

## **Study guide February 1–6**

### **Monday, Feb 1: Genesis 12:1–3; 15:5–6; 17:1–27**

To begin to understand Judaism we have to look at the Biblical account of Abraham and the promises God made to him. Scholars call these promises the “Abrahamic Covenant”—the binding agreement between God and Abraham. What were the promises God made? What did God expect Abraham to do? We are Christians but also descendants of Abraham. As you ponder today’s readings are you able to believe that you are part of the fulfillment of God’s promises?

### **Tuesday, Feb 2: Exodus 34:27–28, Deuteronomy 5:1–21, Matthew 22:34–40**

We learned last fall in the Moses sermon series that, in Judaism, God’s central saving act was the exodus—or deliverance—from slavery in Egypt. After God saved the Israelites from Egypt he led them into the desert and made covenant with them once more. This covenant is known as the “Mosaic covenant” because it was made through Moses. God promised to love, care and provide for his people; and He required Israel to obey God’s Law—The Ten Commandments—and 603 additional laws recorded in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. As Christians, we affirm the final and greatest saving act of God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, yet we know that Jesus is intimately tied to the Exodus and the Law of Moses. How did Jesus take the Ten Commandments and 603 other laws and make them accessible to us?

### **Wednesday, Feb 3: 2 Samuel 7:8–16; Psalm 89:3–4; Jeremiah 33:19–21**

Today’s reading recounts the “Davidic Covenant” because it was made during the time of King David. This covenant did not replace the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants but was meant to add to them. It was a promise that brought hope to the Israelites that God would once again deliver them from their enemies. It also promised that someone from the line of David, Israel’s greatest king, would rule over Israel forever. As Christians we see Jesus, who is descended from the house of David, as the fulfillment of that promise. Interestingly, for 2000 years since Jesus’ birth no one from the line of David has ruled over Israel.

### **Thursday, Feb 4: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Matthew 26:26–28**

God is the God of new things, yet he does not forget the promises he has made. The Old Testament is an accounting of God’s people repeatedly struggling to keep up their end of the covenant relationship. Many books, including Judges, Kings, Chronicles and a large portion of the prophetic writings chronicle these struggles. Over and over, Israel responds with a yes to the offer of covenant with God, only to turn away from it later. Ultimately God speaks to the prophet Jeremiah saying he will one day make a new covenant with Israel. How do the words of today’s New Testament reading indicate that Jesus is the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s words?

### **Friday, Feb 5: Romans 11, noting vs. 28–29 in particular**

We were reminded in last Sunday’s sermon that the first century Christians were all Jews who had accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Gentile Christians were “grafted” onto the vine and became a part of God’s covenant people thanks to Jesus Christ. In today’s reading Paul asserts that God did not forget or break

covenant with his chosen people. The Jews will always be God's covenant people. We have been welcomed in by grace. In light of today's reading, how should Christians relate to Jews?

**Saturday, Feb 6: Psalm 78**

Today's reading is long, but hang in there! It recounts Israel's remarkable history until the time of David. It is a hymn of praise celebrating God's historical guidance of his people. It was designed to teach future generations about God/human covenant making, and human covenant breaking, or in other words, God's faithfulness and Israel's waywardness. Prayerfully consider, what does this psalm teach you about God's desire for his people? In what ways do we continue to make and break covenant with God? In spite of our waywardness God continues to pursue covenant with us. Do we ever find ourselves taking this fact for granted?