

Outline*



The Place of the Law

1. The Law Did Not Modify the Promise 3:15-18

- a. The Human Covenant 3:15
- b. The Promise Covenant 3:16
- c. The Law Covenant 3:17-18

2. The Law Had Definite Purpose 3:19-24

- a. The Anticipated Question 3:19a
- b. The Succinct Answer 3:19b-20
- c. An Incorrect Conclusion 3:21
- d. The Success of the Law 3:22-24
 - The Law Is Successful as a Jailer 3:22-23
 - The Law Is Successful as a Tutor 3:24

Why the Law ?

What some Christians think about the Law:

- Christians need a set of rules to live by
- Man is dead in trespasses and sins and needs to follow the Law to be saved
- Christians need the Law to keep themselves saved

¹⁹ 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.



Why the Law then?

What is then the significance of the law? (Wuest)

But from the beginning of Chp 3 Paul has told us how the Law was not a good or profitable thing in living the Christian life.

The shortcomings of the Law*



Gal 3:2 – One cannot receive the Holy Spirit by the Law

Gal 3:3 – One cannot be made perfect or complete by the works of the Law by the flesh

Gal 3:5 – God cannot abundantly supply the Holy Spirit and His ministry by the Law

Gal 3:10 – If one is under Law, He is under a curse

Gal 3:11 - No man is justified (declared righteous) by the Law

Gal 3:12 – The Law is not out of faith (and without faith it is impossible to please God)

Gal 3:13 – Christ had to die to redeem us from the curse of the Law

Gal 3:17 – The Law could not annul or abolish God's covenant

Gal 3:18 – Our inheritance of righteousness, being complete in Christ and blessed with every spiritual blessing cannot come from the Law

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It was added because of transgressions

note the text says: **it (the Law) was added!**

but in Gal 3:15b --- even though it* is only a man's covenant, yet when it* has been ratified, no one sets it* aside or adds conditions to it*. (* = Human Contract)

adds – to make an addition to

But in our verse 19

added – to place beside (the primary meaning)

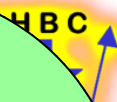
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so “the Law” was placed beside or in parallel to the Abrahamic Covenant

