

# America's Hope Monthly

June 1998

## The Law and the Covenants

By C. O. Stadskev

In the 7th chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul says the law is good, it is spiritual, and it is holy. In Romans 3:31 we read, "Do we make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea we establish the law." Many Christians believe that faith and grace did away with the law, but the apostle said faith established the law.

Most of the ignorance and confusion relative to law and grace is due to the fact that Bible teachers do not clearly distinguish between the ceremonial laws and the moral laws of God. The moral laws of God are as eternal as God is eternal. The laws forbidding murder, lying, stealing, the taking of usury, using divers weights, and all similar laws are moral laws and are as much in effect today as they were before Calvary. The fact that we suffer for the violation of these moral laws is clear evidence that these laws have not been done away with. It is as much a sin to kill, to bear false witness, to take usury, and use inflation and deflation today as it was in the days of Moses.

Another cause for erroneous teachings concerning the laws of God is due to the idea that the Old Testament people were saved by law. This is not true. They were saved by faith as we are. Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. So did Abel and all others who have been accounted righteous. Read Hebrews 11.

In Galatians 3:11 and 12 we read, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for (the remainder is quoted from the Old Testament and says) the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them." In other words, the moral laws of God were given to live by and were never intended to regenerate or save our souls.

The Apostle continues and says, "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness (that is, personal salvation) should have been by the law. But the Scripture hath concluded all (that is both Old and New Testament people) under sin that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

When Paul was inspired to write that Christ was the end

of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth, he was writing concerning the ceremonial laws, such as the sacrificing of animals and other rituals, which foreshadowed the Christ and His sacrifice on Calvary. The Apostle most certainly did not mean that the Christ put an end to God's moral laws. Individually and collectively we still are punished when we violate God's moral laws, and that is evidence enough that God's moral laws are in effect today. In Romans 8 the Apostle Paul wrote that God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh that the righteousness of the law (God's moral laws) might be fulfilled in us. Remember no man has ever been or ever will be saved by the law.

Some Christians seem to think that the 39 books which make up what we incorrectly call the Old Testament is the old covenant and that this old covenant was put away when the Christ died and arose from the dead. Nothing could be much further from the truth. There are at least eight major covenants in these 39 books and only one of these covenants is the old covenant. Neither is personal salvation the new covenant. Both the old and the new covenants were made with a race of people formerly known as Israel and Judah. Most of Israel and Judah are now called Isaac-sons or Saxons and this is as it should be, for in Romans 9:7 God said to Abraham as here quoted by the Apostle Paul "in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

The new covenant is recorded in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:8-12. When the new covenant is realized, no man shall teach his brother or his neighbor saying, know the Lord for all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest. At that time Israel and Judah will do the full will of God. They will walk in the laws and the statutes of God. The old covenant was made with Israel at Mount Sinai. Israel did not follow the counsel of God and thus broke the old covenant. Later as recorded in Jeremiah and Ezekiel 36 God made a new covenant with Israel and Judah. In this new covenant God takes all the responsibility and says He will cause Israel and Judah to walk in His statutes and according to His wise counsel for He will write His laws on the hearts and the minds of this His chosen servant nation.



It is strange how we mortals make our thinking and even our theology conform to general and sweeping statements without investigation and thoughtful consideration. For instance there are sincere Christians who believe that the 39 books called the Old Testament is the law and that the Christ put away the law. Therefore we as Christians have little or nothing to do with the first 39 books of the Bible except as it relates to prophecy. In Romans 15:8 we read, "... Jesus Christ was a minister . . . of God, to confirm (not cancel but confirm) the promises (or covenants) made unto the fathers."

We must keep in mind the fact that there are at least eight covenants or testaments in the first 39 books of the Bible and Christ came to confirm or reestablish all of these except one which is known as the old covenant and that was replaced with the new covenant. Certainly God's covenant with Adam and Eve that the woman's seed, the Christ, "shall bruise the serpent's head" is still in effect and cannot be completely fulfilled until the Christ returns. God's covenant with Noah is still in effect. We continue to see the rainbow. God's covenant with Abraham has never been canceled. Israel must possess Palestine and be made to walk in God's judgments and statutes. God's covenant with David has never been canceled. David's throne must continue to stand for the Christ must sit upon it ruling the entire world. Therefore let no one say the first 39 books of the Bible are not for us today.

In Romans 15:4 the Apostle Paul wrote, "Whatsoever things were written aforetime (meaning the Old Testament) were written for our learning." When the Christ said search the Scriptures, He meant the first 39 books of the Bible for there was no New Testament at that time. Strictly speaking, the old testament or the old covenant forms only a small portion of what we generally think of as the Old Testament or the first 39 books of the Bible. The Christ said it was these 39 books that testified of Him. Apart from these it is impossible to prove to the unregenerated mind that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If we did not have so many half-Bible Christians, we would not have so many modernists.

