess the land.

The covenant made at Mount Sinai included all of Gods judgments, rules and statutes for the nation of Israel and the glorious promises written in it were dependent on Israel obeying the covenant. For further information concerning the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see the notes giving in Exodus 20 (above).

**Moses is on Mount Sinai forty-days and forty-nights:** Israel is still camped at Mount Sinai. The instructions for the tabernacle were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18) and the covenant included all the judgments, rules and statutes written in (Exodus chapter 21, 22, 23). Moses wrote all the Laws of the covenant in a book called the Book of the Law. He read the Book of the covenant to the people of Israel and they all with one voice said that they will be obedient and do all that the LORD has spoken (Exod. 24:7). Then sealed the covenant and all the words the LORD had spoken by throwing blood over the people (Exod. 24:8).

All the words the LORD had spoken regarding the covenant are found in (Exod. chapters 21, 22, 23). God had already written the Ten Commandments, His laws, statutes and rules before He gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 24:12). After Moses read to Israel everything written in the covenant, they agree to obey it (Exod. 24:3, 7).

### **Israel agrees to enter into the first covenant with God:**

- Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do. (Exodus 24:3).
- Then he (Moses) took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." (Exodus 24:7-8).

The LORD tells Moses to come up to Him on Mount Sinai and Moses goes, into the cloud that covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Moses was with the LORD forty-days and nights. The appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain and all the people of Israel saw this glory of God on Mount Sinai.

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## **EXODUS 25**

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### **Instructions for the permanent tabernacle and the furniture:**

Moses is on Mount Sinai forty-days and God gives him the instructions for:

- The tabernacle and the garments of the priests.
- The furniture of the tabernacle.

Every time the Scripture says, "And the LORD spoke to Moses," it refers to his forty-days with the LORD on Mount Sinai where the Ten Commandments (also called the Testimony) and the detailed instructions for tabernacle were given to him (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18). The Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18).

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## **EXODUS 26**

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In this chapter Moses gives further instructions for the permanent tabernacle and the sacrifices to the people of Israel. The instructions for tabernacle were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18).

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## **EXODUS 27**

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In this chapter Moses gives further instructions for the permanent tabernacle and the sacrifices to the people of Israel. The instructions for tabernacle were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 25:40) (Exodus 31:18).

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## EXODUS 28

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In this chapter Moses gives further instructions for the permanent tabernacle and the sacrifices. The instructions for tabernacle were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18).

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## EXODUS 29

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In this chapter Moses gives further instructions for the permanent tabernacle and the sacrifices. The instructions for tabernacle were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18).

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## EXODUS 30

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In this chapter Moses gives Israel instructions for Aaron's garments. The instructions for Aaron's garments were given on Mount Sinai (Exodus 25:40) (Exodus 31:18).

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## EXODUS 31

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In this chapter Moses continues to give Israel instructions for the tabernacle and the sacrifices (Exodus 31). The instructions for Aaron's garments were given on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18).

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## EXODUS 32

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The permanent tabernacle is still not built only the instructions for it have been given. This chapter talks, of the covenant and the Ten Commandments set on stone that God gave to Israel on Mount Sinai (Exod. 24:12) and of Moses being on Mount Sinai forty-days so the people of Israel entice Aaron to makes a golden calf. Aaron makes the calf and tells the people of Israel, "These are your gods who brought you up out of Egypt." The LORD saw Israel worshipping the golden calf and said to Moses let me alone, that I may consume Israel. Moses immediately intercedes for Israel and reminds God that He had promised He would multiply Abraham's offspring as the stars of heaven. The LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken to bring on Israel. Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two Tablets of the testimony in his hand. The Tablets of stone were written on both sides; on the front and on the back, they were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. Moses gets to the bottom of the mountain and asks the people, "Who is on the LORD'S side?" All the sons of Levi gathered around Moses and Moses tells them to go throughout the camp, and kill the rest. About three thousand men of the people fell. Moses tells the Levites "Today you have been ordained (consecrated in KJV) for the service of the LORD. God says He will send an angel before Israel and swore by His own self that He would multiply the offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Israel as the stars of heaven and they will inherit it forever. He gave instructions for Aaron's garments on Mount Sinai (Exod. 25:40) (Exod. 31:18) and wrote the Ten Commandments Himself (Exod. 32:15-16). After breaking the first commandments Moses returned to the LORD on Mount Sinai.

