INTRODUCTION: For those of you who are guests, let me explain briefly to you that as a church we are in the process of reading through the Bible chronologically. We, of course, invite you to join with us. You will find reading plans at the desk in the mall and on our church website.

This week we finished the Book of Exodus and read the first ten chapters of Leviticus. Therefore, we read a great deal about the Tabernacle and the sacrifices. Someone who is brand new to the Bible, and that may well be some of you, might ask, “Why don’t we do these things anymore? Why don’t we have priests dressed up in the beautiful garments described, and why do we not bring the peace offering and the sin offering as commanded in this portion of Scripture?”

And those are good questions. The short answer is that later in the Bible we are told that the purpose of the sacrifices and the service in the tabernacle has now been completed, because Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, became our once and for all sacrifice upon the cross.

Now, in a few weeks, when we have completed our reading through the entirety of the law which is given in the Torah or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, I am going to bring you a message about the present day relationship of the Christian to the Old Testament Law. Sadly, that relationship is not well understood today and we find Christians on two extremes, some trying to implement or enforce portions of the Mosaic Law on fellow Christians today and others who say the law has no purpose and no value in the life of a New Testament Christian. Both of these positions are unbiblical. So, when we finish the Book of Deuteronomy, that Sunday you can expect to hear the message about our proper relationship to all of the Old Testament Law.

However, I have already spilled the beans that what we are reading right now is fulfilled by Christ, does that mean it has application to us today. Are we wasting our time reading about all these sacrifices and requirements of the law?

Read my lips. NO!
Remember the words of the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul we read last week.

1 Corinthians 10:11  Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

And the context of this verse in 1 Corinthians is the things that happened to Israel as they journeyed to the Promised Land, which things are described in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

And last week we began to see why their example was important when we discovered that the Israelites journey to the Promised Land was an example of the Christian’s journey to the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. Jesus said,

John 10:10b  I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jesus wants us to have eternal life, but He also wants us to have **abundant life**:

- rich
- meaningful
- purpose filled lives

Israel journeyed to the Promised Land.

Christians are on a journey to the Abundant Life.

Last week we examined **The Beginning of the Journey**

We saw that

**As the shedding of the blood of the Passover Lamb**

and applying it to the doorposts and lintels of their houses,

**put Israel on the road to the Promised Land,**

So also,

**The blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

shed upon the cross and applied by faith in Him to our hearts,

**puts those who trust in Christ on the road that leads to abundant life.**

Today we look at **The Reason for the Journey**

**Why was God leading Israel to the Promised Land?**

**Why does God offer believers in the Lord Jesus abundant life in addition to eternal life?**

**I. THE REASON IS REVEALED IN THE OLD COVENANT.**
Exodus 19:5–6  

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.  

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

A. Israel was to be a Kingdom of priests.

1. A priest was to represent God to man.
2. A priest was to represent man to God.
3. Israel was to be a missionary people.
4. God promised to make Israel His “special treasure” because “all the earth is Mine.”

B. Israel was to be a holy nation.

1. They could not tell the other nations of a holy God if they did not live holy lives.
2. They could not be missionaries if they became like the people they were to be missionaries to.
3. The requirements in the law were given so they could live holy lives.
4. The sacrifices were given
   a. to provide forgiveness for when they sinned.
   b. to picture the forgiveness that would be available to all through the seed of Abraham who would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

II. THE PURPOSE UNFULFILLED

A. This Covenant (Old Covenant, Mosaic Covenant, Sinai Covenant, Covenant of the Law) was conditional.

Exodus 19:5  Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

1. If you will obey my voice.
2. If you will keep my covenant.
B. God specifically warned them of exactly what would happen if they did not obey Him and keep His covenant.

Deuteronomy 4:25–28  
25 “When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

C. Israel did break the Mosaic Covenant.

Jer. 11:10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.

III. THE REASON RENEWED IN THE NEW COVENANT

A. God promised a replacement covenant.

Jer. 31:31-34  
31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

B. The New Covenant is made available in Christ.

1 Cor. 11:25  
In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Why did the broken covenant of the law need to be replaced? Because God still wanted a missionary people.

So, God has Peter write to Christians, and he says,

1 Peter 2:3–5  
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and
precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What is God’s purpose for us who are in the New Covenant by faith in Christ?

1. Be priests – Be missionaries
2. Be holy priests, so we can do our missionary work.

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<tr>
<th>Why did God send Israel on a journey to the Promised Land?</th>
<th>So they could effectively be His priests and lead the other nations to the Lord.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why does Jesus place His followers on the journey to Abundant Life?</td>
<td>So they can effectively share His gospel and lead people in all nations to the Lord.</td>
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And is this not what our Lord told us to be and to do?

Matthew 28:19–20  
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8  
But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

CONCLUSION:

Folks, listen. St. Andrew Baptist Church is a missions church, but not just because that is what we choose to be.

It is what God has called us to be.

It is what we are supposed to be.

It is our reason for being.

It is our reason for the journey.