

Printing and Finishing Guide

This file is for making stapled lesson booklets. The content of the booklet is the same as in the spiral booklets, but this file makes a thinner and less expensive booklet.

Materials:

Select paper that has a thickness of about 1 millimeter for 10 pages. This is typical of 20 to 28 pound paper. We prefer glossy paper when printing on laser printers but for inkjet printers we like the colors better on the non-glossy paper we have tried.

Lamination equipment and supplies for full-size paper.

Printing:

1. Print the first side of the pages by using Adobe Acrobat Reader's settings:

Odd Pages only

Auto-Center

Pages 1-end

If printing on European A4 paper size, depending on which printer model you are using, it might be necessary to choose the option to reduce oversized pages to fit.

2. Arrange the pages printed in step 1 as needed for your printer to print on the reverse side, and print the other side:

Even Pages only

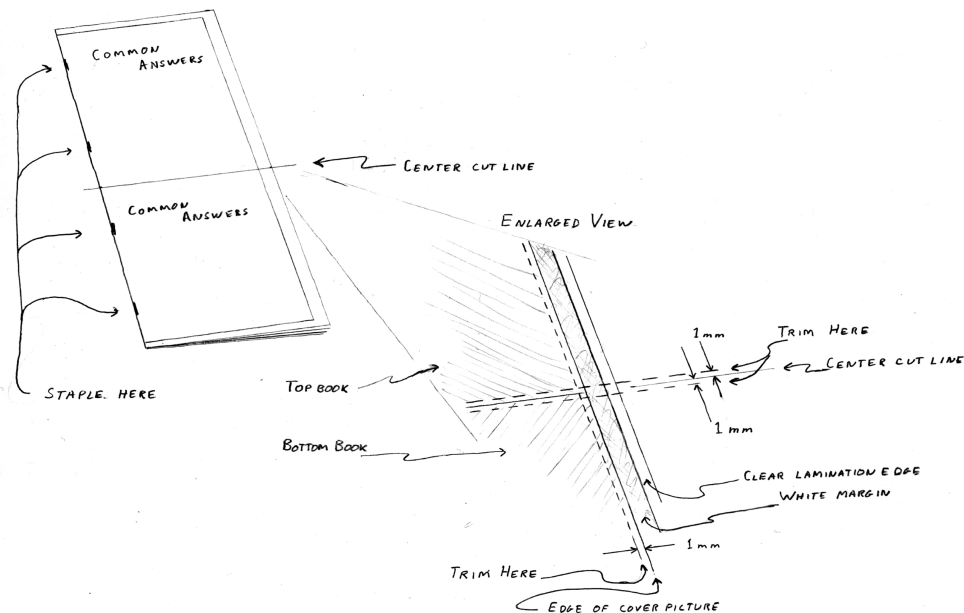
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Pages 1-end

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Finishing:

1. Laminate both sides of the cover. If only one side is laminated, the pages will curl with changes in temperature and humidity.
2. Fold each page in half long-wise and place the pages in their final booklet order.
3. Since the lamination edges will be cut off, make sure the inside booklet pages line up with the cover page inside the lamination--not the outside clear edge of the lamination.
4. Place 4 staples approximately equally spaced along the fold-line and about 1.25 inches away from the outside edges.
5. With a ruler and razor blade (or an industrial paper cutter), cut into two equally-sized books.
6. Trim off the margins including about 1mm of the cover's picture on the top, bottom, and non-stapled edge. Although removing the laminated edges reduces the protection that is typical of laminated pages, it still leaves significant protection to the book, and makes the book more comfortable to handle.





God's Law of Liberty

Part 1
and 2



Units G and H

God's Law of Liberty

Part 1
and 2



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Units G and H

God's Law of Liberty,

Part 1 and 2

Bill and Shelley Houser

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Ready Answers, William and Rochelle Houser,
2013 Old State Route 66, Newburgh, IN 47630,
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Phone: (011) 812-858-9241.

1

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1

In this multi-part lesson, we want to address the question, “What laws are still important for Christians today?” Many would say that only the 10 Commandments are important, but 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 lists additional behaviors which are not clearly expressed in the 10 Commandments, that will keep people from entering God’s kingdom. This list includes drunkenness and homosexual behavior.

When the early church leaders were asked if circumcision was important for Gentile Christians, they responded with a list of instructions which doesn’t completely match either 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, or the Ten Commandments.

When Jesus explained to the rich young ruler what he needed to do to be saved, Jesus listed several of the 10 Commandments¹. Yet this list didn’t include idolatry or many of the other things listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 or what the early church leaders said.

