

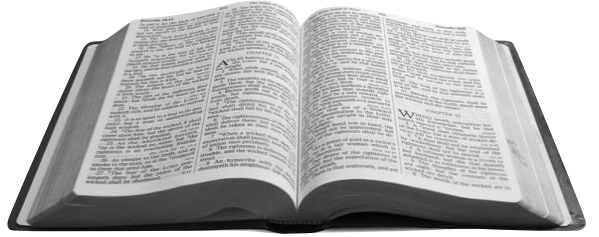
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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Galatians 4:4-5
Lesson #10
Born under the Law
03/10/2019


How to read the Old Testament



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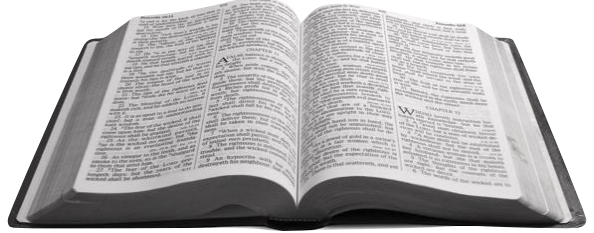
What should we come away with after this lesson?

1. An understanding of how the Jews of Jesus' day viewed the O.T. teaching concerning "salvation"
2. How the Gospel that Jesus preached was in the context of the O.T. Promise
3. How this should aid us in our understanding the O.T. and Gospels



2

How did the Jewish community view the O.T. "promise"?



3

1. The **promise** made to Abraham was the hope of Israel.

Palestinian Covenant
The land of Palestine would be home for God's people.

Davidic Covenant
Messiah would rule over all the earth.

Mosaic Covenant
The Law of Moses would define and guide God's people.

New Covenant
The Law would be written on the heart of God's people.



4

Two types of covenants

Abrahamic (Promise)

Unilateral

One party takes all the responsibility to meet the demands of the covenant.

God

UNCONDITIONAL

Mosaic (Law)

Bilateral

Both parties bear responsibilities to meet the demands of the covenant.

God

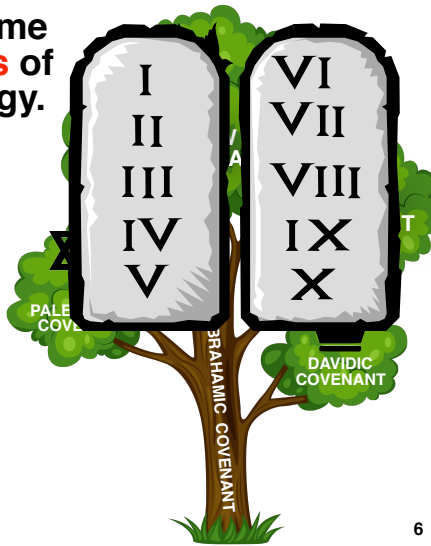
I
II
III
IV
V
VI
VII
VIII
IX
X

Man

CONDITIONAL

5

2. The Law became a **central focus** of Israel's theology.



6

3. **Salvation** in ancient Israel was understood in terms of Exodus and Torah compliance.

- The Jewish people are God's corporate elect "saved by grace" (**Exodus**) to be a guide to the rest of the world through their Law.
- Obedience to the **Torah** (the Law) marks a person as a participant in the covenant promises of blessing in this life.
- There is no "original sin" and humans are capable of satisfying the demands of a Holy God through **repentance and good works**.
- The coming **Messianic kingdom** will be a time of peace for the righteous and a time of judgment for the wicked.

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4. Jews believed that right standing with God came through **adherence to the Law**.

Leviticus 18:5

"So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the LORD."

Deuteronomy 30

"¹¹ For this commandment which I command you today is **not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach**. . . . ¹⁴ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it."

Jews were not trying to gain a "salvation" (which they believe they already had) but rather to **notarize their identity as God's people through works of the Law**.

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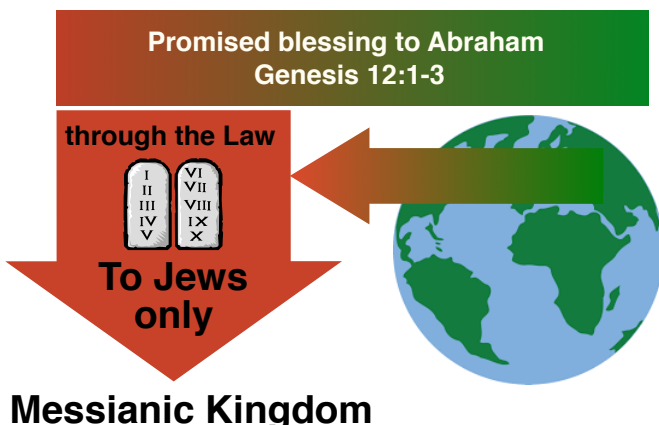
5. Israel's **hope and longing** was for:

- **The peace of Israel** - a political messianic age of peace and prosperity for the whole world.
- **Holiness** - living lives of moral and ceremonial discipline according to the Law.
 - **Avoiding defilement** - contact with the unholy.
 - **Shunning idolatry** - worship of false gods.
 - **Preserving identity** - physical seed of Abraham.
 - **Observing Sabbath etc.** - holy days, places, etc.
 - **Social responsibility** - care for the poor.

