

# The Bible Jesus Used

**A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament**

**Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2011–2012**  
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# Exodus at a Glance

Yahweh's Self-Exalting, Gracious Deliverance  
of Israel

Chs. 1–15

Yahweh's Self-Exalting, Gracious Covenant  
with Israel

Chs. 19–24

Yahweh's Self-Exalting, Gracious Presence  
amidst Israel

Chs. 25–40

# The Covenant Embodying Yahweh's Relationship with Israel (chs. 19–24)

## ❖ The Setting:

- ❖ 3 months of “testing” God by questioning his faithfulness or disobeying his voice:
  - ❖ Israel expressed fear at the Sea, as Pharaoh approached (Exod. 14:11–12).
  - ❖ Three days into the journey, in the wilderness of Mara, Israel complained that the spring was bitter and that they were thirsty (15:24).
  - ❖ Two and a half months into the journey, in the wilderness of Sin, Israel complained that they were hungry (16:2–3).

- ❖ Some in Israel fail to eat their daily allotment of manna (16:20).
- ❖ Some in Israel fail to gather enough manna to sustain through the Sabbath rest (16:27).
- ❖ At Rephidim, when the people were thirsty, they quarreled with Moses and God (17:1–2).
- ❖ The covenant renewal and development in chs. 19–24 is driven by **God's amazing grace and faithfulness** and *not* due to Israel's own merit.

## ❖ Israel's great commission (19:4–6)

<b>Its Basis (19:4)</b>		You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
<b>Its Nature (19:5–6)</b>	<i>Means</i>	Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant and be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine,
	<i>Essence</i>	then you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.



Ezek. 5:5. This is Jerusalem. I have set her in **the center of the nations**, with countries all around her (cf. 38:12).



- ❖ **As imagers of God's greatness, Israel was to proclaim his glory. And while God declared that he would one day take away Israel's priestly status due to their sin, he also declared that his people would enjoy it again in the future.**
- ❖ **Hos. 4:6; 6:2. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of God, I also will forget your children.... After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. (Cf. 2:16–23.)**
- ❖ **Ezek. 36:23. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am Yahweh...when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.**

- ❖ **1 Pet. 2:9**. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- ❖ **Rev. 5:9–10**. Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth (cf. 1:6).

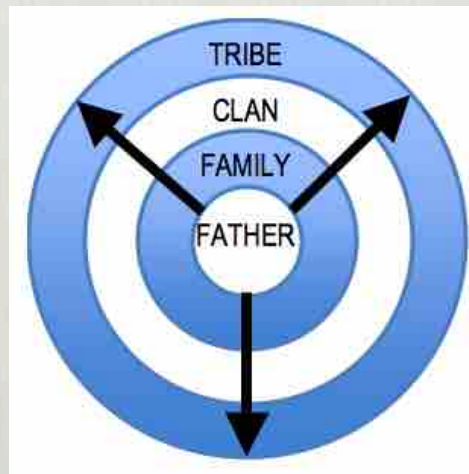


## ❖ **The Covenant Expounded**

- ❖ **Words of freedom, not slavery**
- ❖ **Words that address humanity's innate sinfulness**
- ❖ **Words of promise, explanation, and motivation**
- ❖ **Words for every context and not specific cases**
- ❖ **Words addressing the heart and behavior**
- ❖ **Words for memorization**
- ❖ **Words that prioritize life**
- ❖ **Words that call for loving God and neighbor**

## ❖ The Covenant Expounded

- ❖ Words that centralize the role of the man/  
husband/father
- ❖ Define leadership as following God and  
serving others
- ❖ Focus on giving rather than receiving
  - ❖ Not guided by fear or prejudice, comfort or self-  
sovereignty



- ❖ **The Revealed Goal of the Encounter (20:20):**  
**“Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”**
- ❖ **The divine “test”**
- ❖ **The need to fear God (Prov. 1:7; 9:10)**
- ❖ **Obedience, the overflow of healthy fear of God**

## ❖ God's Purposes in the Mosaic Covenant

- ❖ God's **revealed will**: Call Israel as God's Son to Mission
- ❖ God's **sovereign will**: Use the Mosaic Covenant to condemn Israel to bring about the need for Jesus
  - ❖ God's "test" of Israel revealed their hardness of heart: the golden calf (Exod. 32:9–10; 33:3, 5)
  - ❖ God did not give Israel "a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear" (Deut. 29:4), but he promised to do so (30:6).
    - ❖ Jer. 32:40. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And *I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.*

- ❖ **Citing Psalm 36:1, Paul characterized humanity’s sin problem as, “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18; cf. Ps. 55:19).**
- ❖ **He also spoke of the Old (Mosaic) Covenant as bearing “the ministry of condemnation,” in contrast to the New Covenant’s “ministry of righteousness” (2 Cor. 3:9).**
- ❖ **Through the Lord’s eschatological inner working, God-honoring “fear and trembling” is enabled by which we “work out our own salvation” (Phil. 2:12–13).**
- ❖ **Indeed, we offer God acceptable worship only “with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28–29).**