

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Renewal of the Covenant
(Exodus 32-34)

The Kingdom of God

“God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing”

The Kingdom of God

1. Promise to Abraham

- Kingdom promise: *people, land, blessing*

2. The Giving of the Law

- Defined God’s people as a holy nation
- God promised to dwell in their midst
- Summary: Exodus 29:45-46

The Kingdom of God

Exodus 32-34

➤ *the entire kingdom plan of God is placed in jeopardy*

Renewal of the Covenant

Breaking the Covenant

➤ *Israel’s idolatry (golden calf)*

- they represented Yahweh with an image
- they substituted the true knowledge and worship of Yahweh for a image of their own making

Renewal of the Covenant

“Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, ‘THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK AND STOOD UP TO PLAY’”

– 1 Corinthians 10:6-7

Renewal of the Covenant

Kingdom Crisis #1

- *God's intention to destroy Israel*
 - God's wrath against Israel is averted through the intercession of Moses
 - Only some were destroyed that day; yet there remained an ominous threat of judgment

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Kingdom Crisis #2

- *God's intention not to dwell in their midst*
 - God's dwelling in their midst would lead to their destruction because of their sin
 - Through the intercession of Moses, God agreed to dwell in their midst

Renewal of the Covenant

Conclusion

- *An Unreconciled Tension...*
 - God's desire to restore His kingdom to His own people, and yet...
 - The impossibility of this restoration due to His people's sin

Renewal of the Covenant

Conclusion

1. The necessity of a new heart
 - man's sin is all-pervasive and beyond human reform
 - this covenant is not adequate to bring about God's kingdom purpose

Renewal of the Covenant

Conclusion

2. The necessity of a mediator
 - Moses' intercession represents the need for mediation
 - Moses was not able to make necessary atonement for the people

Renewal of the Covenant

Conclusion

3. The necessity of a mercy
 - God's mercy must be the foundation of His relationship with His people