

The *Law* and the Believer

I. The Mosaic Law Defined

II. The Law and the Messiah

III. The Mosaic Law, the New Covenant, and the Believer—a Summary

1. As *believers*, (both **Jews** and **Gentiles**) we have become partakers of the **spiritual blessings** and **promises** of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:6, 9:15) (Ephesians 1:3)
2. As **Jewish believers**, we were once **bound** by a **covenant relationship** to **obey all** that was **written** in the **Mosaic Law** (Galatians 3:10). 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** (Romans 7:1-6)

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**...(Romans 7:4)

3. 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).”

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 7:6).

4. As **New Covenant believers**, when we placed our **faith** and **trust** in **Jesus** as our **Savior**, we received a “**spiritual**” **birth** (John 1:12-13:5-6) from the Spirit of God who now **indwells all believers** (Romans 8:9, I Cor. 6:19).

Messiah promised that it would be the Spirit of God that would now **comfort**, **teach**, and **guide them** into **all truth** (John 14:16-20, 26, 16:13). It would be by the **work** of the **indwelling Spirit of God** that they would be **baptized** into the **body of Messiah** (I Cor. 12:13), **sanctified** (I Peter 1:1-2), **adopted as sons** (Rom. 8:15-16), “**circumcised**” in their **hearts** (Rom. 2:28-28), and **empowered for service** (Acts 1:8, I Cor. 2:3-5).

When *believers* live lives that are **led** by the Spirit, they manifest the **fruit** of the Spirit, the fruit of “**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; *against* such things there is no law (Gal. 5:18, 22-23).”

IV. The Mosaic Law—A New Testament

Perspective

A. The Covenant of the Law and the Covenant of Promise—

Before the **covenant of the Law**, God had given to **Abraham** and his **descendants** what has been called the **Abrahamic covenant**, or **covenant of Promise** (Genesis 12:1-3). Unlike the **Law**, the **covenant of Promise** was **unconditional**, for **God promised Abraham**:

- that **He** would make **Abraham** a **great nation**,
- that **He** would **bless Abraham** and make **his name great**,
- that **he (Abraham)** would be a **blessing**,
- that **He** would **bless** those who **bless Abraham**, and **curse** those who **curse Abraham**,
- and that **“in Abraham (his seed) all the families of the earth would be blessed** (Genesis 12:1-3)

According to the **New Testament**, the **“seed”** that would **bless all nations** is **Jesus the Messiah**, whose **death** and **resurrection** would bring **salvation** and **eternal life** to **“all families of the earth.”** These **promises** are given to **all** who **believe** and have **faith** in **Jesus the Messiah**.

“For **God** so **loved the world**, that **He** gave **His only begotten Son**, that whoever **believes in Him** shall **not perish**, but have **eternal life** (John 3:16

For I am **not ashamed** of the **gospel**, for it is the **power of God** for **salvation** to everyone who **believes**, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek** (Romans 1:16).

Even so **Abraham BELIEVED GOD**,
AND IT WAS **RECKONED** TO HIM AS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.
Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of **faith** who are **sons of Abraham**.

The **Scripture**, foreseeing that **God** would **justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached the **gospel** beforehand to **Abraham**, *saying*,

“ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE **BLESSED IN YOU**.”

So then those who are of **faith** are **blessed** with **Abraham**, the **believer**.
(Galatians 3:6-9)

B. The Law could not declare a man Righteous and Justified before God

Now we know that whatever the **Law** says, it speaks to those who are **under the Law**, so that **every mouth** may be **closed** and all the **world** may become **accountable to God**;

because by the **works of the Law** *no flesh* will be **justified** in **His sight**;
for **through the Law** comes the **knowledge of sin**.

But now **apart** from the **Law** the **righteousness of God** has been **manifested**,
being **witnessed** by the **Law** and the **Prophets**,
even the **righteousness of God** through **faith** in **Jesus the Messiah**
for **all** those who **believe**; for there is **no distinction**; (Romans 3:19-22)

C. The **Purposes** of the **Law**—{New Testament Perspective}

→1. The **Law** reveals the **Righteous** character and **Will** of God

So then, the **Law** is **holy**, and the **commandment** is **holy** and **righteous** and **good**
(Romans 7:12).

All Scripture is **inspired by God** and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**,
for **correction**, for **training** in **righteousness**; so that the **man of God**
may be adequate, **equipped** for every **good work** (II Timothy 3:16-17).

