

# Advent '18.

Week #1: From Old to New - Exodus to Isaiah

December 02, 2018

This fall we have spent considerable time reviewing and understanding the 10 Pillars of God's Covenant with His Jewish people, as they left Egypt with Moses and prepared to receive their promise of a new land. This Mosaic Covenant underpinned the Jewish nation for centuries ... and still does today. But as they struggled - and failed - to keep their part of the Covenant, God promised something new and wonderful. Something that would forever change His world, and finally draw all people to Himself.

Our journey into Advent this year will recount this journey and the lessons it provides us. About God. About ourselves. About our world. About Jesus and our need for a Savior.

## **Study Questions: *The Reality of the Mosaic Covenant***

1. Take a moment and review the 10 Commandments just one more time in Exodus 20.
  - If they were God's final word to you - take them or leave them - how would you respond?
  - What picture of God do these wonderful words of gracious instruction provide you? Is this picture enough ... was it enough for the Hebrews? Why/why not?
2. Let's be honest - the Jews really struggled with the Covenant they had with Yahweh. They were frustrated by it and ignored it, forgot it, even blatantly shunned it.
  - Where does God frustrate you? What are we good at ignoring, forgetting & even shunning?
  - What can be so difficult about having a relationship with God?
3. Pastor Ken spoke of how the disasters that fell on God's people had everything to do with their disobedience ... the Mosaic Covenant cut both ways ... for their good and for their disaster.
  - Is that fair - that a set of commands that are nearly impossible to meet bring disaster if you fail? ... or is that really what happened?
4. In the midst of their pain and suffering (like they were in Egypt, really), God brings to them a new promise. It is this promise that we have embraced as our Covenant - the promise of Messiah.
5. Read Isaiah 8:20-9:7 (New Living Translation). How would you feel had you been given the promise of a new royal government that would rule with truth, justice and grace forever?
  - What hope do such words provide for you in your life today? Where could your life use more truth, more justice, more grace?
6. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Not only is a new government promised, but the hope of living within it through a fresh new Covenant - a hope thoroughly lost within the existing one - is declared.
  - We read these words of Isaiah rightly identifying Jesus as the Messiah - both royal King and sacrificed Lamb. As we do, how are we able to hold both in tension as a means of living within this new Covenant in Christ?
  - If Christ had only died as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), would the Covenant be different (because Jesus would not be the King but just the Lamb)? Why *must* the two roles - King and Lamb - go together?
7. Spend time this week preparing for both King and Lamb. Read the accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew & Luke. Pray that you will be renewed by recognizing both King and Lamb.