

February 15, 2019

The Interruption

The Law of Moses with all its sacrifices, ceremonies, commandments, and other ordinances was never God's plan for Israel. It was Israel's plan for Israel. God delivered them out of Egypt and brought them to Mt Sinai where He wanted to speak to them and bring them into the covenant he made with Abraham. There he instructed Moses to tell them, *"...if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."* Exodus 19:4-6. Abraham, in believing God and obeying His voice, received the covenant of promise. Genesis 22:16-18. If the children of Israel would do the same, they would be a people unlike any the world had ever known.

When the people heard the voice of God and saw the thunders and lightning and fire upon the mountain, they drew back and said to Moses: ***"Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die."*** Exodus 20:19. With these fateful words, Israel rejected God's voice and His covenant of blessing, and chose *"the ministration of death."* II Corinthians 3:7. This was the day **the covenant of promise was "interrupted"** and the Law of Moses began. Paul said this "Law" was *"...added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made..."* Galatians 3:19. In a very short time, the

children of Israel rejected God's voice, worshiped a golden calf and gave it glory for delivering them from Egypt, and then refused to enter the promise land. They murmured against God and Moses continually. Moses' "law" came as a spiritual disciplinarian. Its job was to forcibly keep Israel separate from the other nations until the promised seed (Christ) came. Paul tells us that Israel was "*...kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*" Galatians 3:23.

Before he died, Moses instructed the Levites to "*Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there **for a witness against thee.***" Deuteronomy 31:26. As long as the Law of Moses stood, it was a witness against Israel. Not only did it give witness against them for their sins, but its very existence was a continual witness that they had rejected God's voice and his covenant of promise. The Law spent its curses upon Israel without mercy until one day it cursed the sinless Son of God for being hung upon a tree, Galatians 3:13 and for that offence it had to be abolished. Ephesians 2:15. Jesus Christ came, not only to take away our sin, but to also redeem Israel from the Law if they would believe upon his name. Galatians 4:5.

Our redemption is the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. Paul said, "*...if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*" Galatians 3:29. The New Covenant is not "New" in respect to age because it actually predates the Mosaic Law. Paul said, "*...the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.*" Our

covenant of redemption was confirmed in Christ four hundred and thirty years BEFORE the Mosaic Law was given.

Six centuries before Christ appeared in ministry, God promised the demise of the Law. He said, *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD.*" Jeremiah 31:31-32. From the moment God spoke of a "New Covenant" it was established that the Law of Moses had been made "Old" and would pass away. This is like the employees of a company being told that a new supervisor has been hired. The existing supervisor is now the "old" supervisor. He may be around for a while longer, but his days are numbered as he waits for the "new" supervisor to appear. The apostle confirms this regarding the two covenants, saying, *In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*" Hebrews 8:13.

Jesus assured us that nothing would pass from the Law *"until all be fulfilled."* Matthew 5:18. After his resurrection he explained this, saying, *"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled**, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, **concerning me.**"* Luke 24:44. The apostle John confirms that on the cross Jesus knew *"...all things were now accomplished..."* John 9:28. When he cried *"It is*

finished,” the “interruption” was taken away and the Abrahamic covenant of promise was restored.

Colossians 2:14.