



Paul's Epistle to Galatia

Galatians 3:17,18– Faith Preceded Law

- Review: *Galatians 3:13-16 – Christ Has Born the Curse of the Law.*
 - Christ's redemption allowed the blessing of Abraham to come upon Gentiles by their faith.
 - Herein is the promise of the Spirit also assured through faith.
 - This promise was made to *the Seed*, not seeds, indicating our oneness in Christ – is not this identification truth?
- *Galatians 3:17 - And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed (passive perfect) before by God that it should make the promise of no effect.*
- *ILG – And this I say, the covenant (diathēkē) that was confirmed before of God, the law (nomos), 430 years after, cannot disannul that it should make the.....*



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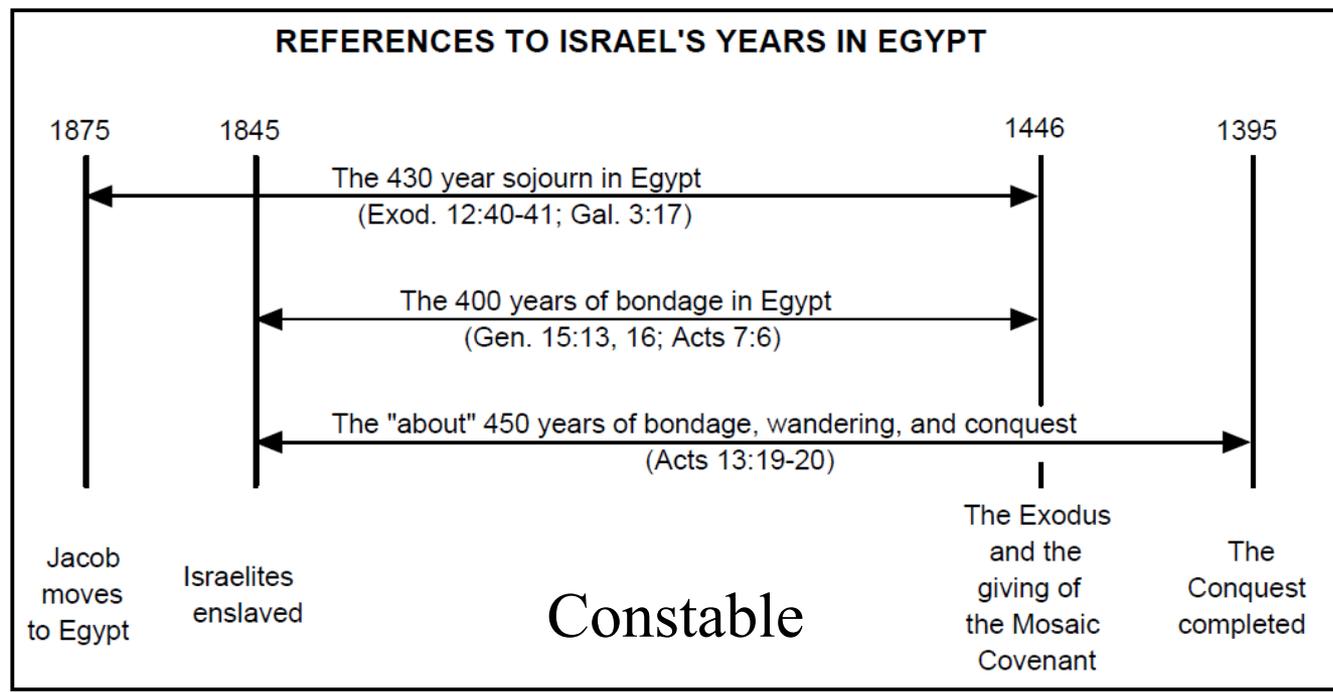
- Let's define *covenant* - *diathēkē*?
 - Strong - dee-ath-ay'-kay;; properly, a disposition, i.e. (specially) a contract (especially a devisory will):—covenant, testament.
- Let's list the Biblical covenants, five are between God and man.
 - Adamic – conditions of life in the Garden and ultimate results of sin
 - Noahic –promise to never destroy the earth again by flood, government
 - Abrahamic – descendants, land, blessing
 - Mosaic –conditional set of rules directed to Israelites at Mount Sinai
 - Davidic – eternal kingship for David and his lineage with Christ as king
 - New – salvation and personal relationship with God via Christ
 - Everlasting – eternal life and restoration for believers
 - *Heb 9:15 - And for this reason He is the Mediator of the **new covenant**, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the **first covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promise of the **eternal inheritance**.*
- And which *covenant* is this?
- What's the significance of 430 years?



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– Exodus 12:40,41 - Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt (and Canaan) was **four hundred and thirty years**. And it came to pass at the end of the **four hundred and thirty years**—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.



– How Long Were The Israelites In Egypt? - YouTube



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- So, what can we conclude from this verse?
 - Because God's covenants are irrevocable, unlike man's covenants, when God makes the covenant, His promise cannot be broken.
 - And what was man's responsibility to the Abrahamic covenant vs. the Mosaic covenant?
 - Then why did Paul have to spell this out for the Judaizers in Galatia?
 - *John 1:17 - For the law (nomos) was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
 - FB Meyer – 'The Mosaic dispensation was a parenthesis in God's dealings with man. It was intended to produce conviction of sin.'
- ***Galatians 3:18 -- For if the inheritance is of the law (nomos), it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.***
 - What is *the inheritance (klēronomia)*?
 - Is it an earthy inheritance, or the eternal blessedness in the consummated kingdom of God which is to be expected after the visible return of Christ and/or the share which an individual will have in that eternal blessedness, or more (my thought)?



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- How about our position, our identification, and how that affects our walk.
- *but God gave (charizomai) it to Abraham by promise.*
 - Important is that the verb *gave* is in the perfect tense.
 - Wuest – ‘This is a specialized word. It denotes not merely a gift, but a gift which is given out of the spontaneous generosity of the giver's heart, with no strings tied to it. If salvation were by obedience to the law, that would mean that it would be based upon a mutual agreement between God and the sinner whereby God would obligate Himself to give salvation to any sinner who would earn it by obedience to the law. There is a Greek word *huposchesis* which is used of an offer based upon the terms of a mutual agreement. But it is not used here’
- On what was God's promise to Abraham contingent?
 - The promise to Abraham came before the Mosaic law, and salvation must either relate to the *promise* or the *law*; what was the purpose of the Mosaic law or any law system?
 - The Judaizers may not have ignored the importance of Christ and what He accomplished, but they wanted to say that salvation was law + grace.
 - *Rom 4:14 - For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,*



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– Gal 3:24,25 - Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

– What other promises has God made?

- AI – ‘There isn't one definitive number, but biblical researchers and scholars estimate thousands of God's promises in the Bible, with figures ranging from over 3,000 to as many as 30,000 in some counts.’
- Let's name one!

