

Behold the Lamb

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Should we keep the feast days?

Should a child of God observe the Jewish feast days as given in the Law of Moses? This is a question that must be answered for the sake of millions of believers who sincerely want to please God. The answer to the question can only be found in an examination of the Law and why it was given.

"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." Galatians 3:19

When God came down on Mount Sinai to speak to Israel, He gave them Ten Commandments, and the scripture says,

"...He added no more" Deut 5:22. These "commandments" were a part of the covenant of promise which God had given to "Abraham and his seed" over four hundred years before. God had promised, if they would "obey His voice" and "keep His covenant," they would be His "peculiar treasure above all people," a "kingdom of priest unto God," and a "holy nation" Exodus 19:5-6. When God spoke, the people refused to even listen to His voice, saying to Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die" Exodus 20:19. This refusal to hear the voice of God on their part was the transgression that caused the Law of Moses to be added, a "law" consisting of six hundred and thirteen commandments and ordinances they were required to obey on the penalty of death. The Ten Commandments were given with a great blessing attached, but the Law of Moses was given with dozens of curses attached. It was not a blessing upon the people, but it was a curse in itself. When Moses finished writing his "law" in a book, he told the priests to place it in the Ark of the Covenant, where it was to remain "as a witness against thee" Deuteronomy 31:26. The apostle Paul, a Jew himself, said "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" Galatians 3:10.

If the children of Israel had received the voice of God at Mount Sinai, the Law of Moses would have never been added. According to the Apostle Paul, its "end" was determined from its beginning. The Law would be in force "until the seed should come to whom the promise was made." Paul made it clear, the "seed" is "Christ." Galatians 3:16 The children of Israel would be in bondage under the Law until Christ would come to "finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring everlasting righteousness" Daniel 9:24, which He did through His death on the cross. Thus Christ "fulfilled all things" Matthew 5:18 when He suffered and died to "save His people from their sin" Matthew 1:21 and to "redeem them that were under the Law" Galatians 4:4.

Concerning whether a child of God should observe the Jewish feast days, we should look again to the record of the Apostle Paul. There were those among the Jews in Paul's day who taught the Gentiles, "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Many of the Gentile converts of Galatia believed their message and submitted to circumcision and the Law of Moses. Paul wrote to them in a letter. "Are you so foolish" Galatians 3:1-3. "...if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing" Galatians 5:2. "Christ is become of

no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" Galatians 5:4. Paul told them, "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" Galatians 4:10-11. Again, he wrote to the Colossians, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" Colossians 2:16-17. When Christ suffered the death of the cross, the "shadows" passed away because the "true light" had come 1John 2:8.

Paul's message to the Colossians concerning circumcision and keeping the Law was "Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" Colossians 2:10-11. The idea that to be "complete" you should obey Jewish ordinances and observe the feast days is erroneous, and very detrimental to a child of God. If you "abide in Christ," you are "complete" in Christ, "without the deeds of the Law.

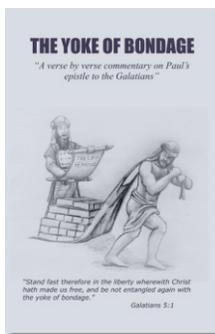
"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28.

There is no such thing found in the scriptures as a "Jewish Church and

a Gentile Church." The Apostle Paul said, "For he is our peace (between Jews and Gentiles), who hath made both (Jews and Gentiles) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances (the Law of Moses) for to make in himself of twain (both Jews and Gentiles) one new man (the church), so making peace; And that he might reconcile both (Jews and Gentiles) unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity (Moses' Law) thereby." Ephesians 2:14-16 By this I know there is only one true church and it is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

Peter was an eyewitness of how God saved the uncircumcised Gentiles at the house of Cornelius. He told of how God "purified their hearts by faith" (the moment they believed the gospel), and added, "We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" Acts 15:11. There is no question that until that time Peter had held to the Law of Moses. Peter, however, caught a glimpse of a great light which would shine even brighter after "the revelation of Jesus Christ" was given to Paul. Peter was the first of the apostles to see and understand that a Gentile would not be "saved like a Jew," but a "Jew" would be "saved like a Gentile," without the Law of Moses.

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