

DESERT PAIN:

A COVENANT BROKEN

Exodus 19, 24 and 32

Desert Pain

REFINED BY JUDGEMENT



THE DESERT JOURNEY WASN'T JUST ABOUT
GETTING THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT.

IT WAS ABOUT GETTING
EGYPT OUT OF THE PEOPLE.

EXODUS 19:4-8

⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my *covenant*, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.





THE 10 COMMANDMENTS (EXODUS 20)

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not make idols
3. You shall not misuse the name of God
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not give false testimony
10. Do not covet

EXODUS 24:7-8

⁷ Then he took the Book of the *Covenant* and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

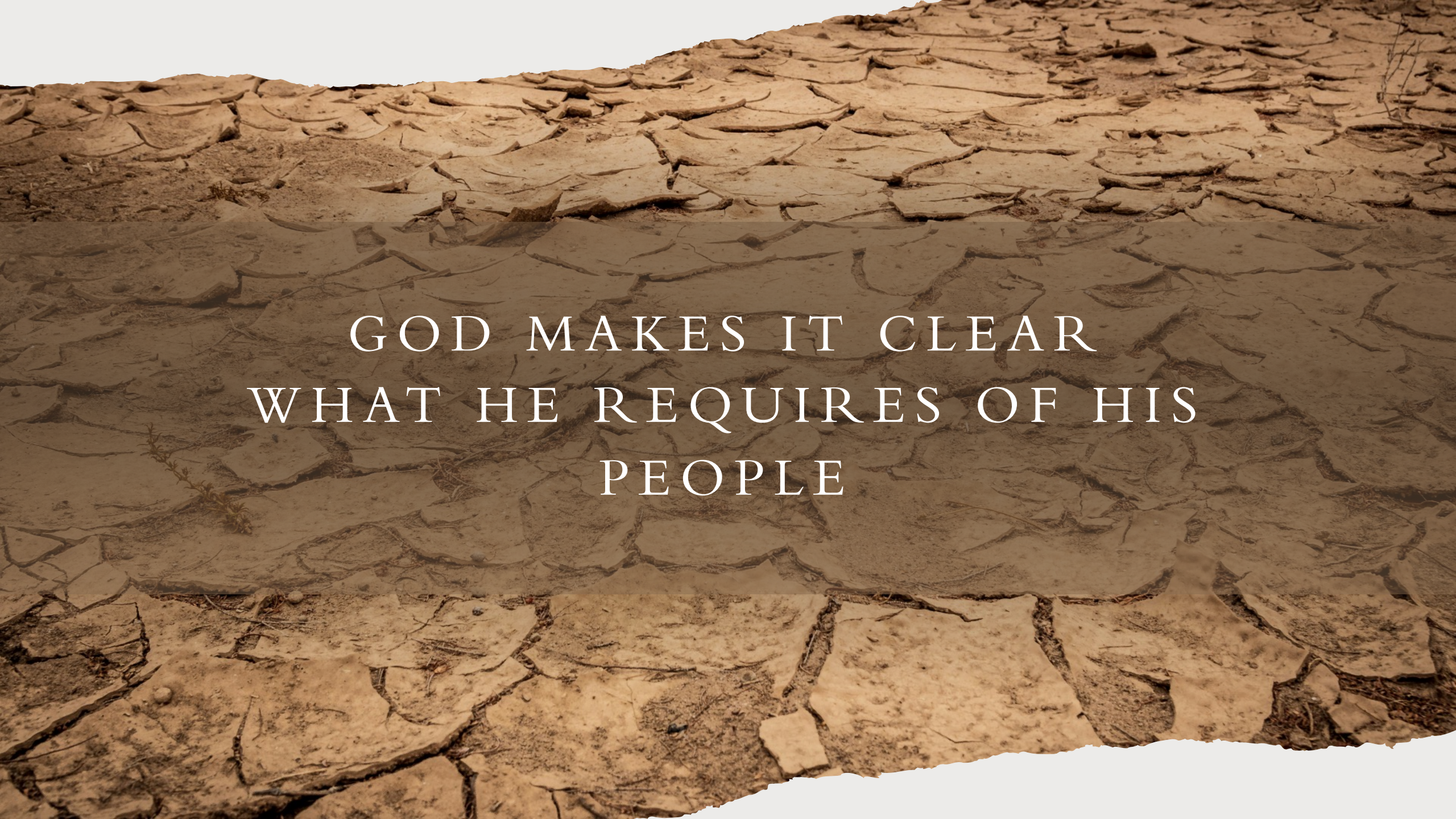




of the first and last of the
world's great prophets



GOD DESIRES A *COVENANTAL*
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE



GOD MAKES IT CLEAR
WHAT HE REQUIRES OF HIS
PEOPLE

EXODUS 24:7

⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “*We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.*”



EXODUS 24:13-18

¹³ Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴ He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶ and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.



EXODUS 32:1-4

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “***Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.***”

² Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ ***He took what they handed him and made it into an idol*** cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “***These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.***”



EXODUS 20:1-4A

And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the LORD your God, *who brought you out of Egypt*, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have *no other gods* before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself *an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below*. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God





IN THE WAITING AND THE
UNKNOWN WE SO EASILY
RETURN TO OLD WAYS

EXODUS 32:4-6

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “***Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.***” ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.





IN THE WAITING AND THE
UNKNOWN WE SO EASILY GIVE
IN TO THE PRESSURES
AROUND US

EXODUS 32:7-10A

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been ***quick to turn away*** from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. ***They have*** bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have ***said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’***

⁹ “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that ***my anger may burn against*** them and that I may destroy them.





