

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Nature of the Covenant Deuteronomy 4:1- 40

Nature of the Covenant

Israel's Uniqueness

- Nearness to the Lord – they are uniquely His people
- Righteousness of Torah – greater than any other law

Nature of the Covenant

1. The Content

➤ *the words of the Lord*

- God's authoritative word governs the covenant relationship
- God's self-revelation is primarily verbal not visual or experiential

Nature of the Covenant

2. The Commitment

➤ *exclusive devotion to the Lord*

- God's jealousy brings consuming judgment on all forms of idolatry
- In this covenant relationship, God's jealousy is an aspect of His loyal, purifying love

Nature of the Covenant

3. The Grounds

➤ *the electing love of God*

- God's electing love is not contingent on any actions or merits of the people
- The Law/torah is an expression of God's love, not the means of meriting salvation

Nature of the Covenant

4. The Response

➤ *loving obedience to God*

- Obedience is the response of love to God's love, not the meriting of God's favor
- Loving obedience is the *necessary* response of love, the evidence of authentic faith

Nature of the Covenant

I John 2:3-5

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

The one who says, "I have come to know Him" and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

But whoever keeps His word, in Him the love of God has truly been perfected...