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## SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT MADE AT MOUNT SINAI

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The Old Testament covenant was made at Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) prior to Israel crossing the River Jordan and entering the Land. God said to Moses that He is making a covenant to the nation of Israel (Exod. 34:10-11, 27) (Deut. 4:10-11). Prior to crossing the Jordan and entering the land Moses renews the covenant at Moab (Deut. 1:1-5) (Deut. 29:10-11) (Deuteronomy chapter 30 and 31). The covenant embraced the Ten Commandments all the testimonies, judgements, rules and laws for the nation including the feasts sacrifices and the offerings

(Exod. 20:7-18) (Exod. 21:1) (Exod. 23:23, 30) (Exod. 34:28) (Deut. 4:44-47)  
(Deut. 29:18-20) (Deut. 30:2, 15-16).

All the judgments, rules and laws were written in the Book of Law (Deut. 30:10). If Israel turned away from the covenant the following curses would come upon them and their land:

- Bad Health.
- The land would not produce and the cattle would fail.
- Woman would be barren and Israel would be small in number.
- The nation of Israel would not prosper.
- All they attempted to achieve and do would come to nothing.
- They would be the tail of all nations and not the head.
- They would not live long in the land God had promised them.
- The nation would be few in numbers.

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All these curses were written in the Book of the Law (Deut. 29:27).

### **The covenant embraced the following promises.**

God would:

- Multiply Abraham's offspring and give the land to all the offspring of all of Israel (Exod. 32:13) (Exod. 34:10-11, 27) (Deut. 28:1-14).
- Send His angel before Israel and drive out the inhabitants of the land little by little (Exod. 23:22-25, 30) (Exod. 34:10-11, 27).
- Not leave or forsake Israel (Deut. 31:6, 8).
- Bless Israel's land, bread, water and take sickness away.
- Bless their health and no woman would miscarry or be barren.
- Have every man and women live to a healthy old age.
- Prosper the nation and all they do.
- Cause Israel's enemies to be in terror and flee from them (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).
- Do a marvellous and awesome thing with Israel (Exod. 34).
- Drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, Hittites Amorites, Perizzites and the Jebusites until Israel possess the land (Exodus 32:13) (Exodus 34:10-11, 27).

**For further information:** on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see the notes given in Exodus 20.

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## EXODUS 33

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**The temporary tent of meeting** (also called, the Tabernacle of the Congregation). The permanent tabernacle is still not built only the detailed instructions have been given. Prior to the permanent tabernacle being built (also called the Tabernacle of the Congregation). Israel pitched a temporary Tent of Meeting' outside the camp. When Moses entered the temporary tent of meeting (tabernacle in the KJV) a pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the door and the LORD would speak with Moses from the cloud. God tells Moses to leave Mount Sinai and go to the land He swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God said He would not go up amongst Israel, lest he consumes them because they are a stiff-necked people, when Israel heard this, they were repentant and stripped themselves of their pagan ornaments from Mount Horeb (Sinai) onward. Moses asked the LORD to show him His glory and the LORD told him to stand in the cleft of a the rock and the LORD would cover Moses with His hand until his glory had passed by then He would take away His hand, and Moses would see the LORD'S back, but not His face then God would not only make all His goodness pass before Moses but would proclaim His name "The LORD" to Moses.

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## EXODUS 34

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**A covenant chapter and the second set of stone tablets:** the LORD tells Moses to cut two Tablets of stone like the first and He will write on the Tablets the words that were on the first Tablets, which Moses broke (Exod. 34) and then take them up Mount Sinai. Moses cut two more Tablets of stone like the first and went up Mount Sinai with the two Tablets. The LORD descended in a cloud and stood with him there. God made a covenant before all the people of Israel that promised He would not only give the land of Canaan to Israel's offspring, but also send an angel before them who would drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and the Jebusites before them.

