

“For They Shall All Know Me”

Developing a New Covenant Relationship with God

Spring 2016 / Sunday AM Bible Study



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Lesson 4. The Covenant I Made With Their Fathers

Commitments can be scary

UNDER NEW



MANAGEMENT

God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like **the covenant that I made with their fathers** on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Goals

- Examine the role that covenants play in God's relationship with man
- Establish the importance of faith in both the Old and New Covenants
- Reflect on any ways that Christians could 'return' to the weaknesses of Old Covenant

A covenant is a contract



Covenants can have...

- ▶ requirements
- ▶ collateral
- ▶ signatures
- ▶ payments
- ▶ dates of effect
- ▶ etc.

Covenants of God through time

'covenant' (ESV)

All (316)	Isaiah (14)
Old Testament (282)	Jeremiah (23)
Genesis (26)	Ezekiel (15)
Exodus (15)	Daniel (6)
Leviticus (8)	Hosea (5)
Numbers (5)	Amos (1)
Deuteronomy (27)	Haggai (1)
Joshua (23)	Zechariah (2)
Judges (4)	Malachi (6)
1 Samuel (8)	New Testament (34)
2 Samuel (7)	Matthew (1)
1 Kings (12)	Mark (1)
2 Kings (10)	Luke (2)
1 Chronicles (14)	Acts (2)
2 Chronicles (17)	Romans (2)
Ezra (1)	1 Corinthians (1)
Nehemiah (7)	2 Corinthians (3)
Job (2)	Galatians (3)
Psalm (22)	Ephesians (1)
Proverbs (1)	Hebrews (17)
	Revelation (1)

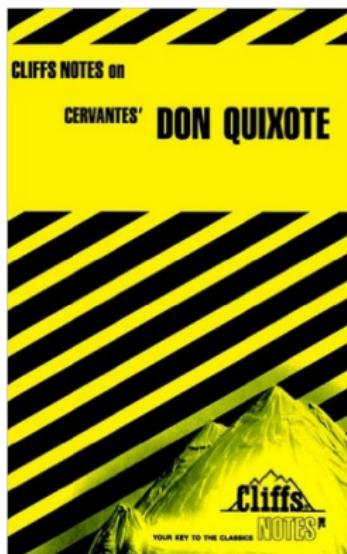
- ▶ Noah
- ▶ Abraham/Isaac/Jacob
- ▶ Children of Israel



—42 'ark of the covenant'

- ▶ The New Covenant

A primer on Galatians



Galatians is a 'little' Romans

	Romans	Galatians
The gospel	1-11	1-4
Christian living	12-16	5-6

- ▶ Inadequacy of the Law
- ▶ Justification by Faith
- ▶ Promises to Abraham
- ▶ Led by the Spirit
- ▶ etc.

Why was the Old Covenant Given?

Gal. 3:19-26

'added because of transgressions'
People tend to fall off the path

*'a mediator is not for just one person,
but God is one'*

Because Moses gave the Law to the Israelites, they didn't have a first hand relationship with God.

'was our guardian until Christ'

The Old Law constrained people to holy living when they didn't know much about the 'plan'.



All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse

Gal. 3:10-14



Perfect law keeping is not possible.

The ‘covenant’ and the ‘promise’

Gal. 15-18

- ▶ The covenant made with Abraham was binding and came with promises: ‘land’, ‘nation’, and ‘seed’
- ▶ The ‘seed’ promise was not fulfilled under the Mosaic Covenant, but under Christ
- ▶ There was no provision for removal of sins under the Old Covenant, but under the ‘promise’ there was (Hebrews).
- ▶ There was no provision for Gentiles under the Old Covenant, but under the ‘promise’ there was.

Even the Old Covenant required faith

Gal. 3:6-9



- ▶ Abraham was justified by faith.
- ▶ We share Abraham's faith.
- ▶ And, those saved under the Old Covenant shared Abraham's faith (Heb. 11)

The Spirit came by faith not the law

Gal. 3:1-5



The Galatians were making a bad trade –
the Old Covenant instead of the New

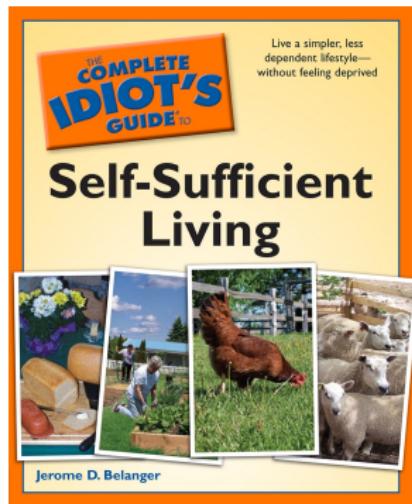
'The Law' is both a thing and an idea



The thing: The written Law of Moses

The idea: Justification through a system of works

Don't return to the Old Covenant



- ▶ The Jews were trying to get closer to God by relying upon their strict adherence to the Law.
- ▶ There was nothing wrong with strict adherence to the Law. (Matt. 23)
- ▶ Clearly, they didn't pair their strict adherence with faith.
- ▶ Are there ways that we can leave faith out of our Christianity?

The covenant I made with their fathers

- ▶ Covenants are the guarantees of relationships
- ▶ God uses covenants to give promises, and to establish boundaries
- ▶ The Old Covenant had physical promises, but the spiritual promises came from Abraham
- ▶ Justification by the Law required perfect law-keeping
- ▶ Faith was always a requirement for God's people, even under the Old Covenant
- ▶ We may not try to follow the Old Law, but we still can fall into the trap of trying to be justified by works.