

## The Law and the Gospel

An Examination of the Relevance and Purpose of the Law in the New Covenant  
Part 1

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### Agenda

- Examine different views regarding the relationship between the Mosaic Covenant and the New Covenant.
- Examine passages that predict the fulfillment and termination of the Old Covenant.
- Examine what aspects of the Mosaic Law were abolished.

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### Views Regarding the Endurance of the Mosaic Law

- Reformed (Non-Theonomic):** The Mosaic law is broken into civil, ceremonial, and moral components. The moral law remains forever. (10 commandments)
- Theonomic Reformed:** The civil and moral law should still be used today as a standard for church and state.
- Dispensational:** The Mosaic law is terminated in its entirety by the New Covenant. (a) Little continuity (b) Timing.
- Modified Lutheran:** The Mosaic law is terminated and fulfilled in its entirety by the New Covenant. (a) Continuity (b) Timing + Fulfillment

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### The Mosaic Covenant Contrasted

- Abrahamic Covenant: **Unilateral** (God walks the blood path alone – Gen. 15:17)
- Mosaic Covenant: **Bilateral** (People sprinkled with blood – Ex. 24:8)
- New Covenant: **Unilateral** (Jesus walks the blood path alone – Matt. 26:28 “My blood of the covenant”)

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### Key Texts About the Cessation of the Old Covenant

- The Mosaic Covenant and the prophets foretold of its cessation :  
Deuteronomy 18:15-19 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. 16 “This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’” 18 ‘I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 ‘It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

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### Key Texts About the Cessation of the Old Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-33 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. 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.

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### The Need for the Holy Spirit

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Pentecost = Giving of the law

Exodus 32:28 So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about **three thousand** men of the people fell that day.

#### N.T. Pentecost = Giving of the Spirit

Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about **three thousand** souls.

Romans 8:3 For what **the Law could not do**, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...

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### Key Texts About the Cessation of the Old Covenant

- The New Testament writers teach the cessation of the Mosaic Covenant:

Gal 3:18-19 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come** to whom the promise had been made.

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### Key Texts About the Cessation of the Old Covenant

Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our **tutor** to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 **But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.**

Paidagogos = "a steward for a time"

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### Key Texts About the Cessation of the Old Covenant

Romans 10:3-4 For not knowing about God's righteousness and **seeking to establish their own**, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the **end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes. 5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

End = telos "termination, goal"

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### Did the Whole Mosaic Law Cease?

Ephesians 2:12-15 Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one **and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall**, 15 **by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man...

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### Did the Whole Mosaic Law Cease?

Hebrews 8:7-8, 13 For if that **first covenant** had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a **second**. 8 For finding fault **with them**, He says...13 When He said, "A new covenant," **He has made the first obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

**First covenant** = Mosaic Covenant (Heb. 8:9; Jer. 31:32)

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**Under the Law of Christ!**

1. The **whole Mosaic Law** has been fulfilled and terminated in Christ Jesus.
2. We are now under the "law of Christ" (1 Cor. 9:21)

The diagram consists of three circles arranged horizontally. The leftmost circle is blue and labeled 'Abrahamic Covenant'. The middle circle is red and labeled 'Mosaic Law', with a large red 'X' drawn over it. The rightmost circle is blue and labeled 'New Covenant'. A blue line starts from the top of the 'Abrahamic Covenant' circle, goes up and then down to the top of the 'New Covenant' circle. A blue arrow points from the top of the 'New Covenant' circle towards the right.

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