God's covenant promise is that the LORD will:

- Do marvels such as have not been seen in all the earth.
- All people would see the work of the LORD.
- The LORD will do an awesome thing with Israel.

The promises were dependent on Israel keeping the covenant that they agreed with God at Mount Sinai to enter into (the covenant included the Ten Commandments). God in this chapter repeats the laws and rules and statutes He had previously given Israel in. For further information on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see the notes in Exodus 20.

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## EXODUS 35

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**Work on the tabernacle begins:** in (Exodus 35, 36, 37, 38). Moses tells Israel, what the LORD has commanded in the covenant. God's judgements, rules and laws of the covenant are:

- To work six days and on the seventh day keep the Sabbath.
- To give from the heart whatever they can for the tabernacle
- For every skilful craftsman to make all that the LORD has commanded

Everyone whose heart stirred them brought a free will offering to be used for the tent of meeting. Skilful craftsmen and wise men begin the construction of the tabernacle and to make the holy vessels and furniture (Exod. 35:10-11) (Exod. 36, 37, 38). The final tabernacle is also called the Tabernacle of the Testimony (Exodus 38:21).

**In Exodus 39:** Aaron and his son's garments are made.

**In Exodus 40:** the tabernacle is filled with the LORD'S Glory.

The LORD tells Moses to erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting (Exodus 40:17-19) and Moses finished the work of the permanent tabernacle and a cloud covered the Tent of Meeting and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

- Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and *the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle*. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For *the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night*, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys (Exodus 40:35-38).

**The final name of the tabernacle;** is the Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting (ESV) and the Tent of the Congregation (KJV) (Exod. 40:2).

**The Ark:** is called the Ark of the Testimony (Exod. 40:3) (Exod. 40:5).

**Moses anoints:** the furniture, the holy vessels and Aaron and his sons with oil.

**For further information:** on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see the notes in Exodus 20.

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## DEUTERONOMY 1

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Since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. After the LORD had given Moses the first or original covenant and the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb) the LORD told Moses that Israel had stayed long enough at Horeb (Mount Sinai) in the wilderness and it was time for him to take the people and go to the Promised Land. Moses and Israel departed Sinai and have now arrived at the Jordan River in the land of Moab. At the edge of the River Moses undertook to explain the law that the LORD had given Israel at Mount Sinai, but Israel was too great in number for Moses to be able to explain the covenant by himself so he appoints heads over the tribes and commanders and officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. The heads of the tribes and the commanders and officers' purpose was to be administrators of the covenant given at Mount Sinai (Horeb) they were to:

- Hear the cases between their brothers.
- Judge their people righteously and the stranger who was with them.
- Not be partial in judgment.
- Hear the small and the great alike and not be intimidated by anyone.
- Give any case or problem that was too hard for them to Moses.

Moses reminds the new generation of Israel of the previous generation (who have now all died in the wilderness) of their lack of faith to cross the Jordan River because of the bad report the ten spies brought back after spying out the Promised Land of Canaan. At this time Moses is one-

hundred and twenty years old his eye was undimmed and his vigour unabated (Deut. 34:7) and Israel is in the land of Moab. This is not a new covenant, but a re-teaching of the original covenant. The LORD told Moses that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land (Deut. 31:1-2) so Moses tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7).

**After Moses death:** Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2) but just prior to crossing the River Jordan, Israel renewed the covenant made at Horeb (Mount Sinai) (Deut. 4:26, 31:1-2) (Joshua 1:1-2). For further information on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see notes in Exodus 20 (above).

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## DEUTERONOMY 4

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Since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. Israel is in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan. Moses retells the laws, rules and statutes of the original covenant made at Mount Sinai. This is not a new covenant, but a re-teaching of the original covenant. Prior to crossing over the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Joshua 1:1-2) Moses re-tells Israel all the covenant judgments rule and laws and tells them:

- To do all the statutes and rules the LORD had given them at Mount Sinai that they may live.
- To go in and take possession of the land that the LORD is giving them.
- Not to add or take from the word Moses command at Mount Sinai.
- No other nation has a God so near to it as the LORD is to Israel.
- No other nation has statutes so righteous as Moses has given Israel.
- They were to teach their children and their children's children.

