

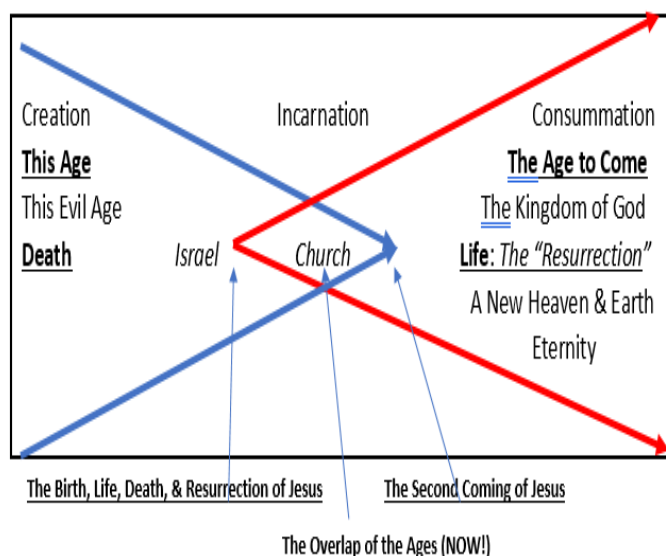
**GALATIANS Freedom in Christ**  
**Session 2 – September 23, 2020**

**– Key Words in Galatians**

1. **God, Jesus, Christ . . . “the Ages” . .**
2. **Live, Life, Alive**
3. **Free, Freedom, Slave**
4. **Justification, Justified, Righteousness**
5. **Faith, Faithfulness, Believe**
6. **Grace = Gift (Charisma)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE TWO AGES OF ANCIENT JUDAISM**



**THIS WEEK . . . the word is . .**

**LAW** (x 31)

***Promise, Scripture (“It is Written”), Covenant, Circumcision***

**Alas!!!**

***= Multiple meanings for the word “LAW” in the New Testament***

**e.g.**

**“Law” = an array of things**

**→ to which one can be “subject” or “under.”**

**(1) The Rules of Moses (laws as specific precepts and ordinances)**

**(2) Or – The Books of Moses**

**(3) Or – (broader) All the OT Books**

**(3) Or – a specific promise (curse?) or covenant**

**e.g. in Galatians and elsewhere in Scripture . .**

**i. The Law as something people can “be subject to” or “live under”**

- Galatians 4<sup>4,5</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
- Galatians 4<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law?

**The Law as “*Specific Rules given in the Five Books of Moses*”**

- Luke 10<sup>25</sup> (a man asks) What must I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>26</sup>**Jesus** said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” (*the reply comes from rules given in two Books of Moses = Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18*)
- 1 Corinthians 9<sup>8</sup> (**Paul**) Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? <sup>9</sup>For it is written in the law of Moses “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.* (from a Book of Moses, Deuteronomy 25:4). ”

**The Law as “*Scripture*”**

**Note:**

**Our Old Testament**

**Comprises of three parts:**

- 1. The Five Books of Moses**
- 2. The Prophets**
- 3. The Writings (Psalms, etc.)**

**ii. The Law as “*Scripture*”**

**1. = the Books of Moses, as distinct from the Books of the Prophets**

- Matthew 5<sup>17</sup> (**Jesus**) Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

- Acts 28<sup>23</sup> After they (the Jewish leaders in Rome) had set a day to meet with **Paul**, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening, he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets.

- NOTE: Galatians 4 – **Paul** refers not just to “rules” in Genesis as the “law” but to stories about Abraham

## ii. The Law as “Scripture”

2. Including all the OT: both the Prophets and Writings!

- John 10<sup>34</sup> **Jesus** answered, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, you are gods’?”  
(→ Psalms 82:6)
- 1 Corinthians 14<sup>21</sup> (**Paul**) In the law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people; yet even then they will not listen to me,” says the Lord.  
(→ Isaiah 28:11; see also Isaiah 54:1 in Gal. 4:27).

But here is a puzzle:

In Galatians . . . The law also seems to be something “inside” and “distinct from” the Scripture!

Romans 3<sup>21</sup>

But now, apart from law  
→ apart from Scripture? Unlikely!  
the righteousness of God has been disclosed,  
and is attested by the law and the prophets  
(= by the Scripture)

.. so ..

iii. **The Law** here is not a book in the Bible or rules, **BUT**

- a covenant/specific commitment

- made with God/Moses/People
- at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 24:1-8)

3:17: the law,

- which came four hundred thirty years later (after Abraham),
- does not nullify a covenant previously ratified by God (with Abraham),
- so as to nullify the promise (made to Abraham)

Note Sequence/Connection:

→ Law → Covenant → Promise

Exodus 24:3-8 **At Mount Sinai**:

<sup>3</sup>Moses came and told the people

all the words of the Lord  
and all the ordinances (rules);

and all the people answered with one voice, and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

<sup>4</sup>And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. (the community is formed by this covenant / constitution)

<sup>5</sup>He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. <sup>6</sup>Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar.

