

The Mosaic Covenant was Temporary by Design

The purpose of the Mosaic Covenant:

1. The Law served to “Preserve the Descendants” of Abraham until the promised Seed arrived (Galatians 3:16-19)

2. The Law served a “Prophetic Role”

A. By pointing to Christ meeting the Mosaic Laws negative and positive demands. *By this Christ fulfilled the just penalty for the Laws demand.*

3. The Law served to “Purposefully Identity” God’s distinct and chosen people from all other nations for His purpose and glory.

4. The Law Served to Produce an Awareness of Sin”. The law reveals man’s utter sinfulness, inability to save himself, and desperate need of a Savior—it was never intended to be the way of salvation.”

The intention of the Mosaic Covenant was never to be an overarching covenant for morality. Nor was it designed to be the civil law for all nations to abide. It was an intern covenant “until Christ came of whom was promised” (Galatians 3:19). We are no longer under the guide that points us to Christ.

The law was given by Moses and grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). The Law was a shadow of Christ’s work on our behalf. The first covenant (Mosaic) has been taken away (Hebrews 10:9). The MC of law made nothing perfect. What it did do is bring us to a better hope for which we are able to come to God (Hebrews 7:19).

We have a better covenant; a better mediator; and better promises than the Moses gave us. We have the NC which the summation and substance is Christ (Hebrews 8:6-8). Christ is better than Moses. Now we have a NC and the MC is old and it is set aside or is obsolete (Hebrews 8:13).

The OC had glory, but the New Covenant has exceeding glory (2 Corinthians 3:7-11)

2 Corinthians 3:7-11

⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

⁸ **How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?**

⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, **much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**

¹⁰ For even that which was made glorious (MC) HAD NO GLORY in this respect, **by reason of the glory that excelleth (NC).**

¹¹ For if that which is done away was glorious, **much more that which remaineth is glorious.**

The role of the MC was to give way to Christ. It was framing around a structure to hold it in place until the structure was completed. It was never intended to stay up around the structure but to be taken down. When the permanent structure is up, the temporary comes down.

Neither must we interject the MC into the NC. We do not put new wine in old wine skins.

1. The Mosaic Law could not justify:

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ... (Galatians 2:16)

2. The Mosaic Law could not make one righteous:

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:4).

3. The Mosaic Law could not sanctify or make us holy:

The Law actually increased sin. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid! But I did not know sin, except through the law. I would not have known coveting if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting...." Romans 7:7-8 (MEV).

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound....(Romans 5:20).

We serve God right now by the newness of the Spirit and not the oldness of the Law (Romans 7:6).

I. The MC was for a specific time.

A. Temporary

Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets were until John...

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, **till the seed should come to whom the promise was made...**

2 Corinthians 3:7

3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; **which glory was to be done away:**

3:11 **For if that which is done away was glorious,** much more that which remaineth is glorious.

3:13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look **to the end of that which is abolished:**

Romans 7:6

⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

⁶ But now we have been released from the law, since we have died to what held us, so that we may serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old letter of the law.

B. Fulfilled

Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to **destroy** the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to **fulfil**.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, **till all be fulfilled**.

Filled means to bring to completion, confirmed or kept to bring something to completion.

Jesus fulfilled the MC prophetic purpose. Every prophecy, sacrifice, type and shadow of the MC finds its fulfillment and consummation in Christ.

When Jesus said it is finished on the cross.....what did He mean?

Jesus met all the laws positive commands: Do this and live....

Jesus met all the laws negative commands: If you sin you shall surely die.

Jesus satisfies both the negative and positive commands of the Law.

Every divine legal obligation embodied and represented in the MC is satisfied in Christ. The Laws demand finds complete satisfaction in Christ.

The cross of Christ becomes the divine paradox of human history. It displays divine grace and divine justice.

Since Christ has come the MC has ceased in its purpose as prophetic role, regulation, and as a guide to bring us to Christ

II. The Mosaic Law was a Unit

The law can be seen as **moral, ceremonial, and civil**, but you will look in vain for any biblical evidence for this classification in the Bible. All God's commands are moral, in the sense it would have been immoral for an Israelite to disobey any command of God regardless of its classification. All morality comes from God.

