

The Law & the Covenants

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Part 1: Introduction

Religious Systems	Theological Foundations
Mosaic Judaism	= Old Testament
Rabbinic Judaism	= Old Testament + The Oral Law
Modern Christianity	= New Testament + The Church "Fathers"
Apostolic Christianity	= Old Testament + New Testament

- Modern Christianity accepts the Old Testament as inspired but not as authoritative or normative
- If we accept the OT as authoritative, what role does the Mosaic Law play in the New Covenant?

Introduction

- What you see in Scripture depends on the interpretive "lenses" that you wear
- Theologians use an interpretive framework to categorize and classify different passages
- This can help or distort our view of Scripture

Covenant Theology

- God has one people, believers in every generation
- God has one main covenant, the Covenant of Grace
- Each successive generation amplifies and clarifies various aspects of the Covenant of Grace

Dispensational Theology

- God has two separate peoples, Israel & the Church
- God has two separate plans for these peoples
- Emphasizes discontinuity between OT & NT; God works with humanity during different stages or "dispensations" to achieve His plans

<p><u>Dispensationalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plymouth Brethren Movement (1827, Ireland & England) • Bible Conference Movement (1876, USA) • Dallas Theological Seminary (1924) • Mosaic Law Abolished • Replaced by “Law of Christ” 	<p><u>Covenantalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westminster Confession of Faith (1646, England) • Christian Reformed Church (1857, USA) • Westminster Theological Seminary (1927) • Ceremonial Law Abolished • Moral, Civil Law Relevant
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<p><u>Dispensationalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Nelson Darby (d.1882) • Dwight L. Moody (d.1899) • Cyrus I. Scofield (d.1921) • Louis Sperry Chafer (d.1952) • John F. Walvoord (d.2002) • J. Dwight Pentecost (d.2014) • Charles C. Ryrie • Darrell L. Bock 	<p><u>Covenantalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zacharias Ursinus (d.1583) • Caspar Olevianus (d.1587) • Johannes Coccelus (d.1669) • J. Gresham Machen (d.1937) • Louis Berkhof (d.1957) • Charles Hodge (d.1878) • George Eldon Ladd (d.1982) • Millard J. Erickson
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The Theological Spectrum Regarding the Old & New Testament



Introduction

- When you have two strongly opposing views, the truth is usually somewhere in the middle.
- The goal is to combine the best of both views into a new position that fits all of the biblical data.

The Law & the Covenants

Solving a jigsaw puzzle

- Find the edge pieces
- Build the frame
- Group pieces by color

Theological puzzles

- Identify key verses
- Define the boundaries
- Group verses by category

Introduction

- We need to be open minded, but not gullible.
- Acts 17:11 Now these [Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
- 1Thes 5:21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good

Comparison of the Old & New Covenants

Aspects	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Purpose	Physical Type	Spiritual Antitype
Parties	God & Israel	God & Christians
Territory	Canaan, Kingdom of Israel	Earth, Kingdom of God
Benefits	Healing, Rain, Good Crops, Military Victory, Long Life	Healing, Fruit of the Spirit, Resurrection, Eternal Life
Stipulations	Law of Moses	Law of Moses, Christ
Administrators	High Priest, Elders	High Priest, Elders
Facilitators	Levites, Servants	Deacons
Atonement	Sacrifices (Works)	Calvary (Grace)
Sign & Seal	Circumcision	Baptism, Holy Spirit

Introduction

Under the Old Covenant

- Israelites had more obligations, more blessings (full citizens)
- Gentiles had fewer obligations, fewer blessings (resident aliens)

Under the New Covenant

- Jesus retained and augmented the Mosaic Law
- Christians have new obligations, greater blessings

Summary

1. The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
2. The Mosaic Law also contains some stipulations that only apply to Israel (discontinuity).
3. Jesus incorporated the Mosaic Law into the New Covenant (continuity).
4. Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law within the New Covenant (discontinuity).

