

ἄλλοι μὲν οὕτως ἀρχιμόνου
πολεῖ αὐτὴ καὶ δημοστέρῃσιν

GALATIANS

The
Unalterable
Gospel

καὶ πῆσσαν
ταύτην τῶν

ἀφίσταν
τὸς αὐτὸ
λαλοῦσα
πρόμηναι

Galatians 3:15-22

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.

It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward,

does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

To give a human example, brothers:
even with a **man-made covenant**, no
one annuls it or adds to it once it has
been ratified.

1 Samuel 18:1-3

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a **covenant** with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 23:17-18

And he said, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you..." And the two of them made a **covenant** before the LORD.

Now the **promises** were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does **not** say, "And to **offsprings**," referring to many, **but** referring to one, "And to your **offspring**," who is Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your **offspring** and her offspring; **he** shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

2 Corinthians 1:20

For **all the promises** of God find their Yes **in him**. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

This is what I mean: **the law**, which came 430 years afterward, **does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God**, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

Galatians 3:12

But the **law is not of faith**, rather
“The one who does them shall live by
them.”

To Abraham God said, "I will." Through Moses God says, "Thou shalt." The promise centers on God's plan, God's grace, God's initiative, God's sovereignty, God's blessings. The law centers on man's duty, man's work, man's responsibility, man's behavior, man's obedience. The promise, grounded in grace, requires only sincere faith. The law, being grounded in works, demands perfect obedience.

– John MacArthur



Why then the law?

Why then the law? **It was added because of transgressions**, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made

Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, **so that every mouth may be stopped**, and the **whole world may be held accountable** to God.

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since **through the law comes knowledge of sin.**

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, **until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made**

The principal point of the law is to make men not better but worse; that is to say it sheweth unto them their sin, that by the knowledge thereof they may be humbled, terrified, bruised and broken, and by this means may be driven to seek grace, and so come to that blessed Seed!

– Martin Luther



and it was put in place through angels
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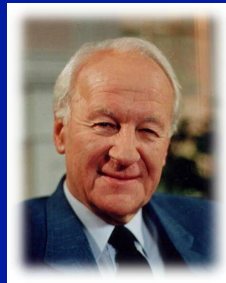
Genesis 15:18

On that day the **LORD made a covenant with Abram**, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Genesis 17:1-2

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that **I may make my covenant between me and you**, and may multiply you greatly.”

Here the apostle Paul surveys the whole Old Testament landscape. He presents it like a mountain range, whose highest peaks are Abraham and Moses, and whose Everest is Jesus Christ. He shows how God's promise to Abraham was confirmed by Moses and fulfilled in Christ. He teaches the unity of the Bible, especially the Old and New Testaments.



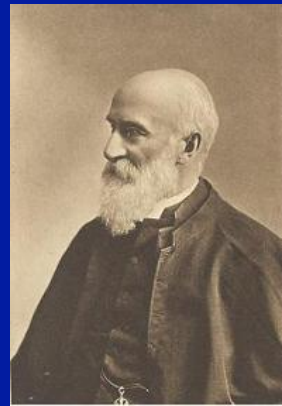
Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

Romans 9:31

but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Satan would have us prove ourselves
holy by the law, which God gave to
prove us sinners.

– Andrew Jukes



But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Not until the law has bruised and smitten us will we admit our need of the gospel to bind up our wounds. Not until the law has arrested and imprisoned us will we pine for Christ to set us free. Not until the law has condemned and killed us will we call upon Christ the justification and life. Not until the law has driven us to despair of ourselves will we ever believe in Jesus. So not until the law has humbled us even to hell will we return to the gospel to raise us to heaven.

– John Stott

