

The *Law* and the Believer

I. The Mosaic Law Defined

Last week we defined the **written** or **Mosaic Law** as a conditional covenant established by **God** with **Israel**. The **Law** promised **life** and **blessing** if **obeyed**, but **cursing** and **judgment** if not *fully obeyed* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15). It expressed the **righteous will of God**, and **sanctified Israel** from among the pagan **nations**.

The **Law** provided the means by which **Israel** could **approach** and **worship** before a **holy God**, whose **presence** would now be **among them** in the **Tabernacle** they were constructing (Exodus 25:8-9). The “**Law**” is a **unit** of 613 laws that can be separated into **three basic divisions**; the **Commandments**, the **Judgments**, and the **Ordinances**.

II. The Law and the Messiah

Last week we also looked at **Jesus** and the **Law of Moses**. We studied **four** areas regarding the **Law** and the **Messiah**:

- A. The **Messiah’s embrace** of the Law
- B. The **Messiah’s emphasis** on having an “inward” **righteousness** that was of **greater priority** than that of “external” Law-keeping
- C. The **Messiah’s expressed intent** **not** to “**abolish**” the **Law** and the **Prophets**, but to “fulfill” them (Matthew 5:17-18)
- D. The **Messiah’s establishment** of a New Covenant (Luke 22:19-20)
 1. A *New Covenant* that was **promised** to **Israel** (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
 2. A *New Covenant* **inaugurated** through **Messiah’s death** (Luke 22:19-20) (Hebrews 9:15-20)
 3. A *New Covenant* based on “better promises”, whose **blessings** are now given to **all** (both **Jews** and **Gentiles**) who have **faith in Jesus the Messiah**, and **His work** of **salvation** (Hebrews 8:6) (Romans 1:16-17).

III. The Mosaic Law, the New Covenant, and the Believer

Having embraced by **faith Jesus the Messiah** as both **Lord** and **Savior** (John 3:16, 11:25-26), **believers** (both **Jews** and **Gentiles**) have become **partakers** of the **spiritual blessings** and **promises** of a New Covenant (Hebrews 8:6, 9:15).

Blessed *be* the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
who has **blessed us** with **every spiritual blessing**
in the heavenly *places in Messiah*, (Ephesians 1:3)

But **you (believers)** are A **CHOSEN RACE**, A **royal PRIESTHOOD**, A **HOLY NATION**,
A **PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the **excellencies**
of **Him** who has called you out of **darkness** into **His marvelous light**;

for you once were **NOT A PEOPLE**, but **now** you are THE **PEOPLE OF GOD**;
you had **NOT RECEIVED MERCY**, but **now** you have **RECEIVED MERCY**. (I Peter 2:9-10)

→ As **Jewish believers**, we were once **bound** by a **covenant relationship** to obey
all that was written in the **Mosaic Law** (Romans 5:3). However, according to the
New Covenant, we have **now** “**died**” to the **covenant** of the **Law**, **through** the
body of Messiah, and are **no longer** under its **jurisdiction**. We have been
“**released**” from the **Law** to **now** **serve the Lord** in a **new relationship** with
Him through **His Spirit**.

Therefore, my **brethren**, you also were made to **die to the Law**
through the **body of Messiah**, so that you might be **joined** to **another**,
to Him who was **raised** from the **dead**,
in order that we might **bear fruit for God**...

But **now** we have been **released** from the **Law**,
having **died** to that by which we were **bound**,
so that we serve in **newness** of the **Spirit**
and not in **oldness** of the **letter (the Law)** (Romans 7:4, 6).

→ As **New Covenant believers**, we have been **released** from the **Law** to now **serve**
the Lord “in **newness** of the **Spirit** and not in the **oldness** of the **letter**” (the **Law**)
(Rom. 7:6). When we placed our **faith** and **trust** in **Jesus** as our **Savior**, we
received a “**spiritual**” **birth**, and were **born again** (John 1:12-13:5-6). We are
recipients of **God's Holy Spirit**, who was **poured out** upon the **disciples during**
the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost) (Acts 2:1-17), and now **indwells all believers**
(Romans 8:9, I Cor. 6:19).

This was in accordance with **Old Testament scriptures** which **predicted** the
“**pouring out**” of **God's Spirit** upon **all mankind** (Joel 2:28-29), and was a
prerequisite to **Israel's spiritual transformation** as **promised** by the **New**
Covenant given to them in the **last days** (Jeremiah 31:31-34)—

→ Moreover, I will give you (**Israel**) a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you;
and I will remove the **heart of stone** from your **flesh** and **give you a heart of flesh**.