The Law & the Covenants

Part 2: General Laws for All Mankind

General Laws

- The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
- Many are clearly general, others not so much
- Clues for determining General Laws
 - Was it required prior to the Old Covenant?
 - Was it required for resident aliens in Israel?
 - Was it required for Gentile Christians?
- General Laws existed before the Old Covenant
 - Gen 6:9b ...Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
 - Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”
 - Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.
- Developed gradually, progressive revelation
 - Initially, people were vegetarians; later omnivores
 - Initially, people married their near kin; later forbidden
 - Initially, a murderer was banished; later death penalty
- Applied to everyone, not just Israelites
 - Gen 6 Universal sin punished by a universal flood
 - Gen 11 Tower of Babel; God divided languages
 - Gen 18-19 Sodom and Gomorrah obliterated
- Involved basic activities of human life

The Sabbath Day

- Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
- Ex 12:37 Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. 38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock.

The Sabbath Day

- Ex 16:27 It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather [manna], but they found none. 28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?"
- NOTE: The people had not yet reached Mount Sinai; this was before the Old Covenant existed.

The Law & the Covenants

Tithes and Offerings

- Gen 4:3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering
- Gen 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Tithes and Offerings

- Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He [Abram] gave him [Melchizedek] a tenth of all.

Tithes and Offerings

- Gen 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, 21 and I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God. 22 This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Clean & Unclean Animals

- Gen 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. 2 You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female
- Gen 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Death Penalty & Blood

- Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 "The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. 3 "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.

Death Penalty & Blood

- Gen 9:4 "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

The Law & the Covenants

Adultery

- Gen 20:1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married."

Summary

- General Laws existed before the Old Covenant
- Developed gradually, progressive revelation
- Applied to everyone, not just Israelites
- Involved basic activities of human life
 - The Sabbath (holy time, rest)
 - Tithes & offerings (clean animals)
 - Morality (murder, adultery)
 - Diet (blood)

Part 3: One Law, Different Roles

One Law, Different Roles

- The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
- The Mosaic Law also contains some stipulations that only apply to Israel (discontinuity).
- Clues for determining General Laws
 - Was it required prior to the Old Covenant?
 - Was it required for resident aliens in Israel?
 - Was it required for Gentile Christians?

One Law, Different Roles

- Covenant = social contract; stipulations + benefits
- Old Covenant = constitution of the Kingdom of Israel
 - Israelites had full rights; more responsibilities, blessings
 - Resident aliens (Gentiles) had fewer rights, blessings
 - Aliens might be godly or not (prospective members)

Roles	Stipulations	Examples
The King of Israel	Taxes, Warfare, Judgment	Deut 17:14-20
Priests & Levites	Tithes, Offerings, Teaching	Lev 10:8-11, Num 18:21
Sons of Israel	Lender, Farmer, Servants	Deut 23:20, Lev 25:1-55
Resident Aliens	Work, Worship, Justice	Ex 20:9-10, Num 35:15

The Law & the Covenants

Circumcision

- Gen 17:9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11 "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.
- NOTE: This is Patriarchal era, but limited in scope.

Circumcision

- Lev 12:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean. 3 'On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.
- General or not? Not!

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Ex 20:9 "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner [ger] who stays with you.
- General or not? General!

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Ex 12:48 "But if a stranger [ger] sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it."
- General or not? Not!

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Ex 12:19 'Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien [ger] or a native of the land.
- General or not? General!

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Deut 16:10 "Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you. 11 "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger [ger] and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Lev 16:29 "This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien [ger] who sojourns among you"

The Law & the Covenants

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Deut 16:13 "You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; 14 and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger [ger] and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns.

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Lev 23:42 'You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, 43 so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.'

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Deut 31:10 Then Moses commanded them, saying, "At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing.

The Sabbath & Holy Days

- Deut 31:12 "Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien [ger] who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law.
- NOTE: The alien did not have to obey every aspect of the Mosaic Law, only that which applied.