A study of the covenants recorded from Genesis to Malachi, which the Christ came to confirm, will convince any open minded person that Jesus is God in human form, and that the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the Word of God. A study of the covenants will also do more than anything else to inspire faith and instill confidence in the hearts and the minds of Christian people. The covenants and their fulfillment declare and manifest the power and the mercy of God.

The same love and mercy which prompted God to give His only begotten Son caused Him to give man His laws and His covenants. If we would think of the moral laws of God, which the Christ said He did not come to destroy or cancel, as counsel from an all-wise and loving Father rather than arbitrary restrictions robbing us of liberty, we would understand the purpose of the laws and the covenants and

appreciate them much more than we do.

The law was given for our protection while here on earth. The moral laws of God show what society must and must not do in order that the largest number of people might enjoy life here on earth to its fullest extent. God was not having a fit of anger as some people seem to think when He gave the law. He felt as you do when you tell your children not to play with fire and not to skate on the river. Six thousand years have given conclusive evidence that people and nations enjoy happiness and prosperity just to the extent and in those realms which they honor the moral laws of God.

---

## *Redemption's Latter Rain!*

THE LATTER RAIN has begun to fall. Just as the few and scattered drops of rain precede the refreshing, reviving showers that fall upon the thirsty earth, so we are experiencing a similar token among the Anglo Saxons who are God's Israel.

The "latter rain" is a symbolic expression which signifies the ministry of the Holy Spirit in preparing the Anglo-Saxons for the Kingdom Age.

The "early rain" fell at Pentecost and throughout the Church Age. Since we are witnessing the beginning of the close of the period known as the Church Age, it is not surprising to find a gradual lessening in the down fall of the "early rain." This does not mean God has forsaken His heritage, but He is now making preparations for the gracious and glorious showers of the "latter rain."

Whenever and wherever the Holy Spirit works chaos and darkness disappear. When Satan marred God's first creation, we read in Genesis 1:2 "that the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." But "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," and out of disorder came light, firmament, vegetation, our solar system, creatures of the deep and winged fowls, beasts of the field, and man the crowning work of His creation. Then we read, "and he (God) rested . . . from all his work which he had made."

From Genesis to The Revelation we find 'the Holy Spirit in the Great Restorer, the Healer, the Reviver, and the Cleanser. The Holy Spirit always occupies an important place in God's scheme of things. In the 22nd chapter of Revelation He occupies the place of Host. Here He puts the sweetest music into the word "come" that can fall upon the mortal ear. Prior to this call of "come," He has prepared the Bride of Christ for her Bridegroom, and under the Holy Spirit's inspiration she joins Him in saying "come." In this chapter the Holy Spirit identifies those who may come as those who will hear, those who are athirst, and whosoever will.

You will recall that during His earthly ministry Jesus Christ told His disciples this concerning the ministry of the



Holy Spirit: "He (the Holy Spirit) will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself . . . He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you. John 16:13, 14. It has ever been the ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring light and understanding to the children of God.

Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit the greatest of lawgivers, Moses, received the necessary quickening that enabled him to administer and teach the law of Almighty God. The Holy Spirit made Joshua the greatest military leader of all time. The Holy Spirit directed the rulership of King David over the whole house of Israel for almost forty years. The Holy Spirit magnified God's law to King David to such an extent that he would awaken at night to bless the Lord for His law. Because of the light the Holy Spirit shed upon King David many, and more than likely all, Christians have discovered wells of joy and comfort in the Book of Psalms. We have experienced the lifting power of praise and thanksgiving, as well, from these psalms written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The courageous statesman, Daniel, cherished the direction of the Holy Spirit so highly that the lion's den and the conspiracy of wicked men could not affect his attitude toward God in the least. Likewise Samuel, serving as judge in Israel, esteemed the directing, enlightening ministry of the Holy Spirit above all else.

Think of the influence and light that has come to us because the prophets, the disciples, and the Church fathers were obedient to God and were filled with the Spirit! Think of the host who have been "born of the Spirit," and thus made partakers of God's own life! Think what this will mean in the Kingdom of God! The ministry of the Holy Spirit is working out the final and complete restoration for the children of God. We shall be like Him. Our redemption is at hand.

There is another phase to our redemption which takes in more than the individual side. That phase is frequently overlooked by God's people. It has to do with the earth and all matters which pertain to it.

Just as our individual redemption has not been realized in its completeness when we were regenerated by the Spirit, just so the redemption of the earth will not know complete redemption in an instant. We are to receive immortal bodies, and the earth is to be restored to Edenic perfection. In each case this will be brought about by the ministry of the Holy Spirit in His carrying out of Christ's redemptive work.