The Gentiles without the Law of Moses had a law imposed on their conscience (Romans 1:19-21, Roman's 2:12-15, 26-27). When God judged the Gentile nations in the Old Testament, He never judged them based on the judicial law of the Mosaic Covenant. He judged them based on breaking his eternal law, or natural if we want to call it that for designation, or even God's eternal moral precepts.

We can call it moral law if you wish, but it is better to see the morality of God is based on His character and eternal precepts. These are always true for all people. It is rooted in the eternal nature of God who defines what is right and what is wrong and not the MC.

Natural law is law that people know innately. Romans 2:14-15 is clear that God writes the work of His natural law on the hearts of all men, and Romans 2:21-24 shows that natural law is summarized in the Ten Commandments. Natural law is nothing other than the reflection of God's moral character in human beings who are made

Positive law, on the other hand, is law that God delivered by way of special revelation in a particular covenant. No one would have known that they ought to obey positive law, unless it had been revealed to them in a biblical covenant.

Abraham knew by nature that it was wrong to lie to Pharaoh about Sarah being his wife. God never had to tell Abraham that lying was wrong because all images of God know it's wrong to lie, even if they suppress that truth in unrighteousness. But Abraham would never have known that he had to be circumcised except for the fact that God revealed that law to him and commanded him to be circumcised in the covenant of circumcision. **Natural law is known innately, but positive law would never be known apart from covenantal revelation.**

Natural or moral law transcends all covenants. It's immutably rooted in the nature and character of God and also in human nature. Fallen human beings suppress their knowledge of natural law, which is why we need Scripture to reassert and clarify it. But even fallen human beings are not completely ignorant of natural law. Positive law, on the other hand, is covenantal, must be specially revealed to be known, and serves a particular

purpose within the covenant in which it is given. When covenants change, positive laws change, but moral or natural law does not.

Many fail to grasp this crucial distinction. The judicial laws of the Old Covenant are not transcendent moral or natural law, but positive laws, which God commanded in the Old Covenant for a particular reason. Mosaic Law were ONLY practiced in Canaan. Judicial laws were tied to the land of Canaan, ceremonial worship, and preserve the promised line of Christ. They kept Israel distinct from all other nations. Positive laws were in Israel in the OC for the typological pictures to be fulfilled in Christ and for the uniqueness of the culture.

~~~Galatians 3:10

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 5:3

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

~~~James 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Stuart Brogden "The law is consistently spoken of as a unit - keeping one point obligates one to keep every point; failing on one point is being guilty of the whole law. Every law given by God is moral, for He is pure morality. The covenant context reveals how and to whom His specific laws are to be kept. Those in Adam are bound to God's Universal Law (called the law of nature or law of conscience by some); those who were in the Mosaic community were bound to the Mosaic Law; those who are in Christ are bound by the Law of Christ. All of these laws have points in common for they all come from God."

III. The MC ceased for regulatory law for all those in Christ or the NC.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Ephesians 2:15

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ----(**He made of no effect the law consisting** of commands and expressed in regulations, so that He might create in Himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. HCSB)

2 Corinthians 3:11

For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

It ceased or is abolished as Law, but not destroyed as revelation. The Law was derived from God's eternal precepts and not the other way. We must properly apply the precept of the law but not a rigid adherence to its purpose that has been fulfilled. Though we are not under the Mosaic Law that does not make us lawless.

There are 3 Categories of People in the World found in **1 Corinthians 9:19-21:**

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. ²⁰ And unto **the Jews** I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; **to them that are under the law, as under the law**, that I might gain them that are under the law; ²¹ To **them that are without law**, as without law, (being not without law to God, but **under the law to Christ**,) that I might gain them that are without law.

3 Categories of People in the World

1. The Jews under Mosaic Law
2. The Gentiles without the Mosaic Law

3. The Christian under the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"

I. The MC was for a specific time.

II. The Mosaic Law was a Unit

III. The MC ceased for regulatory law for all those in Christ or the NC.