Tithes and Offerings

- Num 18:21 "To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting. 22 "The sons of Israel shall not come near the tent of meeting again, or they will bear sin and die. 23 "Only the Levites shall perform the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the sons of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

Tithes and Offerings

- Num 15:14 'If an alien [ger] sojourns with you, or one who may be among you throughout your generations, and he wishes to make an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD, just as you do so he shall do.
- NOTE: This was purely voluntary, but a person had to be ritually clean to enter the sanctuary courtyard (Lev 7:20-21, Num 19:20).

Tithes and Offerings

- Lev 17:8 "Then you shall say to them, 'Any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens [ger] who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, 9 and does not bring it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to offer it to the LORD, that man also shall be cut off from his people.

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- NOTE: This was purely voluntary, but a person had to be ritually clean to enter the sanctuary courtyard (Lev 7:20-21, Num 19:20).

Tithes and Offerings

- Num 15: 28 'The priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally, making atonement for him that he may be forgiven. 29 'You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien [ger] who sojourns among them.
- NOTE: This was a Gentile who voluntarily chose to worship the God of Israel.

Food Laws

- Lev 17:10 'And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens [ger] who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people.

Food Laws

- Some Gentiles followed Yahweh, others did not.
- Deut 14:21a "You shall not eat anything which dies of itself. You may give it to the alien [ger] who is in your town, so that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner [nokriy], for you are a holy people to the LORD your God....

Food Laws

- Desperate people do desperate things to stay alive
- Lev 17:15 "When any person eats an animal which dies or is torn by beasts, whether he is a native or an alien [ger], he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and remain unclean until evening; then he will become clean.

Immorality

- Lev 20:2 "You shall also say to the sons of Israel: 'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens [ger] sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.'"

Immorality

- Lev 24:16 'Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien [ger] as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

Immorality

- Lev 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. 23 'Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion. 24 'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.

The Law & the Covenants

Immorality

- Lev 18:25 'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. 26 'But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien [ger] who sojourns among you

Civil Laws

- Deut 17:15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner [nokriy] over yourselves who is not your countryman.

Civil Laws

- Deut 15: 1 "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of debts. 2 "This is the manner of remission: every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother, because the LORD'S remission has been proclaimed. 3 "From a foreigner [nokriy] you may exact it, but your hand shall release whatever of yours is with your brother.

Civil Laws

- Lev 25:39 'If a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to you that he sells himself to you, you shall not subject him to a slave's service. 40 'He shall be with you as a hired man, as if he were a sojourner [towshav]; he shall serve with you until the year of jubilee. 41 'He shall then go out from you, he and his sons with him, and shall go back to his family, that he may return to the property of his forefathers.

Civil Laws

- Lev 25:45 'Moreover you may buy the children of the strangers [towshav] who dwell among you, and their families who are with you, which they beget in your land; and they shall become your property. 46 'And you may take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they shall be your permanent slaves. But regarding your brethren, the children of Israel, you shall not rule over one another with rigor.

Civil Laws

- Num 35:10 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 11 then you shall select for yourselves cities to be your cities of refuge, that the manslayer who has killed any person unintentionally may flee there.
- Num 35:15 'These six cities shall be for refuge for the sons of Israel, and for the alien [ger] and for the sojourner [towshav] among them; that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.

The Law & the Covenants

Civil Laws

- Deut 24:19 "When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien [ger], for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
- NOTE: God used Israel to set a general example of helping the poor & needy.

Civil Laws

- Deut 26:12 "When you have finished paying all the tithe of your increase in the third year, the year of tithing, then you shall give it to the Levite, to the stranger [ger], to the orphan and to the widow, that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.
- NOTE: God used Israel to set the general example of helping the poor & needy.

