

The Mosaic Covenant

*A quick note regarding the Leader's Guide. Please use this only as a supplement to help further discussion. The book is your guide and should be your primary resource. This leader's guide is here to provide further insight into various moments and develop greater depth in understanding. As a leader, please add your own questions from your time in the book and your time in God's Word.

****Preface Homework: Have you placed Scriptures on the two lines at the end of the Preface? If not, please do so this week.**

Remember the Offerings of Covenants:

Suzerain (God)	Vassal (Us)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Protection</u> • <u>Privilege</u> • <u>Identity</u> • <u>Provision</u> • <u>Authority</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Devotion</u> • <u>Loyalty</u> • <u>Identity</u> • <u>Representation</u>

Supplemental Questions and Commentary by Section and Page. Apply as appropriate.

Identity

Don't be hesitant to acknowledge the negative labels that get stamped on so many people without mercy: loser, failure, reject, addict, deadbeat, slut, whore, druggie, etc. A lot of folks will answer out loud with what they think you want to hear. Also, be aware of the ways your group defines God. You may find reading from this list to be inappropriate, but you can ask, what are the negative labels?

Pg. 68

God literally reveals Himself as identity. I AM. He never ever asks the question, "Who am I?" We ask it, but He does not.

Pg. 69

As you sum up the last question on page 69 you might share the following:

We have a tendency to believe that "doing" precedes "being." In other words, what I do defines who I am. God shows us something different. He provides identity first. He says, "I AM" and then He says, "you're Mine." Then we respond by doing. Being precedes doing. Because God knows fully and without question Who HE Is, our identity flows forth from Him. We cannot successfully ascertain that identity apart from Him. It cannot flow in the other direction. Look at all the outlets by which we attempt to achieve identity: Political, Social, Behavioral, Racial, Sexual, Financial, Vocational, etc. When this is our approach, we find ourselves struggling to align our identity with God's image. So we reverse the

phrase, "created in the image of God" and we attempt to create God in our image. Or, we adhere to a checklist to determine our "rightness."

Bottom of page 70.

In the last few decades, it is a rare thing that we talk about fearing the Lord. We'd rather focus on the more pleasant qualities of God, but His Word tells us very plainly that we are to fear Him. In fact, it tells us that fear of the Lord, is a healthy thing. Proverbs 1:7 tells us it brings forth knowledge. Proverbs 14:26 tells us it brings forth strong confidence and we will find a refuge in it. Though not a complete list, here are a few more verses that might be helpful in discovering what can come about when we fear Him: Proverbs 8:33; Job 28:28; Proverbs 14:27; Luke 1:50; Psalm 86:11; Proverbs 16:6

What can be gleaned from this wisdom about fearing God as we look at what this posture of fear did for Israel in the desert?

- *Various denominations are going to deal with the theology of fear in very different ways. The verses above can be very enlightening in regard to what can be gleaned from a posture of fear. That said, it is worth challenging our understanding of fear. It is OK to walk away from this discussion with a level of discontent in this challenge. Discontent in your understanding is alright, but you need to seek His Word and His revelation. What is not OK is being discontent with someone else's discontent in their own understanding. Grace must prevail. Otherwise, division will ensue.*
- *So, what is the challenge? The challenge is to define "fear." We all know what our fundamental understanding of fear is, and that is simply being afraid. But let's submit this question. As you view Moses relating to God and approaching God after He leads the Hebrews out of Egypt, does he appear to be fearful? Reverent, yes, but fearful, no. In fact, his relationship with God can only be described as familiar, intimate, or as a friend. Moses was bold before God. He requested of God, "Show me Your glory." Can we have this relationship with God if we define fear as simply being afraid? And the answer is NO, because fear from being afraid results in withdrawal rather than being drawn inward. We can have this relationship with Him if our fear of the Lord is more like being Awestruck, which is a result of getting a glimpse of how Awesome HE is. We get that glimpse of His awesomeness only in relationship. Therefore, in relationship with Him we are receiving knowledge, wisdom, confidence, life, and understanding.*

. . . Is Yours

What struggles do you have with dependence?

Pg. 73

When we receive identity, what comes with that?

- Authority, representation, responsibility, privilege... BUT... the degree to which we receive that identity will determine the degree to which He bestows on us, authority, representation, responsibility, privilege.
- Consistency and time strengthen us in confidence toward our God-given identity as we allow Him to reveal Himself to us more fully.

The Old Covenant

A brief statement on coveting: Coveting reveals our focus and our heart. Ultimately, “where is your treasure” becomes the primary question.

Obedience

How does the thought of God dwelling with His people change the dynamic of the relationship? (This can be asked about Israel, but it can also be asked on the personal level.)

(a little more author commentary)

Romans 8:15 is a very telling verse. So far in this chapter we've seen God as Jehovah-jireh, Jehovah-nissi, Jehovah-rapha, Shield, and El-Shaddai. In Romans, we're given another one, Abba... a very intimate name for the Father. It's like Daddy or Papa. Sadly, so many people struggle to come to terms with this because of the image they have of an earthly father who may have failed miserably. (and that's probably putting it very lightly) This is a Truth you need to hear and it isn't an easy one if you're struggling. God revealed Himself as Father. As long as you struggle with that, you're going to struggle with your own identity. What we do flows forth from who we are, and who we are flows forth from Who HE Is. Your struggle is that you're trying to make things flow in reverse. You Do in order to Be in order to receive favor, acceptance, and approval. It's like working for the approval of someone who will never approve, because their approval can't be earned. This is written out of love and grace and with an incredible amount of compassion. There is not anything fundamentally wrong with you because you struggle with this, BUT it's time to start praying that God will lovingly prepare you and begin to reveal Himself to you as Father, as Daddy, as Papa. You'll never rest fully in the arms of your Banner, Provider, or Healer in the way that a child rests in the arms of a father who loves fully.

HE is Faithful

Read 2 Timothy 2:13. This is a critical concept that must be understood. It is clear from one covenant to the next that God holds closely to this revelation. And there is probably no greater illustration of this very point than the roller coaster of a history that we see for Israel in the Old Testament.