

# 2021 R12.2 Conference Callaway Gardens

Mt. Sinai: The Law & The Temple  
A Prelude to Christ

Danny Davis

# Opening Questions

- Why is this section of scripture included in the bible?
- What is God doing here?
- What can we learn about our faith?
- What can we observe about God's eternal character?
- What can we learn about ourselves from the human actors in the story?
- How does this point to Christ?
- How does it bring God glory?
- How does this affect me?

# Modern Day Christian Myths

- A good God would never cause bad things to happen
- God is not to be feared, but respected
- The grace of God has made obedience optional
- The most important and beautiful thing is my self

# Introduction

Vivid temporal story with eternal ramifications.

God chooses and establishes the nation of Israel, while simultaneously convicting all mankind, and establishing the need for a savior for both the Jew and the Gentile.

# Where are we? (Ex. 19)

- Camping in the desert of Sinai, next to a mountain
- 3 months after the the Exodus
  - God sweetened the waters of Marah
  - God provided manna and quail
  - God provided water from a rock struck by Moses
  - God delivered the Amalekites to Joshua (Moses' hands raised w/staff)
  - God established Moses as a leader and judge
  - Moses created a management structure (Jethro)

# The Egypt effect

- 430 years in Egypt
- Jews grew to over 600,000 men (~2m ppl or more)
- Left with weapons, wealth and skills
- Centuries in a culture that worshiped pagan gods and idols

# God's Covenant with Israel

- Ex 19:4-6, 8
  - Moses as intermediary
  - You have seen what I've done for you
  - If you will **obey me fully** and keep my **covenant**, then out of all the nations you will be **my treasured possession**.
  - A kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
  - "We will do everything the Lord has said."

# Covenants

- 2 Main Types:
  - A parity treaty = parties are equals
  - A sezerian-vassal treaty = a party imposes it's will
- Govern the external affairs of the vassal
- Traditionally recorded on tablets and stored in a temple or shrine



# Unique to God's Covenant with Israel

- Relationship between God and an entire nation
- Governs internal behavior of the nation regulating behavior and relationships
- The individual and the nation equally answer to God

# The Law: Preparing Israel (19:9-25; 20:18-21)

- Preparing for God: Ex. 19:9-15; 20:18-21
  - Prepare, I am coming as a dense cloud
  - Wash themselves and their clothes
  - Abstain from sexual relations for 3 days
  - Touch the mountain and die
  - Only approach the mountain after the horn sounds

# The Law: Preparing Israel (19:9-25; 20:18-21)

- God presents Himself to Israel (Ex. 19:16-25)
  - A thick cloud with thunder and lightening
  - A very loud trumpet blast
  - The Lord descends on the mountain in fire
  - Smoke billowed like a furnace
  - The mountain trembled violently
  - The trumpet grew louder and louder

# The Law: Preparing Israel (19:9-25; 20:18-21)

- Israel Responds (Ex. 19:18:21)
  - Nope!
  - Trembled with fear
  - Moses you speak to us, if God speaks to us we will die
- Ex. 20:20: “...the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

# The Law: The 10 Commandments

- First 5 only include “The Lord your God.”
- First 4: Relationship with God
- Last 6: Relationship with others
- Not making Idols is the only command that illustrates both consequence and reward
- Behavior towards parents is the only behavior towards others that has a positive impact on life

# The Law: Categories

- Treatment of servants
- Personal injuries
- Damage to livestock
- Theft and damage to property
- Social responsibilities
- Relating to God

# The Law: Observations

- Behavior that require capital punishment
  - Murder
  - Kidnapping
  - Attacking your father or mother
  - Cursing your mother or father
  - Sorcery
  - Sexual relations with an animal
  - Sacrificing to any other god
  - Taking advantage of widows or orphans

# Ratification of the Covenant (Ex. 24:3-8)

- Moses told the people, and they responded “Everything the Lord has said we will do”
- Moses wrote down everything the Lord had said “Book of the Covenant”
- Moses built an altar in front of the mountain, with 12 stone pillars representing the 12 tribes
  - Burnt offerings, and sacrificed young bulls
  - 1/2 the blood on the altar
- Moses read the Book of the Covenant, and the people responded.
- Moses then sprinkled the rest of the blood on the people “the blood of the covenant”



# The Golden Calf: Israel's Sin

- Moses ascends the mountain for 40 days and nights (Ex 24:18)
- Ex. 32: 1-6
  - This Moses fellow has disappeared, make us an idol
  - Aaron collects gold jewelry, then made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf
  - They pronounce it the God that delivered them from Egypt, build an altar to it, present it with sacrifices, and celebrate it.

