

Episode #338 We Establish the Law 14: The New Covenant

I. The Lord said in Romans 3:31, “We Establish the Law.” We are not under the law, but with proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. The Ten Commandments were the terms of a covenant God made with the people of Israel. Israel broke that covenant when they made the golden calf. The broken covenant was void, and Israel could not enter its blessings until they were redeemed from the curse of their great transgression. However, they were not therefore set free from any obligation to keep the terms of the covenant, but that covenant was now bound on them as law. They continued under the law with blessing or cursing following keeping or breaking it.

III. The New Covenant.

- A. God appointed Israel’s destiny to be a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. This was bound up with God’s absolute agreement with Abraham. Though the covenant of Sinai failed to bring about this destiny, they will yet reach this goal, and through keeping the terms of this same agreement
- B. Deuteronomy 5:28-29. God commended their acceptance of the covenant, but pointed out their great weakness: they did not have the heart to keep it!
- C. Jeremiah 31:31-34. The most important passage about the New Covenant.
 1. V.31-32. Who the New Covenant is with. This is just a promise that He will make a covenant with them someday, not a covenant He was then making. Notice who the New Covenant is with. Some would make us to be “spiritual Israel” and say this covenant is with us. Yet who then is “spiritual Judah”?
 2. V.33. What the New Covenant is. The same law of the Sinai Covenant written on their hearts, not on tables of stone. Do believers today really have the intricate requirements of the law written on their hearts so that no one needs to teach them these things, but they just automatically start doing them?
 3. V.34. What the New Covenant results in. All in Israel will know Him! Even those who believe in Christ today often have wrong ideas about God and need to be taught differently. Others are lazy when it comes to study and need to be encouraged to get to know God.
- D. I Peter 2:9. Believing Jews were brought into the terms of the new covenant individually. Someday this will be true of the nation as a whole. God has proclaimed this in advance, and so their destiny cannot be altered.
- E. II Corinthians 3:6.
 1. The Greek reads “a” new agreement.
 2. Romans 9:4. Romans was written later than II Corinthians, and proclaims that Israel still had the covenants. Therefore, II Corinthians does not “move” the New Covenant to Gentiles.
 3. Acts 9:15. Paul’s ministry to the children of Israel involved a new agreement. Acts 13:38-39. The “brethren” were Israelites, Acts 13:26. They could now be forgiven of all breaches of the law, even those the law provided no forgiveness for. How? In Christ.
- F. The believer today is not blessed under the terms of the Abrahamic covenant, the Sinai covenant, or the New Covenant. We are blessed because the death of Christ

provided redemption and forgiveness without distinction to all nations. Ephesians 3:6.
These blessings are in no way related to any covenant.

IV. Conclusion: The Ten Commandments were the ten terms of an agreement God made with Israel, which they broke. After this the Ten Commandments were bound on them as a law promising blessings for keeping it and curses for breaking it. Though it was their destiny to become what God said, they could no longer reach this through the Sinai covenant, so God promised a New Covenant. This New Covenant would overcome the weakness of the old: them not having the heart to keep it. The law would be written on their hearts. Someday, this will be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. But we today are blessed by relationship to Christ without any covenant (agreement) at all.