The LORD'S command's rules and statutes were given at Horeb (Mount Sinai) the mountain burned with fire and the LORD spoke out of it. Israel heard the sound of words, but saw no form, there was only a voice.

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## THE UNIQUENESS OF ISRAEL

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No nation has heard the voice of a God speaking out of fire as Israel did and still live. No other God has ever taken a nation for himself from another nation and Israel heard God's voice out of heaven when He gave Moses the covenant. The following shows that Israel has always been God's special and unique people.

God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statues and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the World.

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

(Exod. 19:5) (Deut. 7:6) (Deut. 14:2) (Deut. 26:18) (Deut. 32:9) (Isa. 46:3-4) (Hos. 11:1).

Thus, the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy and righteous race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

**Israel the thermometer of God's prophecy:** it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy, much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measure the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the sun's heat is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin. Likewise, Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus now for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

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## MOSES IS ONE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS OLD

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At this time Moses was one-hundred and twenty years old and his eye was undimmed and his vigour unabated (Deut. 34:7), but the LORD has told him that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 31:1-2) so he tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7). After Moses death Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2). For further information; on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see notes in Exodus 20 (above).

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## DEUTERONOMY 5

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Since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. Israel is in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan. Moses retells the laws, rules and statutes of the original covenant made at Mount Sinai. This is not a new covenant, but a re-teaching of the original covenant. Prior to crossing over the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Joshua 1:1-2) Moses re-tells Israel all the covenant judgments rule and laws they are the LORD'S covenant made with Israel in Horeb (Mount Sinai) (Duet. 5:1-2).

**The covenant was made with the entire nation of Israel:** Moses tells Israel that the covenant the LORD made at Mount Sinai was made with all who are alive today. This is because the LORD spoke with all the people of Israel and made the covenant with the nation face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire where all the people were afraid because of the fire on the mountain so Moses stood between the LORD and the people to declare the word of the LORD.

**The covenant was made at Mount Sinai:** Moses tells the people all the words he is about to speak are the words God spoke at Mount Sinai and the words of the covenant that God wrote on two tablets of stone and added no more. Moses reads out to Israel all the commandments statutes and judgements of the covenant and tells the people to teach them to the people. The LORD heard Israel agree to hear and do all the laws of the covenant. For further information on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see notes in Exodus 20 (above). Moses is one-hundred and twenty years old at this time and his eye was undimmed and his vigour unabated (Deut. 34:7), but the LORD has told him that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 31:1-2) so he tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7). After Moses death Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:1-2).

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## DEUTERONOMY 28

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**The blessings and the curse:** since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. Israel is in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan, but before they cross the river Moses retells the blessings and curses contained in the covenant given to Moses at Mount Sinai (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Joshua 1:1-2).

**The blessings that came with keeping God's Covenant** (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

- Good Health and the land would produce abundantly.
- Abundance of cattle and multitudes of children.
- The entire nation and all they did would prosper.
- No woman would be barren and they would be the head of all nations.
- Their offspring would be as the stars of heaven.

**The curses of rebelling and forsaking God's Covenant** (Deuteronomy 28:14 -62).

- Bad health and their land would not produce.
- The cattle will fail and they will lack children.
- The nation will not prosper and woman will be barren.
- What they do would come to nothing and they would be the tail of all nations.
- Their nation would be small in number.

When Moses was given the covenant at Mount Sinai, he wrote all these blessing and curses in a book called the Book of the Law (Deut. 28:58) (Deut. 29:21) (Deut. 29:27). Moses is one-hundred and twenty years old

at this time and his eye was undimmed and his vigor unabated (Deut. 34:7), but the LORD has told him that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 31:1-2) so he tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7). After Moses death Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2)

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## DEUTERONOMY 29

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Since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. The fathers who were at Mount Sinai have died only their offspring are left and they are about to cross the River Jordan so the LORD has Moses repeat the original covenant to them (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Josh. 1:1-2).

