

► **INTRODUCTION**

God progressively fulfills his promise to Abraham. He calls Israel out of Egypt to worship him, establishes them as a **covenant community**, unites and governs them by His word.

The visible church is God's covenant people, established on the same principles that God has progressively instituted from the Old Testament.

The Blueprint of the Church

- Called by God (1)
- Headed by Elders (1-2)
- United by the Word (3-4)
- Redeemed to Obey (3, 5, 7)
- Consecrated by the Blood (5-8)
- Headed for the Banquet (9-11)

► Called by God (v. 1)

Ex 24:1 Now He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.”

Israel became a nation because **God called them** out of Egypt, the land of slavery.

The church—the covenant people—came into being because God called her into existence.

God calls the church to worship him. This is why our liturgy begins with the “Call to Worship.”

Application:

- We are called from death to life, united into one body: the Church, not in isolation/alone.
- The new life in Christ is to worship God, giving our all to enjoy and glorify him.

Are you part of Christ's body? How have you used your time, talent, and all that God gives?

► Headed by Elders (vv. 1-2)

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders represent Israel. **They are to govern the Israelites**

Ex 24:14 And he [Moses] said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them.”

Moses was a **prophet** and **priest**, an OT office that reveals God and his salvation.

Jesus is the last prophet, himself being the epitome of God's revelation to man.

Aaron and his children were **priests**, an OT office that mediate between God and man.

Likewise, **Jesus is the ultimate priest**, the mediator between God and man.

Today, Jesus is the head of the Church, and the elders are the visible, local governing officers.

This is why our worship is led by the elders of the church.

Twice in verses 1 and 2, we read that the elders and the people can only **worship from afar**.

Ex 24:2 And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him.

Moses serves as a type of Christ, the shadow before the real mediator comes.

NT believers today can freely **come boldly to the throne of grace** through Jesus Christ, our great high priest! (More on this soon!)

The elders of the church are all sinners saved by grace, just like the people they lead.

Application:

- Pray for the elders that they may be given wisdom, filled by the Holy Spirit as they lead.
- Feel free to come to your elders when you have difficulty, God commands us to do so!

► United by the Word (vv. 3-4)

Ex 24:3-4 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Elders are **fallible**. The Church must be governed by the **infallible Word** that gives life, feeds, unites and preserves the Church.

The church is *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone (Eph 2:20).*

These life-giving words are **written** to be **read** and **taught** to the covenant community.

(Ex 24; Deut 31; Jos 8; 2Ki 23; Neh 8; Luk 4; 1Th 5:27; Rev 1:3).

Neh 8:8 "So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading."

Application:

- The true church **preaches** and **teaches** the Word of God!
- Churches are **united** by their allegiance to the Word—true Scriptures; faithful interpretation.
- Do not leave/start a church unless the points above are violated. Today: mostly convenience.

► Redeemed to Obey (vv. 3, 5, 7)

Ex 24:5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord.

Burnt offering (mandatory):

- I am a sinner, I must be put to death.
- Jesus gave himself completely and died for me.

Peace offering (voluntary; part of it is to be eaten):

- God and man reconciled, dine together!
- I give my life as a living sacrifice (Eze 20:41).

The Word reveals God's holiness, our sinfulness, and our need for a Saviour. **The Gospel** offers salvation, calls for our obedience.

This is what faithful preaching is.

Notice that the reading/preaching of the Word is central to the gathering of the people.

It was mentioned twice (in vv. 3 and 7) in the same pericope, both calling for obedience.

Ex 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."

Application:

- Hold your pastors accountable! Make sure this pulpit faithfully preaches the gospel.
- The only way a church can continue is by maintaining **faithful preaching** and **discipline**. Churches fall and fail because they seek to please people rather than obey God.

- **God freed us** from the slavery of sin so that we may **obey from the heart**.

Israelites knew what being slaves feel like. But here they pledge their obedience to the Lord.

Rom 6:17-18 "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

► Consecrated by the Blood (vv. 5-8)

Yahweh is making a blood covenant with them; a common ritual in Ancient Near East. The agreement is read, the allegiance is pledged, the blood is sprinkled; **the covenant is ratified**. Normally, both parties shed their blood and mingle/mix the blood to show the union of the two. But Moses used the blood from the peace offering to represent both parties. **You know why!**

This ritual points to Christ, whose blood secures the eternal redemption!
One blood that reconciles us with God and unites us all.

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Ex 24:8 is fulfilled by Jesus as he says, "This is **My** blood of the **new** covenant" (Mat 26:28).

Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the **first covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The Second Adam (Jesus) redeems us from the first covenant under the first Adam.
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Application: From generation to generation, God's people's eyes are fixed on Christ's sacrifice which secures our salvation and cleanses our conscience to serve God. **Is this your reality?**

► Headed for the Banquet (vv. 9-11)

The representatives of Israel saw theophany—the visible manifestation of God in heaven. **God and his people are "united" in the covenant!** In Ex 19, everyone who touches the mountain will be killed. But here, they not only ascend, but also see God and did not die. Why? **The blood of the sacrifice covers them!** They are counted righteous and may dine with God. But it is even so much better for us, NT believers! We see the true sacrifice; we see God himself.

1John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked upon**, and our hands have **handled**, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have **seen**, and **bear witness**, and **declare** to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

Jesus Christ is the clearest revelation and fullest manifestation of God!
We see the mystery of faith— Immanuel —how can you not proclaim him??

Through Jesus, we are adopted as sons; we may come boldly to God and call him Father.

And better things are yet to come! We will dine with God, face to face, not only in a vision! **Christians must also remember that we are headed for the great banquet with God**, so that we may "*press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil 3:14).

Application:

- Do not live life aimlessly, but **discipline** your body and **prepare** for that great banquet!
- Each day is one day closer to that day! Are **you** ready? Are your **loved ones** ready?

If you are **not** in Christ, you are heading to the **eternal furnace of fire**, where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. **Come to Jesus, NOW!**