

Episode #325 – We Establish the Law 1: The Covenant With Abraham

I. We know that the law is an important part of the Old Testament, and the setting forth of it comprises much of the first five books of the Bible. We praise God that we are not under the law, but under grace. Yet this is no excuse for having a vast ignorance of the law. Paul said in Romans 3:31, “We Establish the Law.” That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. Paul’s statements concerning the law

A. Romans 3:31. “We establish the law.” Just because we argue that it is not meant for us today does not void it. Having a proper teaching about a thing establishes it in the place God intended for it.

B. I Timothy 1:8. The law needs to be used lawfully. The law was made for those who break it. For those who serve the Lord out of love, we have ascended above the law.

III. The law has to do with the old covenant. What is a covenant? The way most use it today, it is simply a theological term. Therefore, it is often used in ways that make no sense according to its Biblical usage, like “a covenant of grace.” Dictionary.com: “an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified.” If we substitute “agreement” for “covenant,” it will make more sense in many cases.

IV. The Abrahamic covenant.

A. Genesis 12. God makes a covenant (agreement) with Abraham: the Abrahamic covenant. Genesis 12:2, 3, 7; 13:15, 16; 15:5; 17:2, 6, 7; 22:17. To Abraham’s seed, but through Isaac, not Ishmael, and through Jacob, not Esau.

B. Since Abraham’s seed who kept their part of the agreement died without receiving these promises, they must come to them in resurrection. Ezekiel 37:1-14.

1. Ezekiel 37:1-10. The vision of the valley of dry bones.

2. Ezekiel 37:11-14. The interpretation of the vision. It is not right to interpret an interpretation as if it were another parable. Those who died without receiving the promises hope to receive them in resurrection.

V. Conclusion. Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. This is what we are seeking to do. To do this, we must understand its connection both to God’s covenants and to Israel. God’s first covenant with Israel was His covenant with Abraham, yet that covenant was never fulfilled in Abraham’s lifetime, and can only be fulfilled through resurrection. Through this study, we will seek to learn the truth of the law, so that we can rightly divide, and thus we will establish the law.