Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 24: Divine Promises of the Covenant

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 24. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a prayer point.

God bound Himself to Israel. “After God gave the law to Israel, Moses led the nation in a solemn and sacred covenant ceremony, binding God and the nation together (24:3-8). Moses sprinkled blood on the altar, which represented God (24:6). Then he read the Book of the Covenant to the people and sprinkled blood on them as well (24:7-8). Moses called this blood “the blood of the covenant” because the ceremony was symbolic of the kind of covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 15, using divided animals. Just as God bound himself to Abraham, he was now binding himself to Israel. This must surely be behind the words of Jesus: ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins’ (Matthew 26:28). [[1]](#footnote-1)

In this covenant ceremony, God gave divine promises to His chosen people. Today we will look at these divine promises.

1. **Israel will be God’s prized possession**. They will be His in a special way. Israel will have blessings beyond all other nations. Exodus 19:5, “*Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations, you will be my treasured possession*...”
2. **Israel will be a Kingdom of Priests**. The great privilege of priests is full, intimate access to God. Priests drew near to God on behalf of the people. Their inheritance wasn’t land, but God Himself! Exodus 19:6, *“...although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a Kingdom of Priests....*” God owns it all and can do whatever He wants, yet He desires to partner with man. He responds to the priests. God wanted the entire nation to operate as a Kingdom of Priests, but when they would not, God chose a tribe as His own, to minister before Him in the role of the priesthood.
3. **Israel will be a holy nation**. As a holy nation, they were set apart and distinguished from all other peoples. Exodus 19:6 finishes as God calls them to be *“...a holy nation*.” God called them to “*be holy as I am holy*” Leviticus 19:2. They were to reflect His nature and character to all other nations.
4. **God will defend Israel from all her enemies**. Anyone who opposes Israel will have to deal with Almighty God! Exodus 23:22, “If you listen carefully....and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you”. God will display His Glory among the nations in defense of His beloved people Israel. Exodus 34:10, “*Then the Lord said, ‘I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never done before in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome if the work that I the Lord will do for you.”* WOW!!!!
5. **God will be merciful, gracious and forgiving**. God will treat Israel with great grace and mercy and will forgive all her sins. Exodus 34:6, “*And the Lord passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness”*.

What was Israel’s conditions to the covenant? God asked them for ONE THING! God asked srael to have faith, which leads to obedience. They were to know and rely on His love!

Israel’s sin of unbelief kept them from entering into the Promised Land. “*So we see that they were not able to enter because of their unbelief....for we also have the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heart was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed,*” Hebrews 3:19 & 4:2.

Israel may have broken covenant with God, but God bound Himself to Israel. He continues to be faithful to all the divine promises from the covenant. God is active on Israel’s behalf, whether they recognize Him or not. He looks for the nation to return to Him and to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah. Hidden in Exodus 23, we can see Jesus. “*See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him*....” verses 20-21. Yahweh (God’s Name) is in Yahshua (Jesus). The angel in the passage refers to Jesus. Jesus was with Israel in all their wilderness experience. God loves His people!

God loves us too! We have been grafted into the vine. Because of Israel’s unbelief and rebellion, we have been given salvation. Paul speaks of this in Romans 11:11, “*Again I ask: Did they (Israel) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.*” There will be a day when Israel responds to God’s love for them once again and we, the Gentile believers will make Israel jealous. They will desire the relationship with God that we have! And they will run back to God’s embrace! Paul shares his heart for Israel in Romans 10:1, “*Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved*.” Let us echo in prayer Paul’s words before the Father.

Prayer Point:

1. Today, take a few minutes and pray for the Israelites to be saved!
2. God asks us for ONE THING, just as He did with the nation of Israel. I John 4:16, “*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us*”. If we really know the love God has for us, we will rely on it. God’s requirement for the Israelites and for us is the same~ to trust Him! In Ephesians 3:17-18, Paul is praying for believers, *“...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*.” Pray that you would be rooted and established in love. Ask God to reveal the width, height, length and depth of His love more and more in your life.
1. Encountering the Old Testament, A Christian Survey by Bill T. Arnold & Bryan E. Beyer (page 107) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)