

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

05-08-2016 – **Covenant**

At the consecration, Jesus blesses the wine “this is my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant.” The bible word ‘covenant’ is very important. It means an agreement, a contract, a testament that defines God’s relationship with his people.

There are a number of Old Testament covenants. The most important one is the Mosaic covenant from the Exodus story. After the Jews in Egypt were saved from the angel of death by putting the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, Moses led the people to Mt. Sinai in the desert where God made a covenant with them: “I will be your God and you will be my people if you obey my commandments” (Ex.19:5). The covenant was then sealed in the blood of animals which were sacrificed to God.

God told the Jewish people to eat a memorial meal with a lamb once a year and tell the Exodus story. Jesus was celebrating this Passover meal at the Last Supper where he changed the words over the bread “my body” and the wine “my blood of the new and eternal covenant.” This New Testament covenant was with all people and sealed by his blood the next day on Good Friday. Jesus is the new Lamb of God who died for the forgiveness of our sins.