Summary

- The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
- The Mosaic Law also contains some stipulations that only apply to Israel (discontinuity).
- Resident aliens had to keep the General Laws.
 - The Sabbath & Holy Days
 - Sacrifices & offerings (idolatry)
 - Morality (blaspheme, lewdness)
 - Diet (blood)

Part 4: Two Covenants, One Foundation

- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
 - New Covenant = social contract; stipulations + benefits
 - Stipulations = Law of Moses + Law of Christ
 - Benefits = old blessings + better promises
 - Justification = faith in Christ, not works
- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
- Jer 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.
- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
- Mal 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.
- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
- 1Cor 11:25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Law & the Covenants

- 2Cor 3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
- Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.
- NOTE: A “renewed covenant” does not require a new Mediator, and it can’t become better.

Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).

- Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
- NOTE: The first covenant is obsolete, not the stipulations (e.g., marriage laws).
- Jesus incorporated the Mosaic Law into the New Covenant (continuity).
 - The New Testament explicitly says so
 - Jewish Christians still kept the Law of Moses

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- Matt 5:17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- Matt 5:19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- Matt 19:16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" 17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL..."

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- Luke 16:17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.
- Rom 2:13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.
- Rom 3:31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

The Law & the Covenants

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- Rom 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? 2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.
- Rom 2:25 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- 1Cor 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.
- Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision [as a proselyte], that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.
- NOTE: Some cultures practice circumcision, but not for conversion to Judaism (cf. Jer 9:25-26)

The New Testament explicitly says so...

- James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

Jewish Christians continued to keep the Law of Moses

- Acts 16:1 Then he [Paul] came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek... 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Jewish Christians continued to keep the Law of Moses

- Acts 18:18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.
- The Law of the Nazirites (Num 6) specifies that "no razor shall pass over his head" until the vow is complete.

Jewish Christians continued to keep the Law of Moses

- Act 21:20 And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother [Paul], how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law 21 "but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.
- Act 21:23 "Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law."

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Jewish Christians continued to keep the Law of Moses

- Act 22:12 A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him.

Jewish Christians continued to keep the Law of Moses

- Act 23:3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?"⁴ But the bystanders said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"⁵ And Paul said, "I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'"

Two Covenants, One Foundation

- The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
- Clues for determining General Laws
 - Was it required prior to the Old Covenant?
 - Was it required for resident aliens in Israel?
 - Was it required for Gentile Christians?

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

Stipulations	NT Reference	OT Reference
Monotheism/Idolatry	1Cor 6:9, Gal 5:20	Ex 20:2-6
Blasphemy	Col 3:8	Ex 20:7
Sabbath	Mark 2:27, Heb 4:9	Ex 20:8-11
Honor Parents	Eph 6:1-2, Rom 1:30	Ex 20:12, 21:15, 17
Murder	James 2:11	Ex 20:13
Sexual immorality	1Cor 6:9, Gal 5:19	Ex 20:14, Lev 18, 20
Stealing	1Cor 6:10	Ex 20:15
Lying/False Witness	Col 3:9, Rom 1:30	Ex 20:16, Lev 19:16
Coveting	1Cor 6:10	Ex 20:17

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

Stipulations	NT Reference	OT Reference
Revilers	Act 23:5, 1Cor 6:10	Ex 21:17, 22:28
Uncleanness	2Cor 6:17, Gal 5:19	Lev 11, Deut 14, etc.
Sorcery	Gal 5:19	Le 20:6, De 18:10
Enmities	Gal 5:20	Lev 19:17-18
Vengeance	Rom 12:19-20	Lev 19:18
Eating Blood	Acts 15:20	Lev 17:10
Kidnapping	1Tim 1:10	Ex 21:16, De 24:7
Unequally Yoked	2Cor 6:14-17, 1Cor 7:39	Ex 34:12-16, Deut 7:1-4
Test the Spirits	Mt 7:15-16, 1Jn 4:1	Deut 13:1-5, 18:15-22

The Law & the Covenants

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- The Jerusalem Council
- Act 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- The Jerusalem Council
- Acts 15:5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." 6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.
- General or not?
- Not!

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- The Jerusalem Council
- Acts 15:13 After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me. 14 "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name...