None of these lists appear to be complete in themselves. This study attempts to tie the contents of these, and the various other similar lists in the Bible, together in a logical way.

In part 1, we will start by seeing how God’s laws give us liberty. In part 2, we will study the laws in God’s key covenants and see how Jesus confirmed them. In part 3, we will see how the ruling from the council at Jerusalem together with the Sinai covenant, as strengthened by Jesus, provide a complete list of what laws are still important for Christians today.

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End Notes (Continued)

His church to issue some judgments:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matthew 18:15-18

Notice that this instruction is placed between two parables. One shows how God is like a shepherd with 100 sheep who delights in restoring the one that was lost (Matthew 18:10-14). The other parable explains that if we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us (Matthew 18:23-35). We should love mercy when considering church judgment. (p. 49)

- ¹⁷ Ezekiel 18:30 was chosen for memorizing because it explains the meaning of repentance. Jesus also preached repentance, Mark 1:15. (p. 52)

70



God created a perfect world for Adam and Eve. They were free from sin and its bondage. God loved Adam and Eve; so, He told them how to remain free, saying "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it."² If Adam and Eve had followed this command, they would have avoided much pain and sorrow.

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Satan deceived them by saying that God was trying to keep something good from them,³ but this was a lie. They were not better off by breaking God's law, because they exchanged their beautiful home and health for death.

End Notes (Continued)

sins. Jesus paid for all of them by His death. (p. 39)

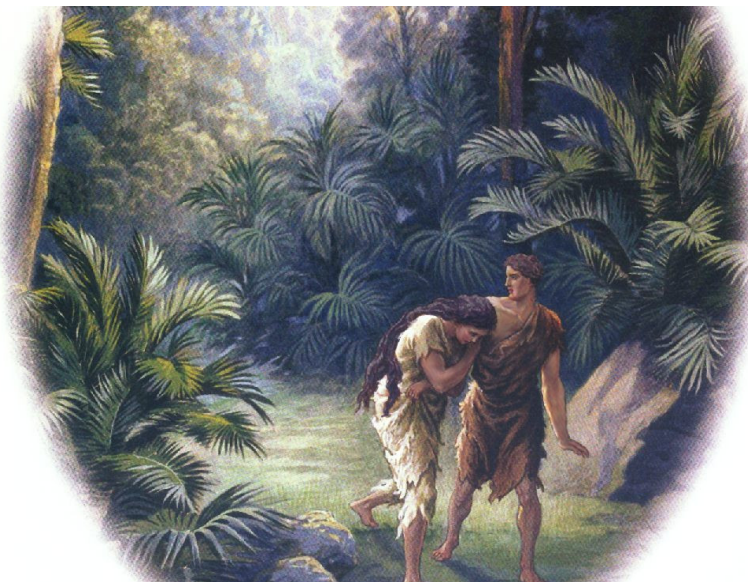
¹⁴ Since Jesus said that we shouldn't even think that He would destroy the law, the fact that not every one is clearly re-stated doesn't mean that any were canceled. We can see some hint of His confirmation of all 10 of the Ten Commandments:

Exodus	Description	Jesus
20:3	No other gods	Mat 22:37
20:4-6	No idols	John 4:24
20:7	Name in vain	Mat 5:33-37
20:8-11	Sabbath	Mark 2:27-28, Luke 4:16, Mat 24:20
20:12	Honor parents	Mat 15:4-9
20:13	Don't kill	Mat 5:21-22
20:14	No adultery	Mat 19:9,18
20:15	Don't steal	Mat 19:18
20:16	No false witness	Mat 19:18
20:17	Don't covet	Mat 19:21-22

(p. 43)

¹⁵ 2 Kings 6:22-23 (p. 44)

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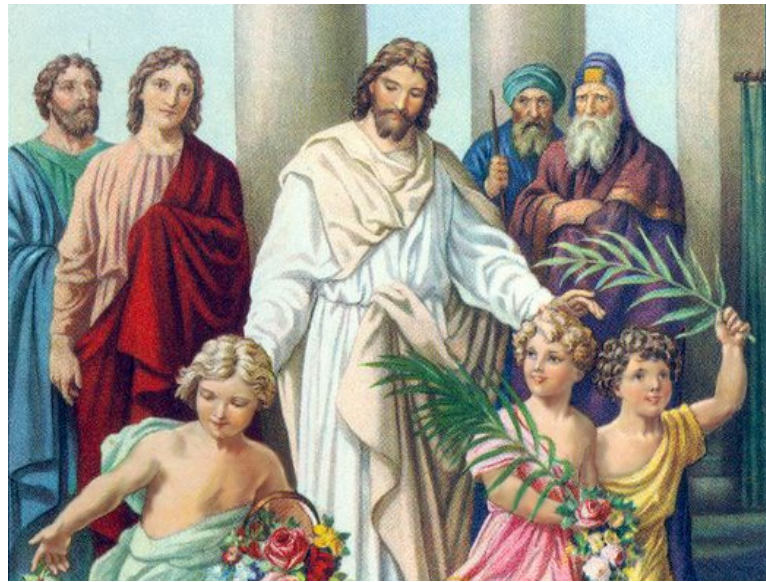
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- 12 : 10 See whom they pierced. Mom mourned, too Luke 23 : 27, John 19 : 25
- 13 : 1 Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness John 19 : 34
- 13 : 6 Friend wants to see his hands John 20 : 27
- 11 : 4 Feed my sheep (p. 38) John 21 : 15–17