**The covenant is renewed at Moab:** all of Israel is standing before the LORD. The words:

- These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb (Deut. 29:1).

Are misleading since the LORD did not make a new covenant with Israel at Moab (See Deut. 1:1-8), but retold the original covenant God made with Israel at Mount Siani. The verse should read:

- These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to explain to the children of Israel in the land of Moab besides the time the LORD gave the covenant to them at Horeb (Deut. 29:1).

The reason the covenant needed to be retold was because they had spent forty-years in the wilderness and the adult generation who refused to enter the Promised Land of Canaan because of the bad report of the ten spies had all died (except Joshua and Caleb) so it is a new generation that is about to enter into the Promised Land. It is the offspring of the previous generation who are standing in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land and since the population had greatly multiplied it is likely many had not had the covenant fully explained. This is the reason God tells Moses to appoint heads over the people and explain and administer the covenant given to their nation at Mount Sinai. If Israel do not turn their heart away from the LORD to serve the gods of the other nations and walk in the stubbornness of their own heart (Deut. 29:18-20) God would not abandon them, but if they abandoned the covenant all the words written in the book of the covenant their land will not produce and all the nations will say:

- The LORD destroyed land of Israel because Israel abandoned the covenant of the LORD that He made with Israel at Horeb (Mount Sinai) when He brought them out of the land of Egypt (Deut. 29:23-25).

For further information on the covenant, and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see notes in Exodus 20 (above). Moses is one-hundred and twenty years old at this time and his eye was undimmed and his vigour unabated (Deut. 34:7), but the LORD has told him that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 31:1-2) so he tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7). After Moses death Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2).

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## DEUTERONOMY 30

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Since the adult generation of Israel had all died in the wilderness Moses Renews the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai before the new generation crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. The

fathers who were at Mount Sinai have died in the wilderness only their offspring are left and they are in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan so the LORD has Moses repeat the original covenant made at Mount Sinai to them before they enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Joshua 1:1-2).

**The covenant of life and death:** all Israel is standing before the LORD (Deut. 29:10-11) and Moses calls heaven and earth to witness against them saying, "Today God set before them life and death, blessings or curses."

Blessings if they:

- Love the LORD their God.
- Walks in His ways.
- Keep his commandments, his statutes and rules.

They will live and multiply, and the LORD will bless and prosper them in the land, but if Israel's heart turns away to worship other gods and serve them, they will not live long in the land that they are going over the Jordan River to enter and possess, but will instead perish. Moses tells Israel to choose life by loving the LORD their God, obeying his voice and hold fast to him and then their offspring would live and prosper in the land.

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## HERE IS THE WONDER AND GLORY OF GOD

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The LORD already knows Israel will rebel and turn to other gods when Moses dies so He gives the following words of comfort to future generations telling them that when they return and obey God's with all their heart God will then give them the following covenant blessings:

- Restore their fortunes and show them compassion.
- Gather them from the countries where He has scattered them and bring them back to their land.
- Make them more prosperous than their fathers.
- Circumcise their heart and the heart of their offspring.
- Cause them to love the LORD with all their heart and soul.
- Put the curses of the covenant on their enemies.
- Make them abundantly prosperous in their work.
- Bless their women in the fruit of their womb.
- Make their cattle and their fruit prosperous.
- Delight in prospering them as he did the fathers.

But if Israel turns away from the covenant the curses of the covenant will come upon them and they would not live long in the land they are about to possess, but would eventually perish. Moses wrote all the blessings and curses, the commandments and statutes of the covenant are written in a book called, 'The Book of the Law. For further information on the covenant and God's judgements, rules and laws given on Mount Sinai see notes in Exodus 20 (above). Moses is one-hundred and twenty years old at this time and his eye was undimmed and his vigor unabated (Deut. 34:7), but the LORD has told him that he would not go over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land of Canaan (Deut. 31:1-2) so he tells Joshua to take Israel into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7). After Moses death Joshua took Israel over the River Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2)

The fathers who were at Mount Sinai have died in the wilderness only their offspring are left. They are in the land of Moab about to cross the River Jordan so the LORD has Moses re-tell the original covenant made at Mount Sinai to the new Generation before they enter the Promised Land of Canaan. (Deut. 4:26) (Deut. 31:1-2) (Deut. 31:13) (Joshua 1:1-2). Moses wrote the law of the Covenant in a book (Deut. 31:24) and gave it to the priests and to the elders. This book is called the Book of the Law (Deut. 31:9) and the Book of the Covenant.