I will put **My Spirit within you** and cause you to **walk in My statutes**,
and you will be careful to observe **My ordinances**. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

When **the Messiah revealed** to **His disciples** that in accordance with **God's**
purposes, **He** would be **crucified**, **raised** from **the dead**, and would **ascend** back

to heaven, **He declared** that **He** would send them “another comforter,” who would be **with them forever**. This would be the **Holy Spirit** who would indwell them, **comfort them**, **teach them**, and **guide them** into **all truth** (John 14:16-20, 26, 16:13).

He declared that it would be through the power of the **indwelling Spirit** among them (and *all believers*) that would carry the **message** of the gospel even to the “**remotest part** of the **earth**” (Acts 1:8). To this day this **ministry** of **spreading** the gospel message, and making **Messianic disciples** (Matt. 28:19-20) continues. Please note that this **dynamic ministry** is not being accomplished by those who are **focused** on the keeping of the **covenant** of the **Law**, but by *New Covenant* **believers** who are empowered and led by the **indwelling Spirit of God**→

→ **Who** gives us “**life**” through a **spiritual birth**, and **spiritual renewal** (John 1:12-13) (Titus 3:5-6) (Ephesians 2:4-6)

→ **Who** indwells all **believers**

Or do you not know that **your body** is a **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have **from God**, and that you are **not your own**?

For you have been **bought** with a **price**:
therefore **glorify God** in your **body**. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

→ **Who** baptizes **believers** into the body of **Messiah**

For by **one Spirit** we were all baptized into **one body**,
whether **Jews** or **Greeks**, whether **slaves** or **free**,
and we were all made to drink of **one Spirit**. (I Corinthians 12:13)

→ **Who** sanctifies **believers**

Peter, an **apostle** of **Jesus the Messiah**, to those...
who are **chosen** according to the **foreknowledge** of **God**,
by the **sanctifying work** of the **Spirit**,
to **obey Jesus the Messiah** and be **sprinkled** with **His blood**:.. (I Peter 1:1-2)

→ **Who** brings about our **adoption as sons**, and **affirms** to us **inwardly** that we are **sons** and **children** of **God**

For you have **not** received a **spirit of slavery** leading to **fear again**,
but you have received a **spirit of adoption** as **sons**
by which we cry out, “**Abba! Father!**”

The **Spirit Himself** testifies with **our spirit** that **we are children** of **God**,
(Romans 8:15-16)

→ **Who** “**spiritually circumcises**” the **hearts** of **believers**

For he is not a **Jew** who is one **outwardly**,
nor is **circumcision** that which is **outward** in the **flesh**.

But he is a **Jew** who is one **inwardly**;
and **circumcision** is that which is of the **heart**, by the **Spirit**, **not** by the **letter**;
and his **praise** is not from **men**, but from **God**. (Romans 2:28-29)

→ **Who empowers** believers to do the **work** of the **ministry** (Acts 1:8)

I (Paul) was with you in **weakness** and in **fear** and in **much trembling**,
and my **message** and my **preaching** were **not** in **persuasive words of wisdom**,
but in **demonstration** of the **Spirit** and of **power**,

so that **your faith** would not **rest** on the **wisdom of men**,
but on the **power of God**. (I Corinthians 2:3-5)

→ **Who intercedes** for believers when we **struggle in prayer**

In the same way **the Spirit** also **helps** our **weakness**;
for we do **not know** how to **pray** as we should,
but the **Spirit Himself intercedes** for *us* with **groanings** too deep for **words**;

and **He** who **searches the hearts** knows what the **mind of the Spirit** is,
because **He intercedes** for the **saints** according to *the will of God*.
(Romans 8:26-27)

→ **Who writes** upon the **hearts** of **believers**, making them a “**letter**” of
testimony to the world

...being manifested that **you (believers)** are a **letter of Messiah**, cared for by us,
written not with **ink** but with the **Spirit** of the **living God**,
not on tablets of **stone** but on tablets of **human hearts**. (II Corinthians 3:3)

→ **Who** manifests **His “fruit”** in our **lives**— the **characteristics** of **godliness** and
righteousness

Now the **deeds** of the **flesh** are evident...
But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,**
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is **no law**.
(Galatians 5:19a, 22-23)

→ **Who** enables believers to **walk righteously** through the **presence** and **power**
of the **indwelling Spirit**.

But if the **Spirit** of **Him** who **raised Jesus** from the **dead dwells in you**,
He who **raised Messiah Jesus** from the **dead** will also **give life**
to your **mortal bodies through His Spirit** who **dwells in you** (Rom.:8:11).

Closing Comments