→2. The **Law**, which came **430 years** after the **covenant of Promise**,
was **added** to **Restrain sin** and **transgression**

Why the **Law** then? It was **added** because of **transgressions**, (Galatians 3:19a)

→3. The **Law** gives **Knowledge of Sin**

...for **through the Law** comes the **knowledge of sin** (Rom. 3:20b).

What shall we say then?...I would **not** have come to **know sin**
except through the **Law**; for I would **not** have known about **coveting**
if the **Law** had **not said**, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." (Romans 7:7a, c)

→4. The **Law** served as a "**Tutor**," **leading us** to **Faith** in **Messiah**

But **before faith** came, we were **kept in custody** under the **law**,
being **shut up** to the **faith** which was **later** to be **revealed**.

Therefore the **Law** has become our **tutor** to **lead us to Messiah**,
so that we may be **justified by faith**. (Galatians 3:23-24)

→5. The **Law** caused **Transgression** to **increase**, but **through Messiah** we
receive **Grace**

For if by the **transgression** of the **one (Adam)**, **death reigned** through the **one**,
much more those who receive the abundance of **grace** and of the **gift**
of righteousness will **reign** in **life** through the **One, Jesus The Messiah**.

The **Law** came in so that the **transgression** would **increase**;
but where **sin increased**, **grace abounded** all the **more**,
so that, as **sin reigned** in **death**, even so **grace** would **reign**
through righteousness to **eternal life**
through Jesus the Messiah our Lord. (Romans 5:17, 20-21)

For the **Law** was **given** through **Moses**;
grace and **truth** were **realized** through **Jesus the Messiah**. (John 1:17)

D. The **Law** is revealed as a **Ministry of Condemnation**, with a "**fading**" **glory**,
compared to the **New Covenant's** more **glorious Ministry of Righteousness**

For if the **ministry of condemnation** (the **Law**) has **glory**, much more
does the **ministry of righteousness** (**New covenant**) abound in **glory**. (II Cor. 3:9)

E. The Law is **Holy, Righteous, and Good**, but could make *nothing* “Perfect”

For the Law, since it has *only* a **shadow** of the **good things** to come *and* not the very **form** of things, can **never**, by the **same sacrifices** which they **offer continually** year by year, **make perfect** those who **draw near**.

Otherwise, would they not have **ceased** to be **offered**, because the **worshippers**, having **once been cleansed**, would no longer have had **consciousness of sins?**...

For by **one offering He (Messiah)** has **perfected** for **all time** those who are **sanctified**. (Hebrews 10:1-2, 14)

Closing Summary/Exhortation

As **believers**, we have embraced the **New Covenant in Messiah**, and have been freed from the **jurisdiction** of the Covenant of the **Law**. We have been “**released**” to now **serve God** in “**newness of the Spirit** and **not in oldness of the letter** (the **Law**)” (Romans 7:6).

However, the **New Covenant** also has numerous **laws, instructions, and principles**; many of them **found** in the **Mosaic Law**. Much of the **righteousness** of the **Law** is **contained** in the **teachings and instructions** of the **New Testament**. **Nine of the Ten Commandments** are specifically **found** in the **scriptures** of the **New Testament**.

As **believers** we are not “**under law** but **under grace** (Rom. 6:14).” However, we are **not to sin** that “**grace may abound**.” Instead, we are to consider ourselves “**dead to sin, but alive to God**” **in Messiah**, and are to present the **members** of our **body** as “**instruments of righteousness**.” (Rom. 6:11, 13)

As **believers**, we are now **serving God** in “**newness of the Spirit**,” who now **indwells us**. We are seeking to **walk according** to the **Spirit**, and manifest **His fruits** of **righteousness** in our **lives** (Gal. 5:22-23). We are not under the **Law of Moses**, but are following the “**Law of Messiah**,” which can be summarized by **Jesus’ command** to “**love one another**, even as **I have loved you**, that you also **love one another** (John 13:34).” In the **New Testament** we read that “the **whole Law** is **fulfilled** in **one word**, in the **statement**, “**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF** (Galatians 5:14).”

As **New Covenant believers**, we walk in a “**new and living way** (Heb.10:20),” being **transformed inwardly** through the **work** of the **Holy Spirit** (Rom. 12:2), and are being **conformed** in our **person** to the very **image** of the **Son of God** (Rom. 8:29).