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- Acts 15:19 "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, 20 but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood
- See also Ex 34:12-16, Lev 18, Gen 9:4, Lev 17:10
- NOTE: These were initial requirements, not final

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- Mark 2:27 Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
- 1Cor 5:7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- NOTE: Paul said "which is" not "which was" showing that it still existed and was applicable to all.

The Law & the Covenants

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- 1Cor 7:39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.
- 2Cor 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

Gentiles Christians had to keep the General Laws

- 2Cor 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

Summary

- Jesus inaugurated a New Covenant, not a renewed covenant (discontinuity).
- Jesus incorporated the Mosaic Law into the New Covenant (continuity).
- Gentile Christians had to keep the General Laws.
 - The Sabbath & Holy Days
 - Morality (murder, adultery, etc.)
 - Diet (blood, unclean animals)

Part 5: New Covenant, New Laws

New Covenant, New Laws

- Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law within the New Covenant (discontinuity).
 - New Covenant = constitution of the Church
 - Christians are citizens of the Kingdom of God
 - Christians have new obligations, greater blessings
 - Christians are justified by faith, not works

Christians are citizens of the Kingdom of God

- Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...
- Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

The New Covenant Assembly & Commission

- Matt 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
- Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Law & the Covenants

The New Covenant Organization

- 1Tim 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...
- 1Tim 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain...

The Sign & Seal of the New Covenant

- Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise

The New Covenant Passover

- 1Cor 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law

- Matt 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law

- Matt 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law

- Matt 5:31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE'; 32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Jesus gave new stipulations as well

- Matt 23:8 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.
- John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

The Law & the Covenants

Jesus gave new stipulations as well

- 1Cor 9:13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.
- See also Num 18:21

New Covenant, New Laws

- Which of these stipulations are new?
- 1Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [catamites], nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

New Covenant, New Laws

- Which of these stipulations are new?
- Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Summary

- Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law within the New Covenant (discontinuity).
 - New Covenant = constitution of the Church
 - Christians are citizens of the Kingdom of God
 - Christians have new obligations, greater blessings
 - Christians are justified by faith, not works

Part 6: Israel, God's Model Nation

- God called Israel to be a light to the world
 - Under the Old Covenant, Israel failed
 - Under the New Covenant, Israel will succeed
- The Mosaic Law is God's tool for global evangelism and discipleship
 - The Mosaic Law graphically illustrates the Gospel
 - Unbelievers learn about Calvary via the sin offerings
 - Christians "graduate" to justification by faith

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Ex 19:5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.

The Law & the Covenants

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Deut 4:5 "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. 6 "So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'
- NOTE: God wanted Gentiles to emulate Israel.

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Solomon's Dedication Prayer for the Temple
- 1Kgs 8:41 "Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name's sake 42 (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house,

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Solomon's Dedication Prayer for the Temple
- 1Kgs 8:43 hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Isa 56:6 "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; 7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- Ps 96:1 Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. 3 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
- Ps 96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- John 4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

The Law & the Covenants

God called Israel to be a light to the world

- 2Tim 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- NOTE: The only sacred writings available to Timothy were the Heb. Scriptures.

Under the Old Covenant, Israel failed

- Jer 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Under the New Covenant, Israel will succeed

- Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Israel, God's Model Nation

- Isa 2:2 Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law [*torah*] will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Ezekiel's Vision of Millennial Israel

- Ezek 40:1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was taken, on that same day the hand of the LORD was upon me and He brought me there. 2 In the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, and on it to the south there was a structure like a city.

Israel, God's Model Nation

- Ezek 43:10 "As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the plan. 11 "If they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the house, its structure, its exits, its entrances, all its designs, all its statutes, and all its laws. And write it in their sight, so that they may observe its whole design and all its statutes and do them.
- NOTE: God predicted a literal fulfillment.

The Law & the Covenants

Duties of the Priests

- Ezek 40:45 He said to me, "This is the chamber which faces toward the south, intended for the priests who keep charge of the temple; 46 but the chamber which faces toward the north is for the priests who keep charge of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, who from the sons of Levi come near to the LORD to minister to Him."