GOD IS PAINED AND
ANGERED BY BROKEN
COVENANT

EXODUS 32:17-35

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

¹⁸ Moses replied:

“It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear.”

¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and ***he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them*** to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ***ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.***



EXODUS 32:17-35

²¹ He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

²² “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered.

“You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’

²⁴ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewellery, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and ***I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!***”



EXODUS 32:17-35

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. ²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.” And all the Levites rallied to him.

²⁷ Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbour.’” ²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, ***and that day about three thousand of the people died.*** ²⁹ Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.”



EXODUS 32:17-35

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make *atonement* for your sin.”

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”



EXODUS 32:17-35

³³ The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and *my angel will go before you*. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.



A WAY BACK FROM BROKEN COVENANT

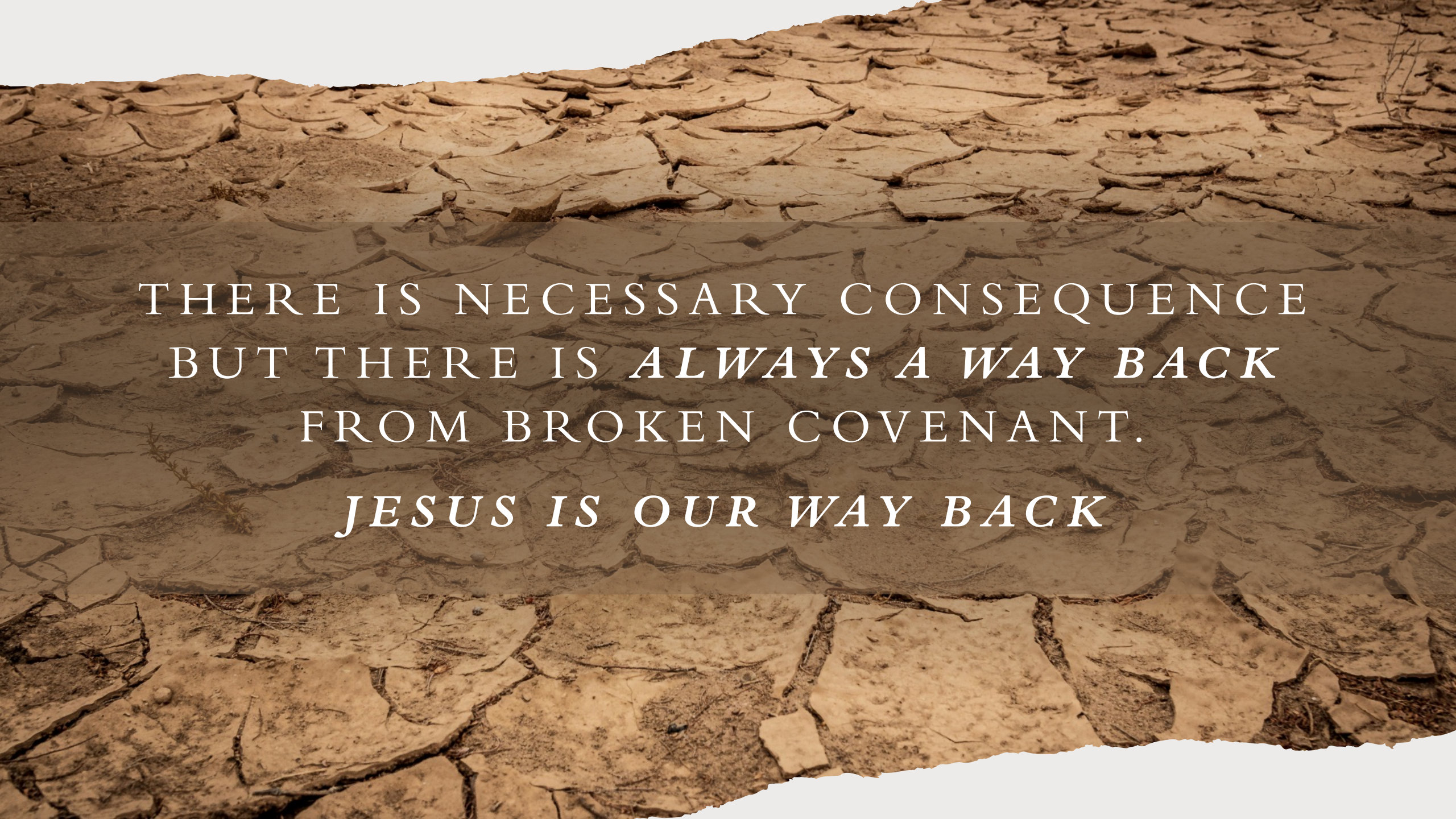
1. Moses shares God's anguish
2. There is a measured consequence
3. There is a need for atonement and punishment for covenant to be restored
4. There *is* a way back





1 P E T E R 2 : 2 4

²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”



THERE IS NECESSARY CONSEQUENCE
BUT THERE IS *ALWAYS A WAY BACK*
FROM BROKEN COVENANT.

JESUS IS OUR WAY BACK

EXODUS 34:1, 4-6

The LORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

⁴ So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “*The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*



A BROKEN COVENANT *RECAP*

1. God desires a *covenantal relationship* with his people
2. God *makes it clear* what he requires of his people
3. In the waiting and the unknown:
 - we so easily *return* to old ways
 - we so easily *give in* to the pressures around us
4. God *is pained and angered* by broken covenant
5. There is *necessary consequence* but *there is always a way back* from broken covenant.
Jesus is our way back.

