

Deuteronomy 10:1-11 The Restoration of the Covenant

Introduction: God had made a covenant with the children of Israel. The ten commandments were the basis of the covenant. The children of Israel had promised to keep the ten commandments. God promised great material blessings to them.

But while Moses was up in the mountain receiving the ten commandments written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, the children of Israel broke the covenant. God told Moses that He would kill them and that He would raise up a nation thru Moses and keep His promise to Abraham, Deuteronomy 9:14. Moses then broke the two tables of stone on which the terms of the covenant were written, 9:17. Then Moses pled for God to have mercy upon the children, to spare them and to restore the covenant with them, 9:18. God promised Moses that He would spare them, 9:19.

In our text today God restores the covenant by replacing the tables of stone.

I. The two tables of stone replaced V. 1-5

- A. "At this time" establishes the time element, V. 1-2.
 - 1. It was at the same general time when the first two tables of stone were given and the children of Israel built and worshiped the golden calf.
 - 2. It was at the same general time when God announced that He would kill the children of Israel and raise up a new nation thru Moses.
 - 3. It was at the same general time when Moses interceded for the children of Israel and pled for God to spare them.
- B. God indicated His acceptance of Moses' intercessory prayer by instructing Moses to hew out two more tables of stone on which He (God) would write the ten commandments as He had done with the first set of stones, V. 1. (The difference was that this time God required Moses to prepare the stones.)
- C. Moses had already made an ark in which he would have placed the first set of stones had they not been broken, V. 3.
 - 1. Although Moses did not personally build the ark, it was built under his supervision as the leader of the nation by the workers that he appointed to build the tabernacle and the furniture.
 - 2. He then went up into the mountain carrying the two tables of stone that he had hewed out.
- D. God wrote the ten commandments on these two tables of stone and they were placed in the ark, which would be placed in the tabernacle at its dedication, V. 4-5.

II. The journey toward Canaan resumed V. 6a

- A. From Horeb (Mt. Sinai) the children of Israel resumed their journey toward Canaan.
- B. If God had not shown mercy toward the children of Israel in response to the plea of Moses, they would have all been killed at Horeb with the exception of Moses and his family thru whom God would have raised up a new nation.
- C. But the replacing of the two tables of stone and the resumption of the journey by the whole nation showed that the covenant had been restored.

III. Aaron retained as high priest V. 6-7

- A. Aaron had played a leading role in the sin of Israel by building the golden calf which they had worshiped.
- B. God was very angry at Aaron for his part in this sin and would have killed him, but Moses prayed for him and asked God to spare him, 9:20.
- C. The fact that in addition to sparing the nation, replacing the two tables of stone and allowing

them to resume their journey toward Canaan, God even allowed Aaron to continue in the office as high priest showed the great extent of God's mercy toward this nation.

D. Aaron did not die until thirty-eight years after the rebellion at Mt. Horeb.

IV. The tribe of Levi retained to serve God in the priesthood and in the tabernacle V. 8-9

A. "At that time" still has reference to that general time of their rebellion in the worship of the golden calf, V. 8.

B. During their journeys in the wilderness and toward Canaan the tribe of Levi would be responsible for dismantling the tabernacle and transporting it and its furniture to its next stop.

C. They would also be responsible for erecting it and setting the furniture in place when they did stop.

D. The priests, assisted by the Levites, would officiate in the services and sacrifices at the tabernacle.

E. In future times the Levites (not priests) would be responsible for caring for the tabernacle and seeing that all provisions needed for the service were supplied. (Not the offerings themselves, but wood, ointments, helping to cook the meat offerings, etc.)

F. Because of their special service to the Lord, the tribe of Levi would receive no land inheritance.

1. This would require work which would detract from their duties at the tabernacle (or temple).

2. For this reason, they would be provided for by the tithes and offerings of the people.

3. They would be provided cities in which to dwell.

V. The intercession of Moses a success V. 10-11

A. This verse simply says that the forty days and nights when Moses was in the mountain to receive the second set of tables of stone was like the forty days and nights he spent in the mountain to receive the first set, V. 10.

B. When they left Horeb to continue toward Canaan it was in answer to the prayer of Moses interceding for them. (A type of Christ interceding for us.) V. 11

1. They would have never made it to Canaan except for his intercession.

2. We would never make it to heaven if it were not for the intercession of Christ on our behalf.