Duties of the Priests

- Ezek 42:13 Then he said to me, "The north chambers and the south chambers, which are opposite the separate area, they are the holy chambers where the priests who are near to the LORD shall eat the most holy things. There they shall lay the most holy things, the grain offering, the sin offering and the guilt offering; for the place is holy.

Duties of the Priests

- Ezek 43:18 And He said to me, "Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'These are the statutes for the altar on the day it is built, to offer burnt offerings on it and to sprinkle blood on it. 19 'You shall give to the Levitical priests who are from the offspring of Zadok, who draw near to Me to minister to Me,' declares the Lord GOD, 'a young bull for a sin offering.'
- NOTE: The sin offerings were a prophecy of Calvary; now, they are a memorial of Calvary.

Duties of the Priests

- Ezek 44:23 "Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. 24 "In a dispute they shall take their stand to judge; they shall judge it according to My ordinances. They shall also keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed feasts and sanctify My Sabbaths.
- NOTE: The Mosaic Law was not abolished at Calvary.

The Highway of Holiness

- Isa 35:8 A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for him who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it. 9 No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads...

Duties of the Prince

- Ezek 45:16 "All the people of the land shall give to this offering for the prince in Israel. 17 "It shall be the prince's part to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the drink offerings, at the feasts, on the new moons and on the Sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel; he shall provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel."

The Law & the Covenants

Duties of the Prince

- Ezek 45:21 "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. 22 "On that day the prince shall provide for himself and all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering.
- Ezek 45: 25 "In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast [of Tabernacles], he shall provide like this, seven days for the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil."
- Ezek 46:1 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "The gate of the inner court facing east shall be shut the six working days; but it shall be opened on the Sabbath day and opened on the day of the new moon.
- Ezek 46:3 "The people of the land shall also worship at the doorway of that gate before the LORD on the Sabbaths and on the new moons.
- Isa 66:23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

Israel, God's Model Nation

- Zech 14:16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

Israel, God's Model Nation

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Part 7: Answering Possible Objections

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Didn't Jesus abolish the food laws in Mark 7:19?
- Mark 7:18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 "because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, *thus* purifying all foods?
- A: The rabbis had claimed that food became defiled when eaten with ritually unwashed hands; Jesus ruled that the food was still clean.

The Law & the Covenants

Answering Possible Objections

- In this context, the term “food” (*broma*) did not include unclean animals and cannot legitimately be redefined to include them.
- Paul taught Christians to avoid physical uncleanness (cf. Deut 23:14, 2Cor 6:16-17).
- Deut 23:14 "For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.

Answering Possible Objections

- 2Cor 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.
- See also Lev 11:8, Isa 52:11

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Didn't God declare that all animals are now clean during Peter's vision in Acts 10?
- Acts 10:10 Then he [Peter] became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.
- Acts 10:13 And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."
- A: Peter realized that the vision was symbolic; some animals are still unclean (cf. Acts 10:28, Rev 18:2).

Answering Possible Objections

- Acts 10:28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common (*koinos*) or unclean.
- Rev 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Didn't Paul say that Christ is “the end the Law”?
- Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end [*telos*] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- A: This translation is based on misguided theological assumptions.
- Rom 3:31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

The Law & the Covenants

Answering Possible Objections

- NOTE: Paul can't uphold the Law in one passage and then contradict himself in another.
- Two other legitimate translations are possible:
 1. Christ is the end of *using* the Law for righteousness
 2. Christ is the goal of the Law for righteousness
- Either way, the Law still serves as a guide for proper Christian living.

