

The Law

What relationship does the Christian have with the Law of Moses?

Some practical issues

The Sabbath

- Should Christians keep Sabbath Laws?
- Is the Sabbath Saturday or Sunday?

The Tithe

- How are Christians to view the many O.T. Laws - dietary, tithe, etc.

The promises

- How are Christians to relate to the O.T. promises of blessing and cursing?

The nation Israel

- How are Christians to view the nation Israel?

The 10 Commandments

- What is the proper use of the 10 Commandments?

Four key passages

Matthew 5:17-48

- The true high standard set by the Law.

Romans 9:30-10:13

- The inability of the Law to reconcile us to God.

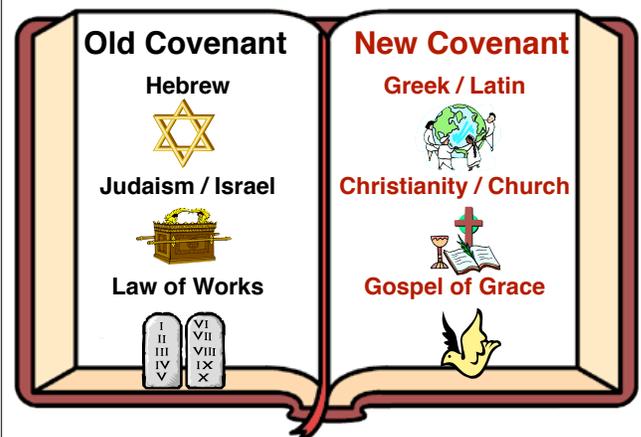
Galatians 2:16-4:7

- The termination of the Law as a covenant of works.

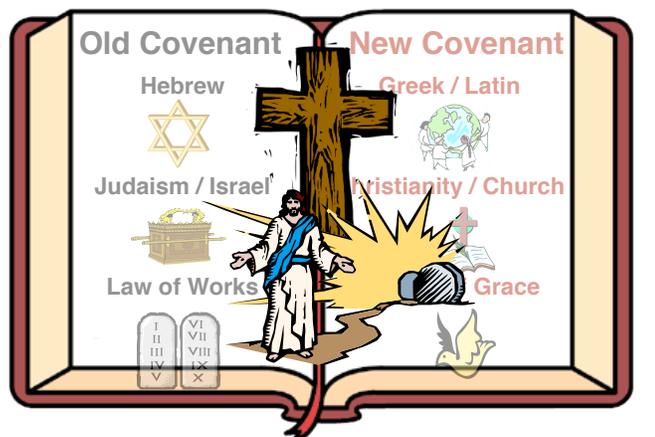
Hebrews 7-11

- The sufficiency of the New Covenant in contrast with the Old.

The challenge of tension between the Old Testament and the New Testament



The challenge of tension between the Old Testament and the New Testament



Dealing with the tension between the Old Testament (Jesus) and the New Testament (Paul)

Continuity Contrast Conflict

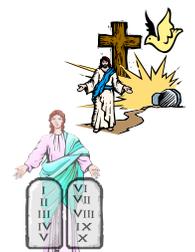
The New Covenant upgrades the Old Covenant.



The New Covenant replaces the Old Covenant.



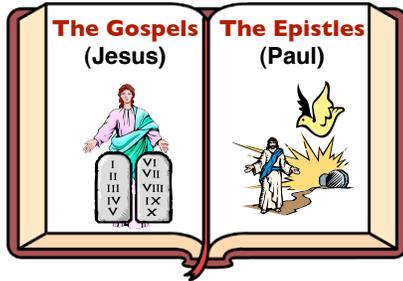
The Christ of faith vs. the Jesus of history



Observation #1 Christian theology comes through Paul more than the Gospels (Jesus), which are more Jewish.