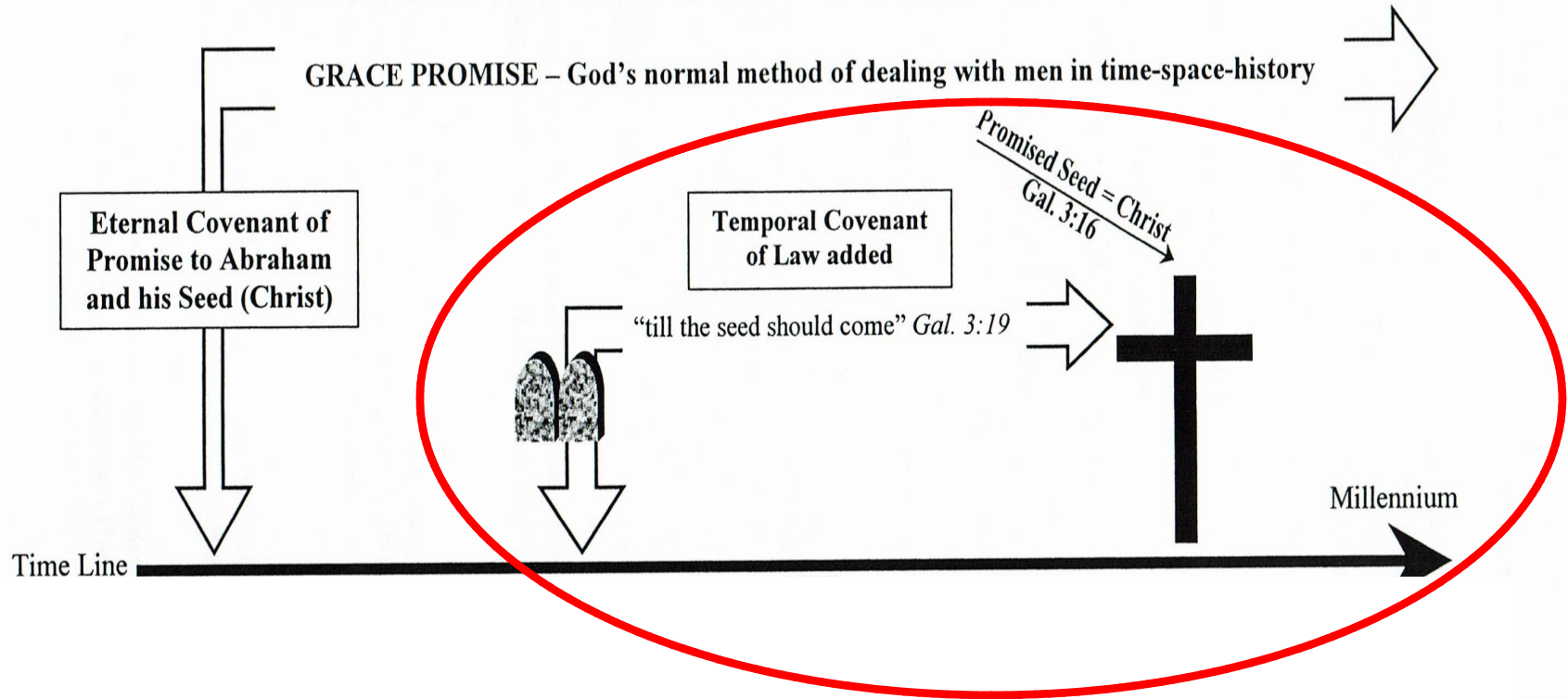
It did not add new conditions to this covenant

It did not replace/change anything of the covenant

Its purpose will be seen in the remainder of the verse



PROMISE AND LAW CONTRASTED – GALATIANS 3:19 CONTEXT



The parallel nature of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Law

Abrahamic Covenant vs. the Law*



Abrahamic Covenant

The Law

Emphasis: God

Man

Response: Faith

Work/Effort

Results: God's Righteousness
Divine good, Life

Man's Righteousness
Man's good, Condemnation

Effect: Liberty in Christ

Bondage & defeat
before God

* Merryman

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It was added because of transgressions

a. “because of” says that the reason for the Law was to control transgressions

but Rom 5:20 says:

The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

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b. “for the sake of” says that the reason for the Law was so that sin would become obvious and would be spotlighted by the Law – v:19 would then read!

for the sake of the transgressions it was added

It (the Law) would therefore serve to show man how badly he needed a savior.

McCalley

The Law was given to clarify sin. It provided an external standard against which one could measure his conscience and acts.

Merryman

The Law was added to reveal the sinfulness of the sin nature

Molloy



other verses on the matter:

Rom 4:15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

Rom 5:13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

By adding the Law in parallel to God's grace does it make men sinners?

A two part answer!



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(the law) **having been ordained through angels**

ordained – to arrange throughout, to dispose in order as trees, troops.

Acts 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it." Read Acts 7:38, Heb 2:2

Deut 33:2 He (Moses) said, "The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

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by the agency of a mediator

agency – lit: "by the hand of," "at the hand of," etc., to signify "by the agency of,"

mediator – *mesites* – lit : a go-between – 1 Tim 2:5

The mediator was Moses at the giving of the Law

Ex 33:11a Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.

also see Ex 34:34

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(the Law was added) **until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made**

until the seed (Christ) would come

it was intended to be in effect until Christ came

The Law was a temporary expedient in God's plan for mankind. It was given to Israel about 1446 BC and ended with Christ the promised seed

Merryman

The origin was Mount Sinai and termination was Mount Calvary

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(the Law was added) **until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made**

to whom the promise had been made

lit: to whom it has been promised (perfect tense)

Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.