NOTE: The focus was on **MATERIAL BLESSING AND SOCIAL PEACE IN THIS LIFE**.

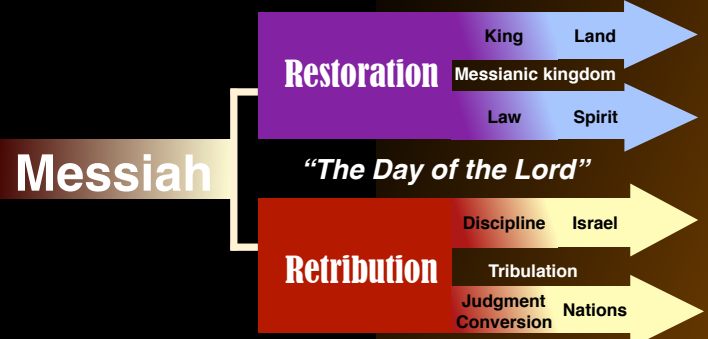
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6. **Gentiles could be included** only by becoming Jewish proselytes.



10

The O.T. Prophets were expecting a national revival not personal redemption.



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7. Israel's understanding of "Messiah" took many forms.

- **Elijah** - a prophetic messiah.
- **Son of Joseph** - a suffering warrior messiah.
- **Son of David** - a ruling messiah.
- **Judah** - a teaching messiah
- **Melchizedek** - a priestly messiah

NOTE: Throughout history there have been many "messianic figures" - Cyrus (a Persian King) . . . Donald J. Trump

NOTE: There were many who claimed to be "a messiah" at the time of Jesus.



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8. The expectation of the early disciples of Jesus was like that of Israel.

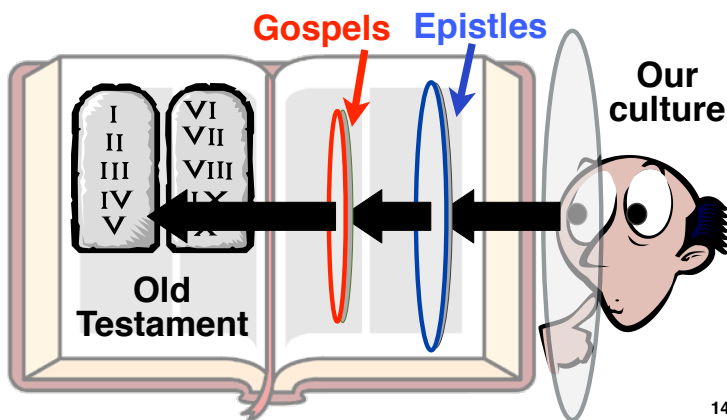
Acts 1:6

"And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are **restoring the kingdom to Israel?**"

- ✓ It was to be a **political** kingdom.
- ✓ It was to be in a **geographical** place.
- ✓ It was to be a **material** blessing.
- ✓ It was to be **universal** in scope.

13

We read the O.T. through the lens of the N.T.



14

How did Jesus and his Apostles bring light to the understanding of the Old Testament?

Galatians 4

"4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the Law**, 5 **in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

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1. They recognized that the gospel promise of Abraham was partially **obscure to the O.T. writers.**

1 Peter 1

"¹⁰As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹**seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.** ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—**things into which angels long to look.**"

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2. The early church was often **confused** in its reading of the O.T.

1 Corinthians 1

"¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "**I am of Paul,**" and "**I of Apollos,**" and "**I of Cephas,**" and "**I of Christ.**"