¹³ Exodus 21 : 17 gives the punishment for cursing parents and Exodus 21 : 12 gives the one for killing people. Both punishments are death. Leviticus 4 : 1–Leviticus 6 : 7 lists the sacrifices for sins, but indicate they are only for sins committed unintentionally. Numbers 15 : 30–31 indicates that people who knew the law and broke it anyway should be cut off. King David understood this but also knew that God is merciful to those who truly repent. When Nathan the prophet showed him that David had committed murder and adultery, David repented and would have offered a sacrifice if God wanted one. (Psalm 51, especially the heading and verses 15–16.)

Notice that Isaiah 53 : 5 doesn't exclude intentional



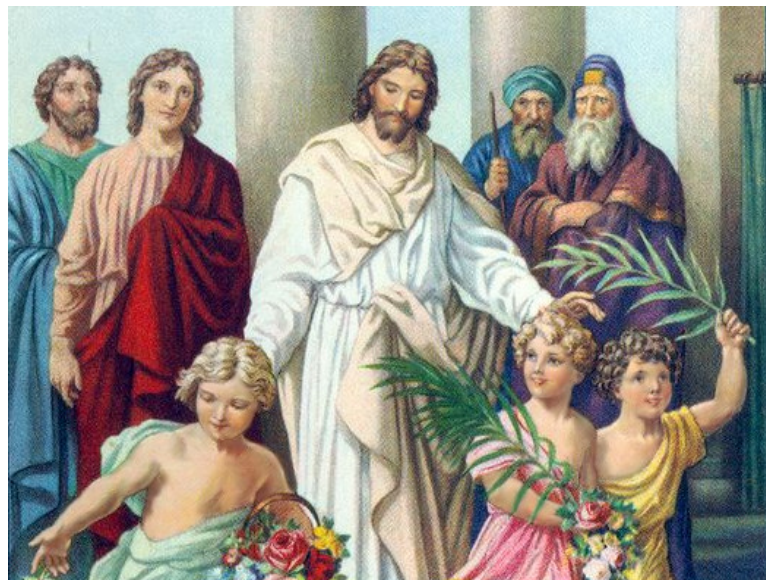
God loves us, too, and to help us avoid sorrow and the bondage of addictive, sinful habits, He has given us instructions, forgiveness, grace, a test to identify false teachers, and help. Let's start with looking at this instruction: **He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?** Micah 6 : 8

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Do Justly

“To do justly” means that we should follow God’s laws.

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¹² Prophecies in Zechariah which Jesus fulfilled:

Zech.	Description	Jesus
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11:12	Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:14-16
13:6	Betrayed by a friend	Matthew 26:21-25, Luke 22:47-48
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² Genesis 2:17 (p. 3)

³ Genesis 3:5 (p. 4)

⁴ Genesis 9:1–7 (p. 19)

⁵ Genesis 17:9–14 (p. 25)

⁶ Exodus 24:7 (p. 27)

⁷ Exodus 21:12, 28 (p. 28)

⁸ Exodus 23:25–26 (p. 29)

⁹ Exodus 24:3, 7–11 (p. 29)

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 29:12–15 (p. 31)

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Walk Humbly

“To walk humbly” means that we should remember we need God’s mercy and shouldn’t feel that we are better than others.

