

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Major Biblical Covenants I

Mosaic

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Mosaic Covenant

- ✓ Origin of the Mosaic Covenant
 - ❖ God saved Israel from Egypt, thus “conquering” Israel and having rights over her.
 - ❖ Based on God’s covenant to Abraham and the Patriarchs (Deut 4:36–38)
- ✓ Nature of the Mosaic Covenant
 - ❖ Suzerain-Vassal treaty (king and conquered subjects)
 - ❖ Conditional agreement

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Essence of the Law of the Mosaic Covenant

Definition

Rules of life to govern God's covenant people in Canaan. It regulated their everyday religious, social, economic, and civil life.

- ✓ 613 laws—248 affirmative and 365 negative
- ✓ Unity of the Law—common to divide into Moral, Ceremonial (& Civil)—not Scriptural

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Mosaic Law Cannot Save

- ✓ Galatians 2:16
- ✓ Galatians 2:21
- ✓ Galatians 3:11
- ✓ Romans 3:20
- ✓ Abraham—saved by faith and not by works of the Law (compare Romans 4:3 and Genesis 15:6)
- ✓ Mosaic Law not for salvation but for sanctification

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Mosaic Law in Relation to Israel

- ✓ Law given to Israel alone (Exod 19:3)
- ✓ Revealed God's character (Lev 11:45)
 - ❖ God's character the basis for the Law
- ✓ Signified Israel's special relationship to God (Exod 19:5–6)
- ✓ Defined proper behavior within the covenant relationship
- ✓ Included penalties for breaking the Law

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Purposes of Mosaic Law

- ✓ Revealed and exposed sin (Rom 3:20; 5:20)
- ✓ Temporary guardian for Israel until Christ (Gal 3:23–25)
- ✓ The grateful response of those already saved by faith
- ✓ Means by which Israel could experience the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant in the land
- ✓ A witness to Gentiles of God's character (Exod 19:5–6—“Kingdom of Priests”)
- ✓ Reveals the standard of righteousness for salvation
- ✓ Exacerbates sin (not a purpose, but a result; Rom 7:7–11)

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Perversions of Mosaic Law

- ✓ Trying to make it means of salvation (see Rom 9:30–32)
- ✓ Some Jews emphasized external ritual at the expense of the heart (Mic 6:6–8)
- ✓ Some Jews viewed the Law as a means of exclusive ethnocentrism against Gentiles (e.g., Jonah)

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10 Reasons Why Christians are NOT Under Mosaic Law

1. Bible explicitly says so (Rom 6:14–15; Gal 5:18; 1 Cor 9:20–21)
2. Believers have died to the Mosaic Law (Rom 7:4, 6; Gal 2:19)
3. Christ fulfilled the Law and ended it (Rom 10:4)
4. Mosaic Covenant including Ten Commandments has faded away in favor of the superior New Covenant (2 Cor 3:6–11; Heb 8:13)
5. Change in priesthood means a change in law (Heb 7:12)

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10 Reasons Why Christians are NOT Under Mosaic Law

6. The Law has become obsolete (Heb 8:13)
7. Temporary institution from 430 years after Abrahamic Covenant to Christ (Gal 3:17–19)
8. Christ abolished the Law with His death—the Law expired (Eph 2:15)
9. NT never calls for penalties of the OT variety
10. Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 declared Gentile believers did not have to keep Mosaic Law

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Challenging Passages Concerning Christians no Longer Under Law

- ✓ **Matthew 5:17**
“abolish” (destroy) vs. “abolish” (fulfill)
- ✓ **Romans 3:31**
The Law reveals sin and Christ fulfilled the Law
- ✓ **Romans 7:22**
In context, a warning of what happens when an Old Testament saint tried to keep the Law

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What About When the Law is Restated in the NT?

- ✓ Such as Ephesians 6:2–3?
- ✓ If the NT reiterates commands from Mosaic Law, this is not a continuation but a restatement.
- ✓ 9 of 10 Commandments restated
- ✓ Ephesians 6:2–3?—Now under the New Covenant with New Covenant promises

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Inauguration of the Law of Christ

- ✓ OT believer
Love, devotion, fruit of salvation demonstrated by Law of Moses
- ✓ NT believer
... By Law of Christ
- ✓ Law of Christ = teachings of Jesus and NT writers—involves love (Gal 5:13–14; Rom 13:8–10; John 13:34; 15:12; 1 John 3:23) and involves indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16)

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Inauguration of the Law of Christ

- ✓ Christian is free of the Law of Moses but not free of all Law.
- ✓ Key passages—2 Cor 9:20–21; Gal 6:2; James 1:25; James 2:8
- ✓ Law of Christ reiterates and expands on much of OT Law, but it is a NEW contract
- ✓ The Law of Christ is unconditional, yet obligatory

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