Cephas (Peter)
& Christ



Paul &
Apollos

17

3. The **Gospel Jesus preached** was distinct from the one Paul preached.

Mark 1:15

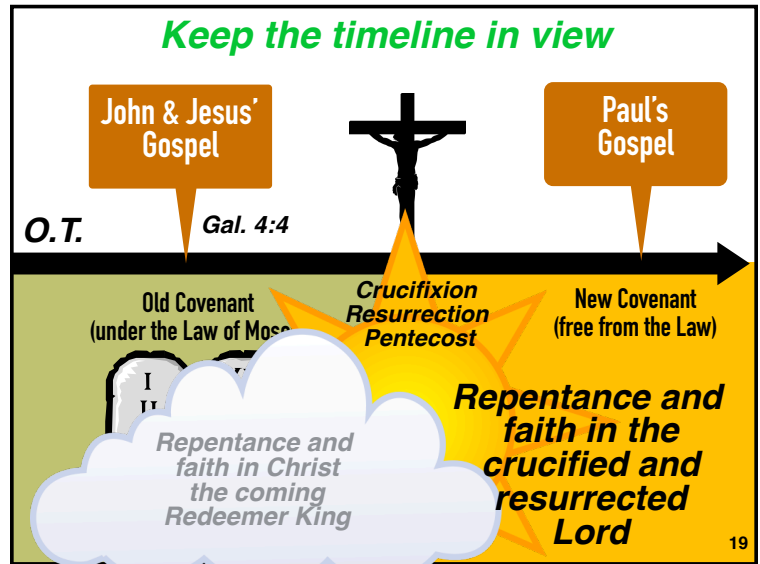
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and **believe in the gospel.**"

Jesus' disciples did not understand the Gospel that Paul preached at the time they heard Jesus' gospel.

Mark 16:14 (Luke 24:13-39)

"¹⁴ And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for **their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.**"

18



19

2. Jesus **elevated the demands of the Law.**

Matthew 5

"¹⁷ Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.**"

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The Jews reduced the Law to manageable commands.

Luke 18:9-14

"The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"



Jesus revealed the true intent of the Law (Matt. 5:17-48) which was "godlikeness".

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

Matthew 5:48

"be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Jesus equated

anger with murder (vs 21-22)

lust with adultery (vs 27-28)

any vows with false vows (vs 33-37)

love of neighbor with love of enemy (vs 43-48)

being forgiven with forgiving others (6:15) ²¹

➡ The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law. "whoever shall say 'you fool' shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire.**" (Matt. 5:22-23).

➡ Matt. 5:29-30 "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for **it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.**" (also Matt. 18:8-9)

➡ Matt. 6:14-15 "But **if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**"

➡ Matt. 7:19 "Every tree that does not **bear good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire."

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- ➡ "**Deny himself**" – make no provision for self. (Lk. 9:23)
- ➡ "**Take up his cross**" – share the suffering of Christ.
- ➡ "**Follow Me**" – not double minded.
- ➡ "**Loses his life**" – make no provision for this temporal life.
- ➡ "**Whoever is ashamed of Me**" – bold unapologetic witness.
- ➡ "**Hate your family**" (Matt. 10:37, Lk. 14:26) – put Christ above one's natural family.
- ➡ "**Forsake all**" (Lk. 14:33) – hold on to nothing in this world.
- ➡ "**Give up all possessions**" (Lk. 14:25-27) – be like Jesus.
- ➡ "**Abide in His Word**" (Jn. 8:30-31) – continued unflinching obedience to the Scripture.
- ➡ "**Be perfectly righteous**" – exceed the discipline of the Pharisees.
- ➡ "**Him who overcomes**" (Rev. 2:7) - brings moral life under successful management.

23

4. Paul's Gospel was a mystery until it was revealed to him after Pentecost.

Romans 16:25

"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,**"

1 Corinthians 15

"¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, **and that He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,"

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5. Those who were baptized by John and Jesus' disciples needed to be baptized again in Jesus name.

Acts 19

"¹ And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, ² and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ And Paul said, "**John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.**" ⁵ And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

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So what should we learn from all this?

Keep the O.T. in its context.

- Read the O.T. through the lenses of the N.T. Gospels and Epistles.
- Be careful how you apply the O.T. - knowing it is written **FOR** but not **TO** or **ABOUT** us.
 - Temporal / material blessing centered
- Remember that Jesus is living under the Old Covenant (Law).
 - He is prepping Israel for the Passion of the Christ.



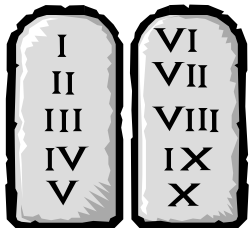
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The Law was given not to confirm our right standing with God

but to convict us of our need for a Redeemer.



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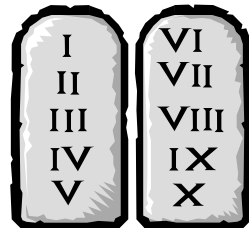


The Law was to underscore the message of Gen. 1-3

Man is worthy of salvation not through his works of the Law but through Christ's work on the Cross.



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The Law was to underscore the message of Gen. 1-3

The way back into the Garden of Eden was not by human moral discipline but through faith in the Crucified Christ!



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