

CROSSPOINTE MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP
Old Testament Survey: The Law and Israel
March 16, 2016

I. WHAT ROLE DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW HAVE FOR A CHRISTIAN TODAY?

A. Purpose of the Law in the Old Testament – Galatians 3:19-26

1. To show what is right
2. To show what is wrong
3. To show what is needed

B. Three types of Laws

1. Moral
2. Ritual & Sacrificial
3. Civil

C. Jesus fulfills the Law and the Promise of the Covenant for His people

- Romans 8:1-4

D. The Christian is now under the Law of the Spirit

- Romans 13:8, Matthew 22:37-40

E. So why can we eat pork and shellfish but homosexuality is still a sin?

II. HOW SHOULD WE INTERPRET OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES TO ISRAEL?

A. “Israel” can refer to two different groups in the Bible

1. Ethnic Israel (physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)
2. Spiritual Israel (those who trust in Christ)
 - Phil 3:3-5; Gal 3:7-16, 26-29; Rom 2:28-29; Rom 9:1-8; Eph 2:11-22; Gal 6:16
 - Paul’s argument in Romans 4 – righteousness has always come by faith, not the law (circumcision). Therefore, there has always been a true “spiritual” Israel within ethnic Israel.

B. The promises of God to Israel in the Old Testament are ultimately fulfilled in Christ

1. Christ is the True Israel
 - Galatians 3:15-16
2. Only those who are “in Christ” inherit the promise

C. What about the land promises to Israel in the Old Testament?

1. God promised land as an everlasting possession to Abraham and his offspring
 - Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17
2. Abraham’s offspring is Christ
 - Galatians 3:15-29
3. In the NT, this promise to Abraham’s offspring is expanded to include the whole world
 - Romans 4:13; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; Matthew 5:5
4. Hebrews sheds more light on Abraham’s understanding of this promise
 - Hebrews 11:8-16; Revelation 21:1-2

D. Some implications about how Christians should view modern day Israel