Picture Sources (Continued)

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- p. 50 our own creation, 03q3Laws.xcf - Jesus Judges.
- p. 51 The Prodigal Son from freebibleimages.org 04-Prodigal_Son_1024, 05-Prodigal_Son_1024, 10-Prodigal_Son_1024, 18-Prodigal_Son_1024, 19-Prodigal_Son_1024
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- p. 57 Combination of previous pictures from this lesson: G145, G155, G165, G365, G411, and G413



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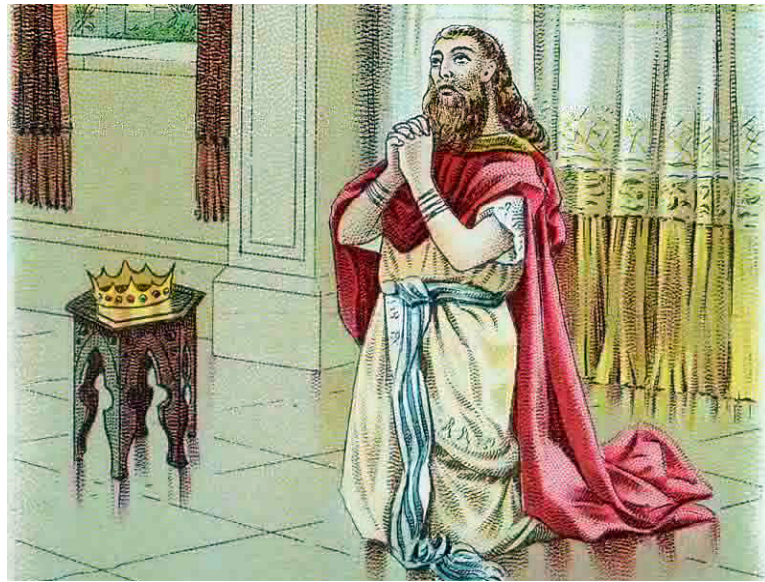
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- p. 41 Moses brings Ten Commandments to Israel 1121-153 from the Ultimate Bible Picture Collection and Jesus teaches crowd from Ultimate Bible Picture Collection same as C135 and G416
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- p. 44 freebibleimages.org 02_Elisha_Aram_1024 arabs for Christ.com
- p. 45 Alex studying Bible
- p. 46 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 47 God giving law from Ultimate Bible Picture Collection with "Love God, Love Each Other" added.
- p. 48 Esther_Denouncing_Haman_Ernest_Normand-300x153 public domain. Is also used for Unit C Mat 7 : 1-2



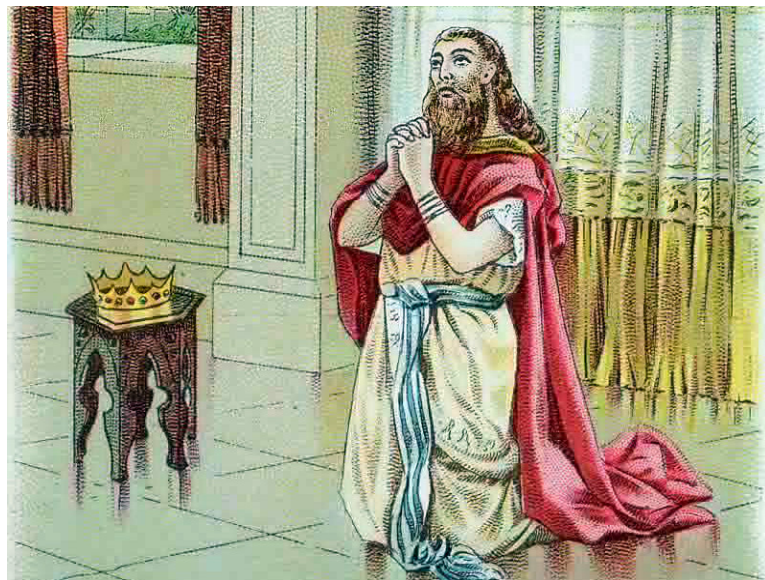
We have looked at His instruction to help us avoid the bondage of sin. He also offers forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1 :9

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Through forgiveness, God offers us favor even though we have not kept his laws. This is called grace. God's grace does not give us permission to continue to sin, however. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Romans 6 : 15

Picture Sources (Continued)

- p. 34 Artist's rendition of Ezekiel's temple. Ezekiels3rdTemple from <http://biblocality.com/forums/showthread.php?5274-Muslims-Deny-the-Existence-of-Solomon-s-Temple> Posted on 06-29-2013, 06:23 PM by Finestwheat
- p. 35 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 36 Compilation of *Jesus Silences the Pharisees and Sadducees* Mark 12 : 13-27 from thebiblerevival.com clipart 1906, and an image of the veil rent from <http://richardgross.net/2015/03/from-the-desk-of-deacon-richard-15> and an image of Jesus as king from www-St-Takla-org...Jesus-Second-Coming-Advent-01
- p. 37 our own creation, 03qLaw.xcf
- p. 38 Jesus on Cross 7-69 from Ultimate Bible Picture Collection
- p. 39 Jesus last days 41. Picture used with permission: (c)2006 www.TheGloryStory.com
- p. 40 Jesus Gives Sermon on the Mount: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon_on_the_Mount#/media/File:Blach-SermonOnTheMount.jpg public domain. Also used for unit C.