# The Golden Calf: Commands violated

- Ten Commandments: Ex. 24:4  
“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of any other thing...”
- Ex. 20:22:3  
“do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gold.”
- Ex. 22:20  
“Whoever sacrifices to any god other than the Lord must be destroyed.”
- Israel has accepted these commands 2 times during the ratification of the covenant

# The Golden Calf: Why do we sin?

- Because of the “I”
- We want to decide what is right and wrong
- We don’t believe God
  - “Surely God didn’t mean...”
  - “Surely God won’t really...”
- We struggle with waiting on God
- We are discontent with God’s outcomes

# The Golden Calf: God's Response

- Ex. 32:7-10

**Your people**, you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt; **quick to turn away**; stiff-necked.

I will destroy them and make you into a great nation.

# The Golden Calf: Consequences

- Ex. 32:15-35
  - Moses burns with anger and destroys the tablets
  - Send the Levites into the camp with swords, and they kill 3,000 people
  - God strikes those who sinned from the Book of Life
  - God strikes the nation of Israel with a plague
  - God sends them away with an angel, but withdraws from them because he might destroy them

# Illustrative Consequences of Sin

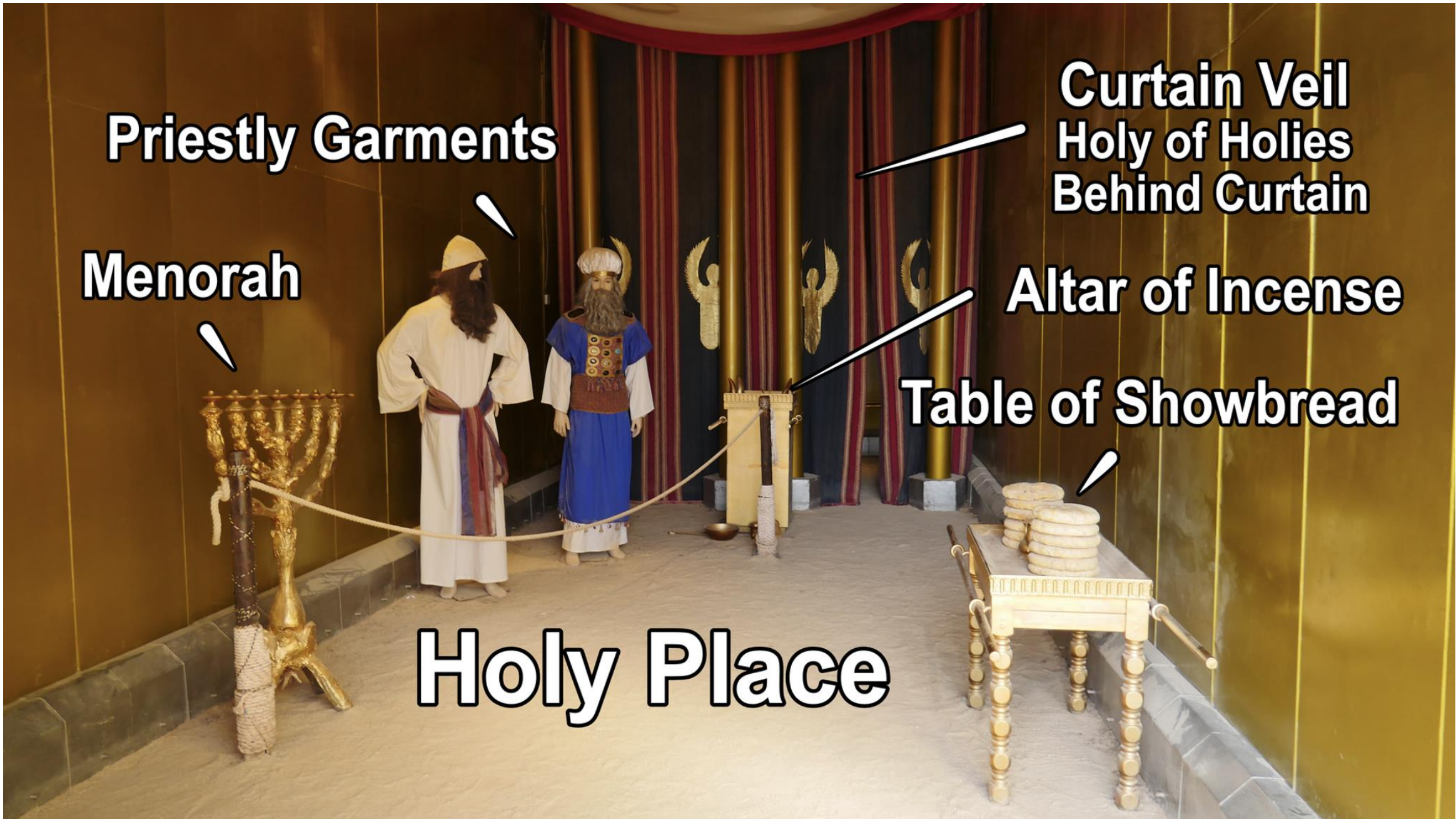
- There are temporal consequences
- Sin affects those around us
- The effects of sin linger
- Sin creates separation from God
- There are eternal consequences to Sin



