

Echoes of Easter

Echoes of Covenant

Recap

Two things are needed in an echo, the sound and the reflecting object

The Promised King

The Problem King

The Personal King

Recap

The Sound and the Reflection

The proclamation of Jesus the King, unveiled and revealed in the Triumphal Entry is the sound

Recap

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. Revelations 19:11-16

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:19-21

At the core of the Easter story is the word “covenant”

At the centre of Christianity is the word “covenant”

A covenant is a contract or agreement between two or more parties. Covenant is how God has chosen to communicate to us, to redeem us, and to guarantee us eternal life in Jesus. These truths, revealed in the Bible, are the basis of Christianity. **The Bible is a covenant document.** The Old and New Testaments are really Old and New Covenants. The word "testament" is Latin for Covenant.

You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God, a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God but also with those who are not here today.

Deuteronomy 29:12-14

A Covenant is... Personal

to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you vs 13

All of our understanding of relationships today revolve around the individual

In covenant, each party is says to the other that they will put the other person first

A Covenant is... Legal

Carefully follow the terms of this covenant...a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath,

The language of covenant is personal but also legal

Most agreements we have today are legal, but none are personal as well. This is what places covenant in a unique place and why we don't have modern equivalents

A Covenant is...Conditional

Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that
you may prosper in everything you do. vs 9

The Ceremony

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Genesis 15:1-3

The Ceremony

But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." vs 8-9

The Ceremony

Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. vs 10-11

The Ceremony

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram vs 17-18

Implications Application

Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" Luke 13:16

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham Matthew 1:1

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

Hebrews 2:14-16

Implications Punishment

Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison. When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way," they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. **The Lord will never be willing to forgive them**; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven. vs 18-20

Implications Punishment

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Mark 15:33

The reason for Easter is because of the covenant God made with himself

God bore the curses while giving us the blessings

Easter is the bridge between law and love

The image features a dark, deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright white stars. In the lower right foreground, the dark silhouettes of several tall, thin crosses are visible against the starry background. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

The Sound and the Reflection

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:10-14