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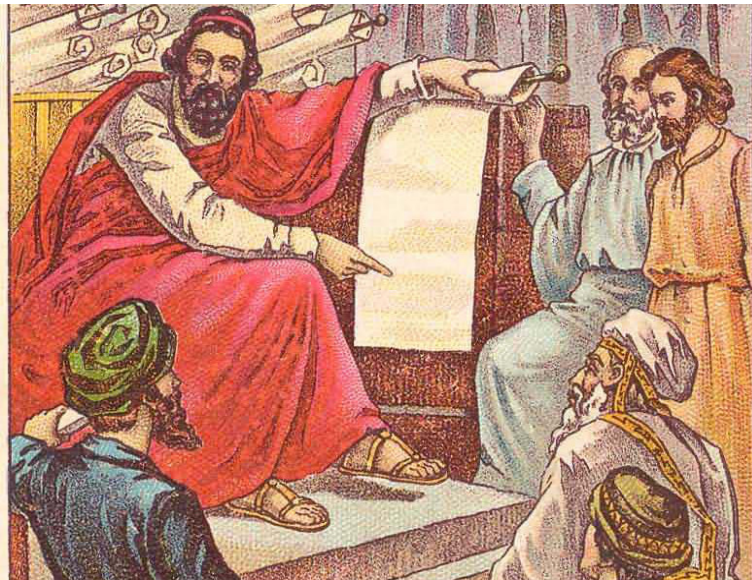
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- p. 29 Moses Reading the Book of the Covenant: freebibleimages.org 28_Moses_Sinai_JPEG_1024
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- p. 31 freebibleimages.org 03_Philip_Ethopian_JPEG
- p. 32 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alanenglish/7868241458/> Photo by ALHikesAZ titled Cliff dwelling - Keet Seel - Kawestima - Navajo National Monument
- p. 33 From <http://iamthewordthecomforter.blogspot.com/2010/04/cults-words-of-encouragement-for-people.html>

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Picture Sources (Continued)

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- p. 25 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 26 Two pictures from freebibleimages.org: 08_Abraham_Strangers_JPEG_1024 and 03_Abraham_Promise_JPEG_1024.
- p. 27 Mt. Sinai from www-St-Takla-org-Bible-Slides-exodus-401. Used for Exodus 20:19 in unit B.
- p. 28 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 29 Moses Reading the Book of the Covenant: freebibleimages.org 28_Moses_Sinai_JPEG_1024
- p. 30 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf - no abominations, other regulations
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62



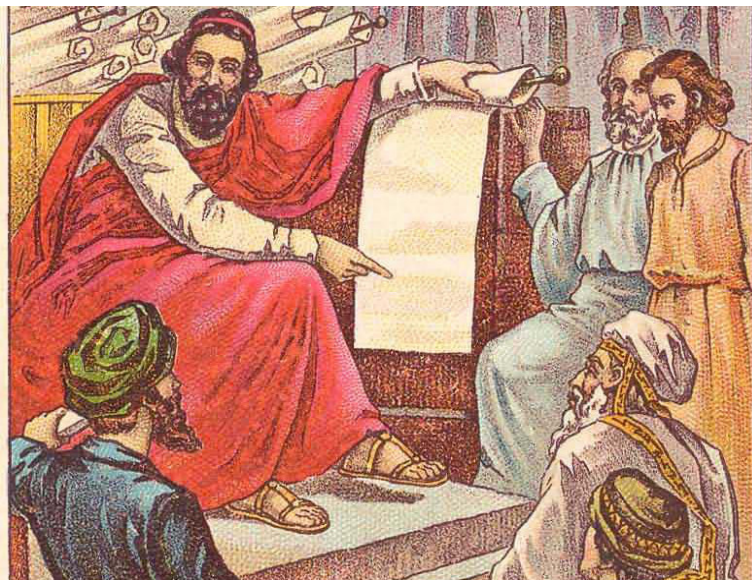
To stay free from sin we also need to know how to identify a false teacher.

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:20

Some people disregard God's laws, thinking this gives them freedom. They try to convince others to join them, just like Satan did with Adam and Eve. We should not be deceived by this lie.

