

The Sovereign Old and New Covenants

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Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God
Chapter 3: Sovereign Covenants
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The covenants God makes are sovereign—He alone determines the parameters. How He deals with mankind is dependent on the covenant He has (or doesn't have) with them. Under the Old Covenant, God set out all the conditions and whom it would include, but it was clearly between God and the Children of Israel who agreed to it wholeheartedly and who broke it almost immediately (Jer. 31:32). But the law had limitations.

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The law was weak because the Children of Israel were still in the flesh. This is because “those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh.”¹ Sinners, those in the flesh, sin. Thus, those under the Old Covenant who were in the flesh were the weak link in the Old Covenant and broke their promise to do all He commanded them.

God knew of this inevitability, of course, but the Old Covenant had an important purpose, and that purpose has been completed (fulfilled).

Galatians 3:19-25

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

*²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! **For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.***

²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the

¹ See Rom. 8:1-9, especially verse 9 which reads, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Those “in the flesh” are clearly those who are not saved. This passage is **not** referring to Christians.

*promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.²⁴ **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith** (by believing in Him).²⁵ **But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.***

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are made righteous by faith. Faith has come, and we are no longer under the curses of the law.