

COVENANTS SERIES | HOPE CHAPEL

# THE MOSAIC COVENANT

Week 4 | The Covenant That Looks In  
Pastor Andrew Cole | Sunday 22 March 2026 | 9AM Gawler

1 Adamic	2 Noahic	3 Abrahamic	4 Mosaic	5 Davidic / New
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**Big Idea:** *The Mosaic Covenant is not about earning God's favour — it is God's instruction for a people already rescued, transforming them from the outside in, and ultimately pointing forward to Christ who fulfils it all from the inside out.*

## Introduction

As the series continues, each covenant overlaps and builds on the last. They don't fight each other — they form a single, unified redemptive story. All of it is revealing the heart of God, and all of it is pointing forward to Jesus and the New Covenant.

So far in the series: God established his covenant with Adam (identity and purpose), made a cosmic covenant with Noah (never to abandon humanity), and promised Abraham land, descendants, and blessing for all nations. Now we step into the Mosaic Covenant — the largest section of the Old Testament, and the one the New Testament writers refer to most when they speak of 'the old covenant.'

**Exodus 19:5–6** *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples. For all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

The drama of redemption in scripture often begins with a dramatic rescue. But rescue is never the end of the story — it's generally just the start. God's deliverance aims to transform a people.

The Mosaic Covenant calls a delivered people to look inward — into identity, heart, and communal life. Redemption is not only external deliverance from Egypt, but internal formation toward holiness and priestly witness. From outside in — to inside out.

### POINT 1 | Rescue Grounds the Covenant

Covenant always begins with God initiating the rescue. The Ten Commandments don't open with a demand — they open with a declaration:

**Exodus 20:2** *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

The law is not a demand to earn God's favour. It is instruction for people already rescued. The moral commands that follow are given to shape the grateful life of those whose identity is 'treasured possession' and 'kingdom of priests.'

Redemption begins outside us — in God's action for us. From that rescue, he calls us into a way of life.

### How This Points to Jesus

Jesus is the ultimate Redeemer who fulfils and deepens this pattern. The 'I brought you out' of Exodus anticipates the greater 'I have come' and 'It is finished' of Christ's redeeming work.

**Romans 10:4** *Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes.*

In his death and resurrection, Jesus frees us from slavery to sin and initiates the New Covenant. The rescue is supreme.

**Reflect:** *When discipline or repentance arises in your life, say this: 'I do this because I have been redeemed.' Let the gospel — not the law as a competitive standard — be the root of your obedience. Begin with gratitude.*

## POINT 2 | The Law Looks Inward — Formation of Heart and Conscience

The Mosaic Law is often seen as external rules. But Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and the prophets show the law's deeper mission: to expose and form the heart.

The Bible is filled with passages about the heart — it sees, hears, feels, and speaks. Everything comes out of the overflow of the heart: every motive, every attitude, every action. God is very interested in your heart.

**Leviticus 19:18** *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*

**Deuteronomy 6:6–7** *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Meditating on the word isn't sitting in silence — it's chattering about it. Letting it consume and absorb into you. Talking about it. Teaching your children. Letting it penetrate your heart, not just sit in your head.

## The Prophets and the New Heart

The prophets make the inward aim plain. Jeremiah prophesied a new covenant — not law written on stone, but written on hearts. Ezekiel promised a new heart and a new spirit. The law's ultimate objective is not mere compliance, but inward transformation: a conscience guided by God's character, not by fear of punishment.

**Jeremiah 31:33** *I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts.*

**2 Corinthians 3:3** *You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

## How This Points to Jesus

Jesus embodies and fulfils the inward intent of the law — and he intensifies it. In Matthew 5 he says anger is murder and lust is adultery. He's not abolishing the law; he's intensifying it, driving it deeper, into the very motives and desires of the heart.

But Jesus also supplies the power to be changed. Through his Spirit we receive the new heart that Jeremiah promised. Christ alone changes the heart.

**Hebrews 8:6** *The ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.*

**Reflect:** *Use the law as a mirror, not a ladder. Let the commands reveal your inner needs and lead you to Christ, who alone can change the heart. Regularly consume the Word — read it, meditate on it, talk about it. Ask God to expose and transform inward attitudes, not merely outward actions.*

## POINT 3 | Presence Recreates Community

**Exodus 25:8** *Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.*

The Tabernacle housed God's presence in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. It was the centre of atonement, worship, and communal life. And here's what is so striking about it:

God could have had the most beautiful, golden, purpose-built structure. But he chose a tent. Why? Because the people lived in tents. God said: if you live in a tent, I'll live in a tent. He meets us where we're at. That is the depth of his love — a glimpse of the ultimate act he would take at Easter to dwell with us.

The tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifices, and festivals are not mere ritual — they are the means by which God made his presence real among his redeemed people. The true aim is relational: restored fellowship with God and with one another.

## How This Points to Jesus

Jesus is both the sacrifice that perfects reconciliation and the one who ushers Spirit-empowered presence into believers. In him, the people of God become the living temple — a community formed from the inside by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:19–22** *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

God's presence moves from a tent — to the temple — to indwelling our hearts and the gathered body. This body. God's house. Hearts filled with God coming together as one.

**Reflect:** *Centre your life around God's presence. Worship together corporately, but also privately — not as ritual, but as participation in God's dwelling among his people. Live as priests in ordinary life. Mediate God's grace by serving, blessing, and bearing witness to Christ in word and deed.*

## Conclusion

### RESCUE GROUNDS

Obedience flows from gratitude for what God has already done

### LAW LOOKS IN

God wants the heart transformed, not just behaviour managed

### PRESENCE RECREATES

Community is remade from the inside out by God's Spirit

The Mosaic Covenant was never a means of earning salvation — it was a framework for a rescued people to live in covenant relationship with a holy God. God rescuing his people from slavery, then giving them a way of life that reflects his holiness and their redeemed identity.

Exodus 19 summarises the whole trajectory: God rescues a people to be his treasured possession and to become a holy priestly community. The law forms the heart. The tabernacle centres life on God's presence. Community is remade from the inside out.

All of this points forward and finds its fulfilment in Jesus — the Redeemer who accomplishes the rescue, fulfils the law's inward aims, and pours out the Spirit so that God might dwell within his people.

***You are treasured. You are called. You are indwelt.***

*Christ has come to make that promise complete.*

- If you are moved by the law's mirror — come to the Redeemer.
- If you are seeking transformation — invite the Spirit who writes the law on hearts.
- Live in gratitude for the rescue. Let God's commands form your affections.

- Gather as a people earmarked by God's presence and mission.

## Reflection & Discussion Questions

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Use these on your own during the week, or with your LifeGroup.

1. Pastor Andrew said the law is 'instruction for people already rescued' — not a means of earning God's favour. How does that change the way you approach obedience, discipline, or repentance in your own life?

2. He challenged us to say: 'I do this because I have been redeemed.' Try applying that to one area of your life this week. What changes when gratitude is the root rather than obligation or fear?

3. The law aims at the heart — not just behaviour. Deuteronomy 6 says to bind God's words to your heart, talk about them daily, teach your children. How naturally does God's Word flow into your everyday conversations?

4. Jeremiah prophesied that the new covenant would be written on hearts, not stone. How does that feel in your own life right now — like something external you're trying to comply with, or something alive and internal?

5. God chose to live in a tent because his people lived in tents. What does that tell you about the kind of God you're in relationship with? Where in your life do you most need to experience God meeting you where you're at?

6. Andrew said: 'Some of us are letting our head tell our mouth what to say — but if you talk long enough, the heart will speak louder.' What does your conversation reveal about what's really in your heart right now?

## Key Scriptures This Week

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- Exodus 19:5–6 — Treasured possession, kingdom of priests, holy nation
- Exodus 20:2 — The Ten Commandments open with rescue, not demand
- Exodus 25:8 — Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell with them
- Leviticus 19:18 — Love your neighbour as yourself
- Deuteronomy 6:6–7 — Bind these words on your heart; teach your children
- Jeremiah 31:33 — I will write my law on their hearts
- Romans 10:4 — Christ is the end of the law for righteousness
- 2 Corinthians 3:3 — Written on tablets of human hearts
- Hebrews 8:6 — A better covenant on better promises
- Ephesians 2:19–22 — Built together as a dwelling for God's Spirit

## Where We Are in the Series

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- Week 1 ✓ The Adamic Covenant — Identity, consequence, the first promise of redemption
- Week 2 ✓ The Noahic Covenant — Renewed purpose, renewed life, renewed grace
- Week 3 ✓ The Abrahamic Covenant — Land, descendants, and blessing to all nations
- Week 4 ✓ The Mosaic Covenant — The covenant that looks in (THIS WEEK)
- Week 5 The Davidic Covenant — An enduring throne pointing to the Messiah
- Easter The New Covenant — The climactic fulfilment in Jesus

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