11



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- p. 13 <http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/Pictures/Standard%20Bible%20Story%20Readers,%20Book%20One/images/scan0071.jpg> Standard Bible Story Readers, Book One – Seeking the Lost Sheep in the Mountains, Matthew 18:12
- p. 14 Boys Giving Grandma Flowers. Our own photo.
- p. 15 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 16 Our marriage covenant
- p. 17 our own creation, 03qLaws.xcf
- p. 18 Same as picture D115. *Adam and Eve Offering Sacrifices* by Keith Larson adam-eve-offering-sacrifice-larson.1260143.inl from <http://www.lds.org>
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61




While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 2 Peter 2:19–20

12

Picture Sources (Continued)

- p. 13 <http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/Pictures/Standard%20Bible%20Story%20Readers,%20Book%20One/images/scan0071.jpg> Standard Bible Story Readers, Book One – Seeking the Lost Sheep in the Mountains, Matthew 18:12
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Picture Sources

- p. 0 Photo of rainbow is from <http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-everlasting-covenant-44431/>
- p. 3 Adam & Eve with Light From Heaven from Ultimate Bible Picture Collection. This picture is also used for unit I.
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God has promised to strengthen us and to help us stop repeating sinful behavior.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
Isaiah 41 : 10



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After God has helped us out of bondage to sin, He can help us remain free. By observing God's laws, we are free from sin and can enjoy true liberty.

So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

Psalm 119:44-45



In the next part of this lesson, we will see how God's covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and all people are parts of His unified and everlasting covenant.



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So the covenant God made at Sinai, as recorded in Exodus 20–23, has been offered to all and has not been replaced or cancelled. It is still in force, but Jesus’ death removed the need for sacrifices and oblations, as predicted in the prophets. The Sinai covenant still remains, and has been strengthened by Jesus. In this lesson, we have seen how keeping God’s law brings true liberty, and by breaking it we get into the bondage of sin. We have seen God is merciful and will forgive us for sinning if we ask Him, and He will help us keep His laws and become perfect.

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood				=		
Be Perfect				=		
10 Commandments				<		

Judgements What Should be Done if...

I Sin				<		
Others Sin				<		

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations				=		
Other Regulations				≠		

God’s laws and the blessings for following them are described in His covenants. We will complete this chart as we study the covenants God made at Eden, at Ararat, with Abram, with the Israelites at Sinai, and with us through Jesus. There are two sections on this chart that are not part of the covenants: The Council at Jerusalem recorded in Acts, and other rules in the Bible God gave to help us choose the things that please Him.



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10 Commandments				<		

Judgements What Should be Done if...

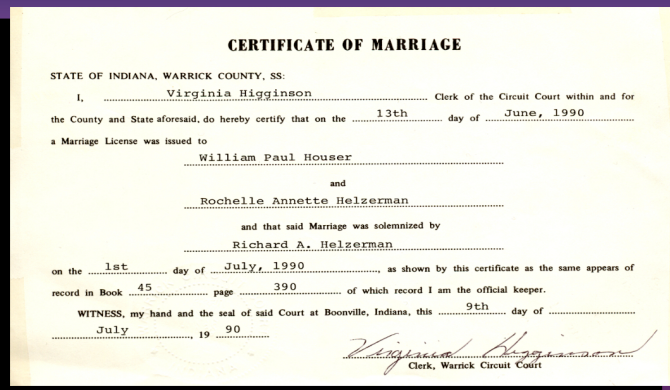
I Sin				<		
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Covenants



What is a covenant? A covenant is an agreement between two people. It is offered by one person and willingly accepted by the other person. The agreement must include promises by each person to do something for the other person. The promises made by each person must be lawful, and morally right. Any change to the covenant must be agreed to by both people. If either person doesn't do what he promised, the covenant is broken, and the other person is not obligated to keep his promise anymore either. The covenant can include penalties or judgments for whoever breaks the agreement.



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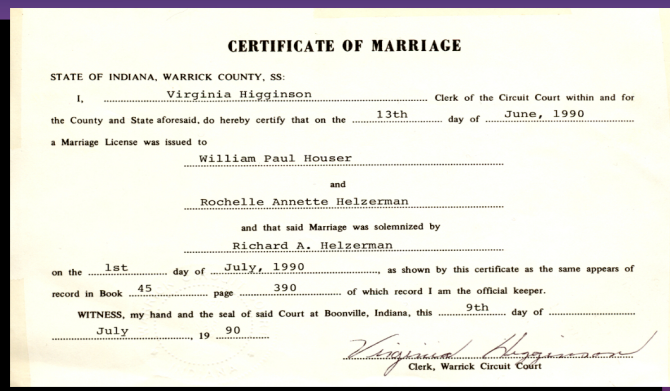


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Jesus' instruction can be summarized by the same simple instruction God gave us in Micah 6:8. While confirming the covenant, He taught that:
"To do justly" still means we should follow God's laws.
"To love mercy" requires that we forgive each other.
We need "to walk humbly" for God to exalt us.