Conflict

The New Testament



The Christ of faith vs. the Jesus of history



Paul's New Revelation

Ephesians 3:3-5

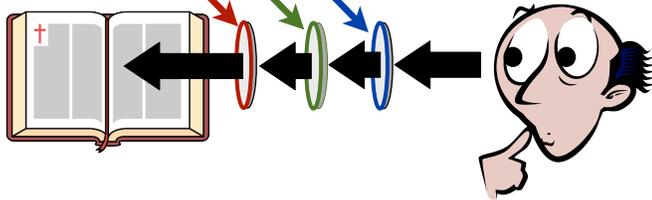
“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”



Old Testament

Gospels

Epistles



We interpret the Scriptures through lenses of Biblical theology.

Observation #2 Paul makes a point of the termination of the Law at the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.

Contrast

John 1:17

“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized (**became**) through Jesus Christ.”

The New Covenant replaces the Old Covenant.



Israel understood obedience to the Law as the way of salvation.

Leviticus 18:5, Romans 7:10

Jesus ministered under the Law as a covenant of works.

Matthew 5:17-19

At the Cross, the Law covenant was fulfilled.

Galatians 3:12

At the Cross, the Law covenant was set aside.

Hebrews 7:18

“For, on the one hand, there is a **setting aside of a former commandment** because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

The Christian is not under the Law.

Romans 7:1,4,6

“the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?”

“you were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ,”

“But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound,”

Observation #3 The N.T. writers often used the O.T. as though it was written “about” them.

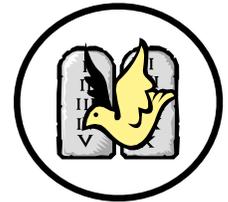
Hebrews 8:9

“He says, *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*”

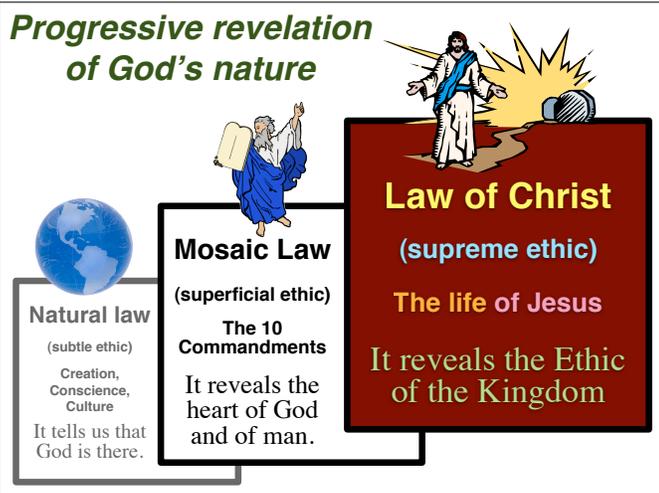
Heb.8 quotes from Jer.31 and applies the blessings of the new covenant to the Church, suggesting that it is the spiritual Israel.

Continuity

The New Covenant upgrades the Old Covenant.



Progressive revelation of God's nature



How to relate to the Law.

- Context** - Use it lawfully. *All Scripture is written for us but not about us or to us. Read it through the lens of the Epistles.*
- Condemnation** - As a tutor it is to convict us of our need for a Redeemer (not encourage us before God). *Don't look to it for motivation to true holiness.*
- Covenant** - It no longer functions as a covenant of cursing and blessing. *It's promises may not apply to us.*
- Contrasts** - It is contrasted with, Grace, Faith, and the Spirit. *Expect it to move you toward the New (better) Covenant.*

How should Christians view the Law of Moses?

Christians are free from the Law -

Romans 10:4

“For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes.”

- as a covenant of works righteousness



- but not as an ethic of the Kingdom



Calvin's three uses of the Law of Moses

A Constraint

It is to bring order to society.



It is the basis of civil laws.

A Tutor

It is to lead us to faith in Christ.



It reveals the need and plan of redemption.

A Guide

It is to direct the Christian's life.



It is a guide to Kingdom ethics and life.