

## Covenant Theology 8 - Moses/Law/Israel

Reading: COTC 170-199, Covenants 8, Audio Links- See Covenantpca.org

### **Introduction**

#### A. The Progression of the Covenant

**Abraham:** major focus upon the promise, minor focus upon obedience (Gen 12:1-3, Gen 17:1, Circumcision, Gen 22, the sacrifice of Isaac). In the new period of Moses, there is a new focus on obedience.

#### **B. Continuity**

All Covenants have the same basis, the need to walk before God. Within this Covenant, God places stipulations upon men. There is an overlap of the covenants (Ex 2:24) with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The new covenant stipulations show in greater detail what God demands. This is given to a nation through a new mediator (Ex 34, 1 Cor. 10:1-6). This represents a fuller revelation of God's plan. In the later period of kings, the king is also under the Law of God (1 Kings 2:1-4).

#### **C. Discontinuity**

The Covenant stresses the Moses/ Law/ and the nation of Israel  
This was to show the holiness of God, and man's inability and failure.  
The contrast is between Abraham/promise/ man's hope vs. Moses/Law/ Israel's failure vs Christ's fulfillment/Spirit/Sonship

Israel becomes a microcosm of the world. Israel demonstrates man's need to the whole of the old creation. Timing of the Law

1. After Deliverance from Egypt  
BUT
2. The law is also part of the old creation, before the full outpouring of the spirit of God. Externally written, not written upon the heart (2 Cor 3), and so the effect of the law in this form leads to more sin (Romans 5:20, Gal 3:19ff).
3. not a restatement of the original Covenant of Works

### **Contrast between Dispensations and Covenants**

Dispensations have different plans and ways of being saved. Covenants One plan and way of being saved, but it does recognize differing ways that God deals with us within the one plan.

## Understanding the Period of the Law in Redemptive History

### A. A Vital Distinction

Jurisdiction and Content of the Law

### B. The Content

Same law (Romans 1:19-3:20)

- A. on the heart and conscience of the Gentiles (Romans 2) - early period pre-Moses contains all the major injunctions
- B. “The formal External Summarization of the will of God”- O. Palmer (Is this far enough, for the law changes in new jurisdiction). The content and focus of the commandments change--Moses’ main emphasis is on the law. NT emphasis is love as the heart of obedience.

### C. The Jurisdiction

#### Of Moses/ Law/Israel

The jurisdiction of the law: Jews are under the jurisdiction, Gentiles are not.

The structure: God, angels, Moses, Law, Israel - not the Gentiles

Under the law = Barred and Cursed (Gal 3:10,11), guarded/imprisoned.

No/limited payment for sin (Heb 10:1-4), No spirit of God (Numbers, 2 Cor. 3: 1-4)

#### Christ/ Sonship/Spirit

1. Mediator structure changed: God- Son of God. We are sons- Mediator is a Son and a Brother, in Christ.
2. Both Jew and Gentile, Male and Female, Break in the distinction between male and female.
3. No longer under Law therefore not under curse. - not under law so we have direct access to God- liberty- Sonship- Father’s chastening. The gift of the Spirit of God is to teach us and to maintain us. The law is now a rule of life, not under it, but it is to help us to live in a holy manner.

The law and the Gospel set up a tension point in the New Testament, either as a reaction to Judaism or a God ordained tension (John 1: 17; Paul-Romans 5:20; 17:14-28).

The Principle reason for the Law

**To Show the nature and effect of sin.** This will lead to a planned failure. To show man his need.

- 1). Golden calf and the breaking of the covenant, Ex 32.
- 2). The wilderness wanderings Num.
- 3). The Deut prophecy that all men will fail under the Law Deut 27-30.