

The Law and the Gospel

John 1.14-17

There was a time when there was no Law

Good guys

- Adam
- Job
- Enoch
- Noah
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

Bad guys

- Cain
- Nimrod
- Sodomites
- Pharaoh

Even though there was no Law

- There was right and wrong; good and evil
- God dealt with people about their wrong
- And blessed them in their obedience
- And there was a way for people to worship God: they knew about altars and sacrifices
- And they all died, because death reigned:
Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses (about 2500 years), even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

The Law entered

- Exodus 20. 1-17 are the 10 commandments
- What is their purpose?
- They did not establish a new relationship, they regulated an existing one: Exodus 19.1-8
- The remainder of Exodus 19 is instruction about the ratification of the Mosaic Covenant

- Exodus 21-23 are various aspects of what this covenant will require
- Exodus 24 explains the ratification of the covenant
- And “The Law” became binding upon every subsequent generation of Jew
- The well-being of the entire nation hinged upon obedience. Deuteronomy 27 & 28
- The prophets called the people back to a right relationship with God by diligent obedience to the Law

- The Law defined acceptable worship
- The Law defined acceptable conduct—it clearly stated what was right and what was wrong
- It was failure to adhere to the Law that brought about the captivity of Israel
- And what that meant to Israel is part of why some are Covenantal in their view of the Bible and others are Dispensational in their view of the Bible
- And that view impacts the role of the Law today.

The Law Ended

- The Law was in force from about 1450 BC to John the Baptist
- Matthew 11.13/Luke 16.16
- Matthew 5.17
- John 1.17
- Romans 6.14
- Romans 10.4
- Galatians 5.18

Under Grace

- There is still right and wrong
- God still deals with men concerning their right and wrong
- There is still worship

Whether prior to the Law, under the Law,
or after the Law, the same issues
continue to exist

- Does God require certain types of conduct from men?
- What happens if they fail to meet His requirements?
- Just what has God required of us?
- How shall we do what He requires?