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Law **Covenant** = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments		X	<	X

Judgements Jesus is Sacrifice & Judge

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<	Repent
Others Sin	Make Right or Death	<	Forgive

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations		X	=	X
Other Regulations	X	X	≠	

As we see on this chart, Jesus confirmed the covenant by strengthening both the laws and the judgments, as Daniel said He would. He has paid the penalty for our sins if we will repent and forgive others.

Law **Covenant** = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood			=	
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The Bible doesn't say much about the agreement God made with Adam and Eve after they sinned; but we know He forgave them, because they didn't die the day that they sinned, as their proper punishment should have been. We also suspect God explained to Adam and Eve how their sins could be forgiven through repentance and sacrifices.

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Eat no Blood	X		=	
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God then promised an end to sin when He told Satan there would be a hatred between Satan's followers and God's followers, and that God would eventually destroy Satan and his followers.

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15



And to receive God's honor, Jesus taught that we must be humble.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:12



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No Abominations		X	=	X
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We also need to show that we love mercy by forgiving others.

The next covenant we want to look at is the one God made with Noah on Mount Ararat. After Noah and his family left the Ark, God said He would bless them with many children, and said the animals would now be afraid of them. He then gave them some commands and judgments.⁴

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments			<	X

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I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<
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Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations		=
Other Regulations		≠



The law was that they could eat animals now, but should not eat blood. The judgment was that any animal or person that kills another person should be put to death.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
Matthew 6: 14-15

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood		X	=	
Be Perfect			=	
10 Commandments			<	

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No Abominations		X	=	X
Other Regulations	X	X	≠	



To receive a favorable judgment, we need to repent¹⁷ of our sins, and do justly. What else is required?

After presenting these laws, God promised never again to destroy the animals and people of the earth with floods of waters. God called this an everlasting covenant.

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
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And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.
Genesis 9 : 16



Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
Ezekiel 18 : 30



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Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments			X	<

Judgements Jesus is Sacrifice & Judge

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<
Others Sin	Make Right or Death	<

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations		X	=	X
Other Regulations	X	X	≠	

With God as our judge, how can we receive a favorable judgment?

50

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About 475 years later, God promised an important blessing to Abram, later called Abraham. We will see that God would offer this blessing through the covenant made with his descendants. This covenant would also be available to all families of the earth.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:3

23

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments			X	<

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Genesis 12:3

23



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Now let's look at God's covenant with Abram.
 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
 Genesis 17:1

So we should not judge,¹⁶ but Jesus strengthens this part of the covenant, too, as we will see in the next verse. Instead of us judging, the Bible tells us that Christ will do the judging.
 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.
 2 Corinthians 5:10



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Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X	=		
Be Perfect	⊗	=		
10 Commandments		<		

Judgements What Should be Done if...

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<		
Others Sin	Make Right or Death	<		

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations		=		
Other Regulations	⊗	≠		

So, Jesus strengthened the covenant by saying we should avoid thoughts that lead to sin and by saying we should love. What does He say about the Judgments?

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. Matthew 7:1-2

It is interesting to see God asked Abram to be perfect. Later, we will see Jesus gave the same instruction to His followers. As a sign of his agreement to this covenant, God also told him that he and all his male descendents should be circumcised.⁵ We will see in part 3 of this lesson that the Council at Jerusalem discussed if circumcision is important for Gentiles.



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In the same conversation, God renamed Abram by calling him Abraham. God also promised that He would make His everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 17:7

Later in Jesus' ministry, he explained the law and the prophets could be summarized by two ideas: Love God, and love each other.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40



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Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments		X	<	X

Judgements Jesus is Sacrifice

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<
Others Sin	Make Right or Death	<

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations		X	=	X
Other Regulations	X	X	≠	

This matches the covenant God made with Abraham, in that he, too, was told to be perfect.

46



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God made a covenant with Abraham's descendants. When God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He brought them to Mount Sinai and told them what to do and what to avoid, so they could stay free from the slavery of sin. Moses recorded this agreement in Exodus 20-23, and called it the Book of the Covenant.⁶

27

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

Eden + Ararat + Abram + Sinai = Jesus + Council

Eat no Blood	X		=	
Be Perfect		X	=	X
10 Commandments		X	<	X

Judgements Jesus is Sacrifice

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<
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10 Commandments			X	<

Judgements What Should be Done if...

