



## **The Priority of the Promise**

**Memory Text:** *“For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.”* ([Galatians 3:18 KJV](#)).

### **Read and Meditate for This Week’s Study:**

*Galatians 3:15-20; Genesis 9:11-17; Matthew 5:17-20; Exodus 16:22-26;  
Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 119.*

**Main Thought for the Week:** Although the Bible shows us that there is much harmony between the **law** and **faith**, and between the **law** and **grace**, there are many today who see the law in opposition to Christ, and thus put themselves in opposition to the law. In this week’s study, we will take a brief look at what role the law of God really plays in the plan of salvation and with the covenants that God made with His people. In reviewing this, we will learn what the Bible teaches about the relationship of the law and everything else.



## Law and Faith

### Sunday's Summary – July 30:

1. What is the point of Paul's analogy between a person's final will and testament and God's covenant with Abraham?

Galatians 3:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:15-22 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 14:24 \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** A covenant and a will are different types of legal documents, addressing different objectives. A covenant is typically a mutual agreement between two or more people, often called a "contract" or "treaty"; in contrast, a will is the declaration of a single person. The Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, never translates God's covenant with Abraham with the Greek word used for mutual agreements or contracts (syntheke). Instead, it uses the word for a testament or a will (diatheke). Why? Probably because the translators recognized that God's covenant with Abraham was not a treaty between two individuals, where mutually binding promises are made. On the contrary, God's covenant was based on nothing other than His own will. Abraham was simply to take God at His word.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Faith and Law

### Monday's Summary – July 31:

1. Does our Faith in Jesus replace obedience to the law of God?

**Romans 3:31** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 7:7,12** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 5:17-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**ILLUMINATION:** Repentance must be exercised toward God, because we have all sinned, broken His righteous law, violated the rule of His government, and brought discord into His harmony. We must exercise faith toward Jesus Christ because He has become our sacrifice and surety. He has died that we might have “remission of sins that are past,” and obtain grace and help so that we may keep the commandments of the Lord our God. Faith in Jesus does not make void the law, but establishes it, and will work the fruits of obedience in our lives. Faith in Christ means that you are to do whatsoever He commands; it means that you are to follow in His footsteps. ...

– Ellen G. White, **The Review and Herald**, June 22, 1911, paragraph 8

**Discuss/Consider:** If Jesus came to destroy, undermine or eliminate the law of God, then wouldn't that suggest that the law of God was unimportant? Wouldn't it also automatically make everyone free from sin, whether or not they accepted Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **The Purpose of the Law**

### **Tuesday’s Summary – August 1:**

1. For what purpose did God give the law on Sinai?

**Galatians 3:19,21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 5:13,20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 6:23** \_\_\_\_\_

**ILLUMINATION:** But if the Abrahamic covenant contained the promise of redemption, why was another covenant formed at Sinai? In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal His power and mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him. He bound them to Himself as their deliverer from temporal bondage.

But they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God’s law, and their need of a Saviour.

God gave them His law with the promise of great blessings on condition of obedience: “If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, ... ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:5, 6. The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God’s law. Feeling able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, “All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.” Exodus 24:7. They readily entered into covenant with God. Yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant and bowed down to worship a graven image. Now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant.

– Ellen G. White, *From Eternity Past*, pp. 259-260

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **The Duration of God’s Law**

### **Wednesday’s Summary – August 2:**

1. What is the duration or lifespan of God’s law, and why?

**Galatians 3:16-19** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 93:2,5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 111:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 119:89,98** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 119:152,160** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** Many today look at Galatians 3:19 and conclude that Paul is saying that the **moral law** would exist only **until** Christ came. It is pretty clear that Paul is referring primarily to the **ceremonial law** throughout the book of Galatians - especially when he shows that Christ’s death would supersede that law. Christ’s death, of course, could not supersede the moral law, as that is the foundation of God’s throne. After all, how could Christ Himself have kept the moral law, if the law went away when He showed up? And why would Christ have told us that He did not come to destroy the law, if it was going to go away once He died? There would be no point in dying to save people from the penalty of a law that was no longer in existence.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Superiority of the Promise

### Thursday’s Summary – August 3:

1. In what ways was the giving of the promise to Abraham superior to the giving of the law on Sinai?

Hebrews 6:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 8:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 4:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** The problem (or fault) with the covenant at Sinai was not God or His law, but the people and their promise. They tried to do in their own strength what they should simply have accepted by faith. The new covenant is between the same God and the same people, and based on the same law. But it is God Himself (in Christ) Who makes the promise to keep it. (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10)

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Wrapping It All Up...

### Friday's Summary – August 4:

**ILLUMINATION:** But there was a still greater truth to be impressed upon their minds. Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God's law, and their need of a Saviour. All this they must be taught. – Ellen G. White, *The Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 371

**Discuss/Consider:** Why is it so easy for us to get an unbalanced view of the Law and Faith? Why do we gravitate so readily to one side or the other? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Final Thoughts:** At Metro New York World Ministry, we are committed to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in a balanced and complete way. We see in the Word of God that it is only by faith that we can claim the promises of God through the life of Christ. And we see that the Bible also teaches that by that same faith in Jesus, God will actuate us through His Holy Spirit to live in accordance with His law, just as He did in Christ's earthly life. Christ's life of righteousness can be ours by faith, because of God's promise to Adam & Eve (**Genesis 3:15**), reiterated to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We pray that each listener will pray for wisdom from God that as they study His Word, they will see the balance and harmony of the scriptures in this critical doctrine of salvation by faith.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Sabbath School Lesson Notes – August 5, 2017**

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