The Apostle James has a word of comfort and admonition for us. James foresaw the tribulation and distress that would overtake our day. He foresaw the unscrupulous methods used by ungodly men in amassing wealth and how the laborers would have their wages withheld by fraud. The cry of the oppressed has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and the time for the restoration is upon us. No one but the Holy Spirit can successfully undertake the stupendous task which will bring about this

restoration which is a part of redemption. This is what James tells us: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh . . . Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

We must be patient—patient unto the coming of the Lord. There is much fruit to be gathered. James tells us it is precious fruit. Some seed has been sown later than others and it, too, must be permitted to come to fruition. It will be watered by the "latter rain" and be gathered into the same garner as that watered by the "early rain" and "former rains." In the tenseness of the last days it becomes increasingly difficult to be patient. James admonishes us twice in the chapter we read from that we should be patient and stablish (fortify) our hearts, for the coming of the Lord is drawing near. When the fruit is ripe our King will come and will not tarry. The patience necessary to endure hardship like a good soldier will be ministered to us by the Holy Spirit if we will permit Him to do so.

Did you notice that James referred to Job and his end? You will recall that Job was stripped of all earthly possessions, his health, and his most precious treasure—his children. But he kept faith in God. We learn "the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before . . . So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning." This infers that a restoration similar to Job's will be the lot of Anglo Saxondom, with this exception that it will be far more vast and glorious, for it will be a perfect restoration—a mighty work through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures teach us that "sin is the transgression of the law"—the law of God. Isaiah tells us "the Redeemer will come to Zion, and to them that turn from transgressions." Remember, Zion stands for scriptural government and Jerusalem is the symbol of worship of the true God. Isaiah 59:20.

In reading the whole 59th chapter of Isaiah you will discover some startling truths. You will learn the cause for the separation between God and His people, you will learn of the ruthless and gruesome technique of those who are not God's people, you will find a detailed description of our national plight as a result of this, and you will see a striking picture of the Redeemer, sustained by his own righteousness, clad in full armour to deliver His people and bring vengeance upon His enemies and ours.

Notice the use of the pronouns in this chapter. "Your," "they," "us," "our," and then "He" and "His."

Because of our iniquity, our sin, our hands and fingers being defiled with blood and iniquity, our lying lips, and our perverse tongues we have cut ourselves off from justice and



truth in a national way according to Isaiah, and to us it appears as though the Lord's hand is shortened that it cannot save and His ear heavy that it cannot hear. However, such is not the case, the Lord can save and He can hear, He has provided us with the Holy Scriptures which contain a solution to our problems. We are suffering not for a lack of a solution, but for a lack of knowledge of His Word which contains it.

"They" identifies the workers of iniquity. It describes their activities as mischief, vanity, cockatrice' eggs, spider's web, vipers, violence, shedders of innocent blood, and whose paths are filled with wasting and destruction. The ways of peace are not found with them. As a result of the activities of those whom Isaiah here speaks of as "they," we find ourselves groping as the blind and we stumble at noon day as in the night. We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves. So says the great prophet Isaiah, and looking about our world we are unable to deny this charge. Had we not transgressed God's law, we would not find ourselves in the sorry plight we are in. Isaiah further says, "judgment is turned backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth: and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey."

It is then that we read, "the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: Therefore his arm brought salvation." Definitely, restoration and redemption will come from God alone.

As Communism and its effects become more evident we are going to realize more than ever how necessary for our survival the "latter rain" is. The parched ground over which its fires have burned will cry out for rain. We will be forced to come to "grips" with this monster which has become a scourge within Christian nations for their neglect in

administering the perfect law of God. Had God's law been honored and administered there would have been no poor and downtrodden people to be fooled and foiled by the promises Communism falsely makes. There would have been no extremely rich and no extremely poor among us. Every man would have been a happy victim of justice. So satisfied would he have been with his lot that he would have regarded a departure from it insane. Were it not for the fact "when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" we were better off dead than alive. But, lift up your head, reader, there are better days ahead! The Spirit of the Lord will lift up the standard that we in our frailty could not keep raised. The "latter rain" has begun to fall. The drops are coming faster all the time, and they are getting bigger, too. We are soon to experience showers.—Showers of blessing and restoration. The rain is going to fall more and more upon those who administer governmental affairs in our nation. Wisdom and courage will be added to them by the Lord Himself. This will become more apparent as we come nearer to the Kingdom Age.

Just as the Holy Spirit fell upon men in the kingdom age spoken of in the Old Scriptures, just so will He descend like rain upon the men who minister in kingdom affairs as we move toward the kingdom near at hand. We should expect this particular ministry of the Holy Spirit to be very noticeable. Why not expect the rain to fall upon Washington, D.C.? It will.

"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." Zechariah 10:1.

Bright clouds full of rain—a symbol of the illuminating Holy Spirit as it is about to fall upon us. What an inducement to the believer to pray and ask the Lord for rain. Rain that will end our dearth. May God help us to believe and pray!

---

**America's Hope Broadcasts**  
**Post Office Box 1827**  
**Palm City, FL 34991**

Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Stuart, FL Permit #180
---