# Tabernacle Replica in Timna Park, Israel







**Priestly Garments**

**Menorah**

**Curtain Veil  
Holy of Holies  
Behind Curtain**

**Altar of Incense**

**Table of Showbread**

**Holy Place**



**Two-wing Angels**

**Inside the Ark**

- ~ Stone Tablets
- ~ Aaron's Rod
- ~ Jar of Manna

**Mercy-Seat**

**Holy of Holies Room**

**Ark of the Covenant**

# The Temple Sacrifices

- Ex 28:38 - Each day offer 2 lambs a year old, one in the morning and one at night.
- For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. ( Leviticus 17:11, NIV)
- 5 types of offerings
  - Burnt offering
    - Grain offering
    - Fellowship Offering
    - Sin Offering
    - Guilt Offering
- Passover
- Festivals
- Day of Atonement (1x a year, for the entire nation, Holy of Holies)

# The First Covenant: The Temple

- He 8:5 "They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy, and shadow of what is in heaven. That's why Moses was warned... 'see to it you do everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'"
- He 9:9 "This is an illustration for the present time that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper."
- He 10:3 "But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

# The First Covenant: The Law

- He 10:1 “The law is only a shadow of things that are coming...”
- Ro 3:19 “...whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.”
- Ro 3:20: “Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by obeying the law, rather through the law we become conscious of sin.”

# The New Covenant

- Matt 26:28 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
- 2 Cor 3:6 “He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant not of the letter but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
- Heb 8:7-13: Jesus is the mediator of a superior covenant. “The time is coming when I will make a new covenant.” By calling this covenant “new” he made the first one obsolete.



# Jesus Christ

- Heb 9:11-15:
  - Christ came as High Priest
  - He went through a greater and more perfect tabernacle
  - He did not enter by means of blood of goats and calves; but entered the Most Holy Place once and for all by his own blood.
  - For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance
- Matt 27:50-51  
“And when Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain (the veil) of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”
- Romans 3:21-26
  - A righteousness from God, apart from the law has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness comes from faith in Jesus Christ.

# How should we then live?

- Heb 10:19-23

- We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body
- Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful

# How should we then live?

- Heb 10:24-31
  - If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only fearful expectation of judgement.
  - How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant...
  - So do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded...we are not those that shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.