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Doesn't Romans 14 say that Sabbath days and food laws are matters of personal choice?
- Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.
- Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Answering Possible Objections

- A: The term "Sabbath" does not appear in Romans; Jews specifically fasted on Mondays and Thursdays, but fast days are a matter of personal choice.
- The term "unclean" is *koinos* (common), which refers to a clean item that becomes defiled; Romans 14:14 is not discussing meat from unclean animals.
- Strict Jews avoided meat from Gentile markets in case it was defiled (*koinos*) as an idol offering; Paul felt Christians could eat such meat as long as it didn't cause a scandal or offense.

Answering Possible Objections

- 1Cor 10:27 If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. 28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth *is* the LORD'S, and all its fullness."

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Didn't Jesus abolish the Mosaic Law by nailing it to the cross (Col 2:13-14)?
- Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Answering Possible Objections

- A: When Romans executed criminals, they nailed the list of crimes onto the cross (Matt 27:37); Paul taught that we have been forgiven because our list of crimes (sins) was also nailed to the cross of Christ.
- Matt 27:37 And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

The Law & the Covenants

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Doesn't Colossians 2:16-17 say we shouldn't judge one another regarding food laws and Sabbath days?
- Col 2:16 Therefore no [man] is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— 17 things which **are** a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Answering Possible Objections

- A: Scripture alone is our final authority regarding matters of faith and practice; Paul told the Colossians not to heed the dubious criticism of heretical men.
- NOTE: Paul uses the present tense (**are**) and not the past tense (*were*) showing that the Sabbath and biblical festivals have not been abolished. The term "*mere*" is NOT in the original.
- Paul also states that the Sabbath and feasts days **are** still relevant because they foreshadow future events in God's plan of salvation (i.e., the Millennium).

Answering Possible Objections

- Q: Doesn't 1Tim 4:3-5 say we can eat anything?
- 1Tim 4:3 *men* who forbid marriage *and* *advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

Answering Possible Objections

- A: Paul said that the doctrines of demons would include abstaining from biblically clean food items for those "who believe and know the truth."
- Furthermore, Paul described this food as "sanctified by means of the word of God" (i.e., Lev 11, Deut 14).
- If "everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected" without any qualification, try eating potassium cyanide or nightshade.

Part 8: Truth & Consequences

- God holds people accountable for what they know
 - Blessing is proportional to obedience
 - Punishment is proportional to knowledge
- Some sins are more serious than others
 - The best case scenario
 - The worst case scenario
- Illustration: Judgment on the World
- Illustration: Judgment on the Churches
- Summary & Conclusion

The Law & the Covenants

God holds people accountable for what they know

- John 13:17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
- Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- NOTE: If you aren't sure about a commandment, even after careful study, it is better to observe it needlessly than disobey it while in doubt.

God holds people accountable for what they know

- James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- John 9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.
- John 15:22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Some sins are more serious than others

- 1John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

Some sins are more serious than others

- Luke 12:45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; 46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

Some sins are more serious than others

- Luke 12:47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

The best case scenario

- Heb 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." (cf. Prv 3:11-12)

The Law & the Covenants

The best case scenario

- Matt 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The worst case scenario

- 1Pet 4:18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?
- Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

The worst case scenario

- Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Judgment on the World

- Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Judgment on the World

- Rev 9:15 And the four angels... were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.
- Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Judgment on the Churches – Thyatira

- Rev 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

The Law & the Covenants

Judgment on the Churches – Thyatira

- Rev 2:23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. 25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

Judgment on the Churches – Laodicea

- Rev 3:15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Judgment on the Churches – Laodicea

- Rev 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

Summary

1. The Mosaic Law contains many stipulations that apply to all humanity (continuity).
2. The Mosaic Law also contains some stipulations that only apply to Israel (discontinuity).
3. Jesus incorporated the Mosaic Law into the New Covenant (continuity).
4. Jesus augmented the Mosaic Law within the New Covenant (discontinuity).

The Conclusion

- The Mosaic Law is an important revelation of moral and spiritual truth that was incorporated into the Old and New Covenants.
- While many stipulations apply only to Israelites living in the Promised Land, others are binding on all humanity.
- Therefore, the Mosaic Law has abiding significance as a guide to proper living for God's people.