<sup>7</sup>Then he took **the book of the covenant**, and read it in the hearing of the people;  
and they said, (made a promise!!)

“All that the Lord has spoken  
we will do, and we will be obedient.”

<sup>8</sup>Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, “See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

What are the blessings of this covenant?

→ God is everywhere BUT

-- in the Tabernacle access is provided to God’s intimate presence (highly controlled and limited – see Rom 5:1-2)

→ 630 commandments to follow

→ most, liturgical =

→ building and maintaining worship  
in the Tabernacle



<http://www.netzarim.co.il>

And yet . . . **we have another puzzle**

- **The people (descendants of a man called Abraham) have been God's people** (*in covenant with God*) for 400+ years -- since the time of Abraham.
- **The human sign of the God's special relationship (covenant) with Abraham and his descendants** -- was circumcision -- established centuries ago.

Listen . . .

Genesis 17.5-14

(God said to Abraham)

<sup>7</sup>I will establish **my covenant** *between me and you, and your offspring* after you throughout their generations, for *an everlasting covenant*, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>8</sup>And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

<sup>9</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for you, *you shall keep my covenant*, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

<sup>10</sup>This is **my covenant**, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: .

<sup>12</sup>Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money *from any foreigner* who is not of your offspring. <sup>13</sup>*Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised.*

So shall **my covenant** be in your flesh **an everlasting covenant**.

<sup>14</sup>Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has **broken my covenant**."

And this passage/ story/ commandment) in Scripture raises a question . . .

**Is the covenant -- and the covenant sign -- only for physical descendants of Israel? Or for all people?**

**The God of Abraham is clearly interested in ALL PEOPLE**

Genesis 15:5

<sup>5</sup> God brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**" <sup>6</sup>**And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 17.4-5

<sup>4</sup>"This is my covenant with you (says the Lord): You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

(nations in GK= "gentiles"/ethnics)

<sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

+

**Ezekiel 44.6-9**

Let there be an end to the abominations *in admitting foreigners*, **uncircumcised** in heart and flesh, to be in my sanctuary

**Isaiah 52.1:**

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the **uncircumcised** and the unclean shall enter you no more.

**In the light of these Scriptures ("the Law") Does Paul think the welcome of the Gentiles into God's family involves circumcision? *NO!***

Galatians 5

2-4: Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be **circumcised**, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire *law*.

You who want to be justified by the *law* have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace (gift!).

6: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

11: But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

### Galatians 6

12: It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

13: Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.

15: For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

**But** (*Paul's opponents might say*)

**if the Gentiles aren't circumcised, aren't they missing out on a right relationship with – access to – God?**

**NO! says Paul . .**

*There is “now” (since Jesus came) a different/new covenant*

*A new means of “access”*

*for “all flesh” (Jews & Gentiles).*

**WHY?!**

*Did God make a mistake the first time round?*

**Or**

*Was the first covenant limited in some way, for a reason? Or for a season?*

**One limitation of the Old Covenant → The Problem of Death**

**= the Original Law/Covenant with “all flesh” in Genesis 2 . .**

### Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17,24

8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food,

the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16And the Lord God **commanded the man**, “*You may freely eat* of every tree of the garden; 17*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.*”

24 God drove out the man;

and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning -- to guard the way to the tree of life.

The solution comes only with the . . Incarnation and Death of Jesus

### Galatians 3

13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the *law*

(*referring to Genesis 2:16-17?*)

by becoming a curse for us

—for it is **written**

(in the LAW, in Deuteronomy 21:23)

“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”

**So – Why – Paul's opponents ask . .**

**Why did God bother with the Abraham/Moses covenant?**

→ **and not go straight to the covenant established by Jesus?**

**– Good Question!!**

**.. that Paul addresses in Gal.3**

### Galatians 3

19: Why then the (Mosaic Covenant) *law*? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator.

21: Is the (Mosaic Covenant) **law** then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a (Covenant) **law** had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law (as Scripture?).

23: Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the (Mosaic Covenant) **law** until faith would be revealed. 24: Therefore the (Mosaic Covenant) **law** was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

## WORDS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN READING GALATIANS . .

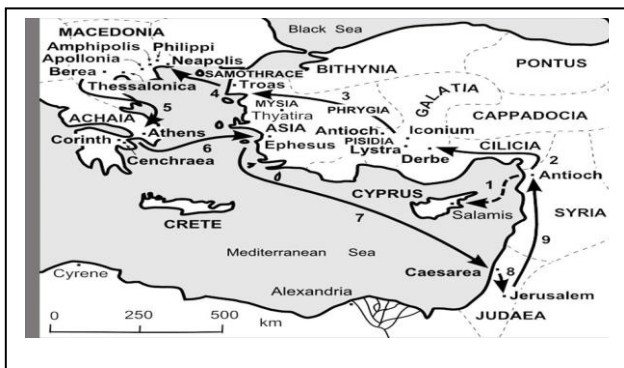
1. God, Jesus, Christ . . “the Ages” . .
2. Live, Life, Alive
3. Free, Freedom, Slave
4. Justification, Justified, Righteousness
5. Faith, Faithfulness, Believe
6. Grace = Gift (Charisma) Grace = Gift (Charisma)
7. LAW . . PROMISE . . COVENANT . . CIRCUMCISION