At the end of every seven-years at the Feast of Booths when all Israel came together to appear before the LORD they were to assemble all the men, women, the little ones and the sojourner within their towns and were to read the law of the Covenant before all Israel so that their children, who have not known the law, may hear and learn to fear the LORD their God and do all the words written in the law as long as they live in the Promises Land (Deut. 39:10-13). Moses encourages Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel:

- Be strong and courageous, for you shall go as the head with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. The LORD will go before you to destroy the nations so that you shall dispossess them. The LORD will be with you and will not leave you or forsake you so do not fear or be dismayed (Deut. 31:3-4). (Deut. 31:7-8).

The LORD tells Moses that the days are approaching when he must die and tells him to call Joshua and present themselves in the Tent of Meeting that the LORD may commission Joshua so Moses and Joshua present themselves in the Tent of Meeting and the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud and the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent (Deut. 31:14-15). The LORD commissioned Joshua and said:

- Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you (Deut. 31:23).

When Moses had finished writing the words of the law in the Book of the Covenant to the very end he commanded the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, to put the Book of the Law by the side of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD their God so that it would be there for a witness against them (Deut. 31:24-26).

**The LORD already knows that after Moses dies Israel will** whose after the foreign gods in the Promised Land and forsake the LORD and break His Covenant (Deut. 31:16-17). When Israel break the Covenant and forsakes the LORD to worship foreign gods the LORD will forsake and turn against them so that many troubles will come upon them until they are devoured by their enemies. When these troubles reach their peak Israel will then say, "Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?" (Deut. 31:20-21). Moses tells Israel that they have acted corruptly and been rebellious against the LORD while he was alive so how much more rebellious and corrupt will they be after his death! (Deut. 31:27-29).

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## THE SONG OF MOSES

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The LORD gave Israel a song for all the future generations of Israel to sing that would confront and witness against them (Deut. 31:20-22, 30). The song is called the Song of Moses it is a song about God the Father giving birth to Israel, God loving Israel as the apple of His eye and encircling and caring for them in the wilderness as His own children. The song contrasts the LORD'S faithfulness and Holiness to the unfaithfulness and lack of Holiness of the generation that crossed the River Jordan and entered the Promised Land. The song is about how this generation stirred

God to jealousy and anger and their forsaking the Rock of their Salvation by practising gross abominations and sacrificing to demons that were no gods. The lyrics sing of the generation who entered into the Promised Land becoming a perverse generation and forsaking the LORD so God abandoned them (the entire chapter of Deuteronomy 32 is the song of Moses).

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## MOSES DEATH

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Moses was one-hundred years old when he died his eye was undimmed and his vigour unabated (Deut. 34:7). He continued to speak all the words of the covenant right up to his death (Deut. 34:7). The LORD told him he will not enter the Promised Land (Deut. 31:1-2) and that Joshua will take Israel across the River Jordan and into the land that has been promised to their fathers (Deut. 31:7) (Joshua 1:1-2). For further information regarding:

- The covenant God's judgements and laws given on Mount Sinai.
- See notes following Exodus 20 (above).

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## THE LORD USED KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO DEVOUR ISRAEL

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The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. When Israel broke the covenant and turned from the LORD to worship foreign gods the LORD used King Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon to devour them. The LORD called Babylon His Great Army and used King Nebuchadnezzar and as His servant and the armies of Babylon to bring the judgments and curses written in the Book of the covenant on Judah and Israel. Many times, God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel they would be taken into Babylonian captivity for seventy years, because of their rebellion against the LORD, but God would look after them while they were held captive and at the end of the seventy years, He would deliver them. Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (the two tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods.

While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar. Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again). Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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