

## **A Preparing the covenant:**

### ❖ **God gets close to humans.**

- God showed grace to Israel by liberating them from harsh slavery, and tenderly leading them to a new covenant relationship with Him.
- There are two illustrations in Deuteronomy that represent how God treated Israel:
  - (1) Dt. 32:10-12. Like an eagle that carries its chicks high. Then it drops them, so they learn to fly. If they cannot, the eagle carries them with its wings again.
  - (2) Dt. 1:31. Like a father that guides his son by the hand and protects him.
- We need God to tenderly guide us and protect us until our relationship with Him has fully matured.

### ❖ **God redeems humankind.**

- God's first step to help the people of Israel was to redeem them from slavery (Exodus 6:6-7).
- A redeemer was someone who helped a close relative who had to sell their land or could not pay for their debts and had become a slave. This redeemer bought the land back or liberated the person from slavery.
- What price did God pay to redeem Israel [and ourselves]?
  - (1) He came down to this world and became human. He paid for our sins by dying on the cross (John 6:51; Ephesians 1:7).

## **B Signing the covenant:**

### ❖ **Sinai: commandments and symbols.**

- The signing of the covenant is found in Exodus 19-24.
  - (1) God led Israel to Mount Sinai and explained them how to prepare themselves.
  - (2) He spoke to them and gave them the Law and the Commandments through Moses.
  - (3) The people ratified the covenant and committed themselves to obey it.
- God commanded Israel to build a sanctuary for Him, so they could better understand the terms and the meaning of the covenant (Exodus 25:8).
- God used the sanctuary and its rites as a symbol of heavenly truths: the plan of Redemption.
- This redemption went beyond the liberation from Egyptian slavery. It pointed to the Messiah who would carry our sins on Him and die like the sacrificial animals.

## **C Obligations of the covenant:**

### ❖ **Obedience.**

- Obedience is key to the covenant. The people of Israel had to obey God even before Sinai: they had to spread blood on the doorposts to get out of Egypt.
- If obedience is necessary to stay within the covenant terms, does that mean that we are saved by our obedience?
- Salvation is by faith alone. Obedience is just a result of true faith (Romans 3:20, 24; Revelation 14:12).
- Obedience helps us grow spiritually, mentally, and morally (Romans 7:7). God can use us to proclaim the Gospel to the nations thanks to our obedience.

### ❖ **Commitment.**

- The people of Israel had good intentions, but they did not do everything God had commanded. Why?
- Because they tried to obey God's covenant by their own efforts (Isaiah 64:6).
- It is not our righteousness that saves us, but God's. When we accept this by faith, He works in us "to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13 NIV).