### GALATIANS 1

1 Paul -- An apostle

- *Not from people*
- *Nor through people*
- *But through Jesus Christ and God-Father,*
- the one raising him (Jesus) from the dead

2 And the ones with me -- all the brothers  
To the churches of Galatia



3 Grace [gift] to **you all** and peace  
from God our father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

1. 4 the one giving himself  
a. on behalf of our sins
2. Who has delivered us  
from the age of the present evil
3. according to the will  
of our God and father
- 5 to whom be glory  
into the age of the ages; amen!

6 I am **astonished** that thus quickly  
you all have deserted (= personal)  
*[OR “transferred from” (= spatial)]*  
the one calling you [all]  
in/by the grace [gift] of Christ  
into another gospel  
-- 7 Which there is not another  
**Except/but there are some**

- the ones troubling you
- and wishing to alter/pervert  
the gospel of Christ

8 But even if we

– or an angel [messenger] from heaven  
Should proclaim good news to (“gospelize”) you  
[all] apart from  
what we proclaiming good news to you [all] → let  
them be accursed

9 As we said before and also now again I say

***If anyone is proclaiming good news to  
 (“gospelizing”) you [all] apart from what you all  
received***

**→ let him be accursed.**

10 Q. Am I now appeasing people or God?

Am I really seeking to please people?

A. If I was still (seeking to) please people I would  
not be a servant [slave] of Christ

11 Indeed, I want you all to know, brothers:

That the good news [gospel]

– being proclaimed as good news [gospelized] by  
me -- **(it) is not “according to people.”**

12 In fact,

1. in no way did I receive it from people
2. nor was I taught it
3. but I received it **through a revelation of Jesus Christ** . . . →

[Acts 9, 22, 26]

26:14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' 15I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. **17I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'**

13 (2) For you have heard about

my former way of life, in Judaism:

-- that, according to superabundance

- I persecuted the church of God
- and I tried to destroy them.
- 14 And I advanced in Judaism above many contemporaries in my people [race/nation/class] being overflowingly zealous for the traditions of my ancestors

15 But when God

-- the one who **set me apart**  
from my mother's womb

-- and **called (me)**

through his grace [gift]

was pleased 16 **to reveal His son in me**

in order that I might proclaim

the good news [about] him

among the gentiles (ethnics!)

The first thing I did was . . .

1. NOT to consult with flesh and blood

2. 17 NOR did I go up into Jerusalem  
to the "before me apostles"

3. BUT I went away *into Arabia* and again I  
returned into *Damascus*

18 Then -- **after three years**

I went **up to Jerusalem**

to visit **Cephas** (Simon Peter)

And I remained with him **2 weeks** --

19 Other of the apostles I did not see -- except

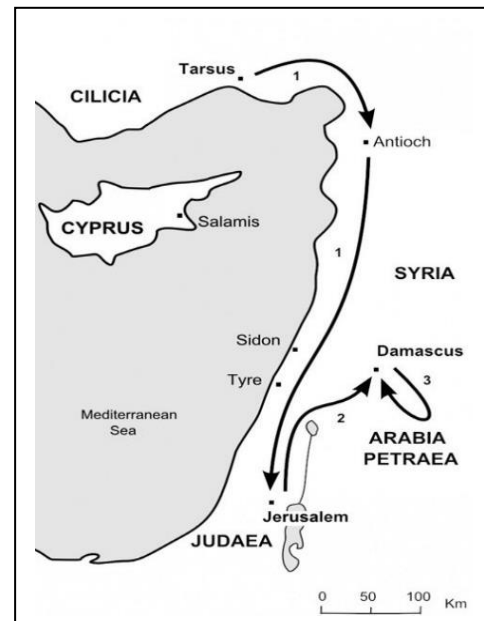
**James the brother of the Lord**

- (what I am writing to you 20let me be clear)

- I write **as one standing in the presence of God:**

- **I am not lying**

21 Then . . . I went into the regions



of *Syria and Cilicia*

22 (and) I was unknown by face  
to the churches of the Jews/Judeans

-- the ones in Christ

23 Except that they were hearing  
that "The one once persecuting us  
is now proclaiming-the good-news  
of the faith

which he once sought to destroy."

And they were glorifying God in me.

CHAPTER 2

1 Then

**after 14 years**

again I went up to *Jerusalem*

with Barnabas,

taking along also Titus.