I Sin Repent & Sacrifice <

Others Sin Make Right or Death >

Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations			=	
Other Regulations		X	≠	

This book contains two sets of rules: the Ten Commandments and The Judgments. The Ten Commandments give the basic rules of how to love God and how to love each other. The judgments not only describe penalties for breaking the rules, but also help us understand more completely what the rules mean. The Sinai Covenant repeats some of the Ararat judgments,⁷ but it doesn't talk about not eating blood. The judgments for criminals were generally for them to suffer the same loss they had caused, or to make things right. But if this was not possible, they were to be put to death.

28



Jesus concludes this section of his Sermon on the Mount by telling us to be perfect.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

45

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Jesus continued to strengthen the covenant by commanding that we should love even our enemies.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matthew 5:44

Hundreds of years earlier, God gave this same instruction to the king of Israel. By doing this, the king enjoyed lasting peace with his enemies.¹⁵

God promised the Israelites that if they would obey Him, He would bless their food, water, and health.⁸ They agreed to this covenant with God.⁹

And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. Exodus 24:7-8



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Be Perfect		X	=		
10 Commandments			X	<	

Judgements What Should be Done if...

I Sin	Repent & Sacrifice	<	
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Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations			X	=	
Other Regulations		X	X	≠	

The rules of a covenant are very important; but for any covenant relationship to be pleasant and joyful, each person must want to do more than what is minimally required. In our relationship with God, we need to obey the rules and should also want to do other things that please Him. To help the Israelites know what would please Him, God told them to avoid what He calls abominations, and explained other regulations.

Law Covenant = Law + Judgements

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This is just one of the many commandments that Jesus confirmed or made stronger by his words and actions.¹⁴

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Jesus explained that thoughts and actions which lead to breaking this covenant should also be avoided. One of these examples is...

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

42

The Sinai Covenant is available to all who want to become God's people.¹⁰ God promises to give them a place and a name within His home.

For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;

Isaiah 56:4

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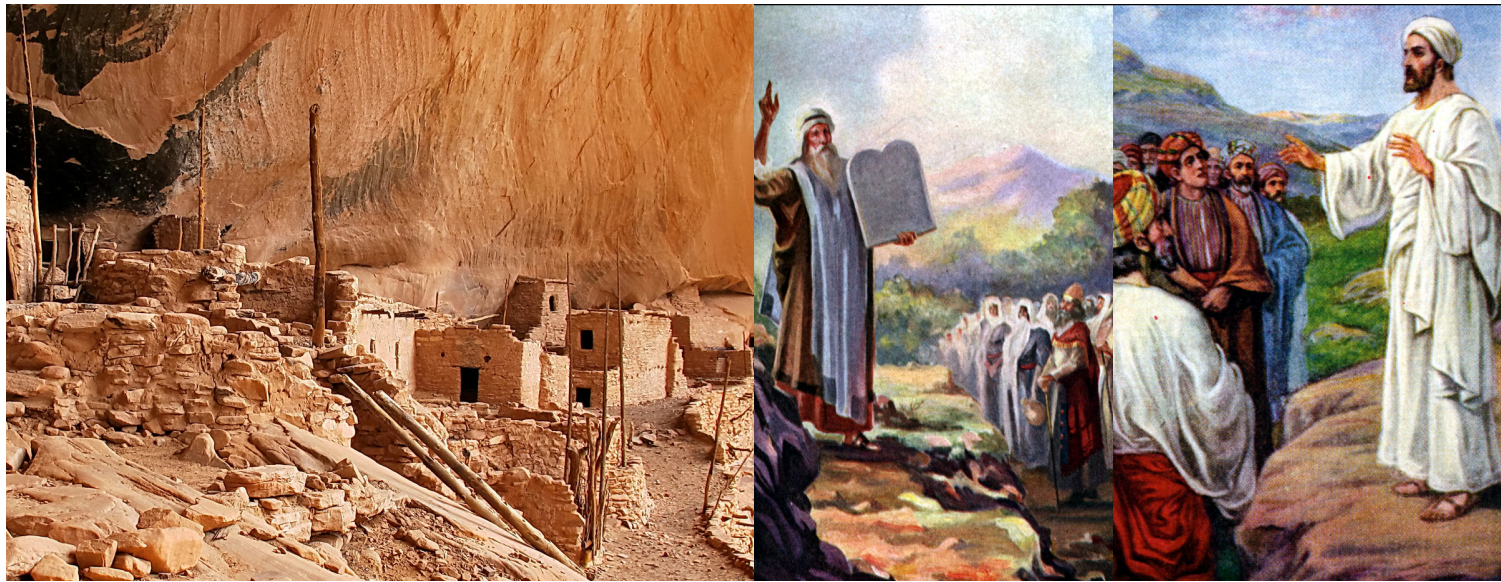
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Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 56:5

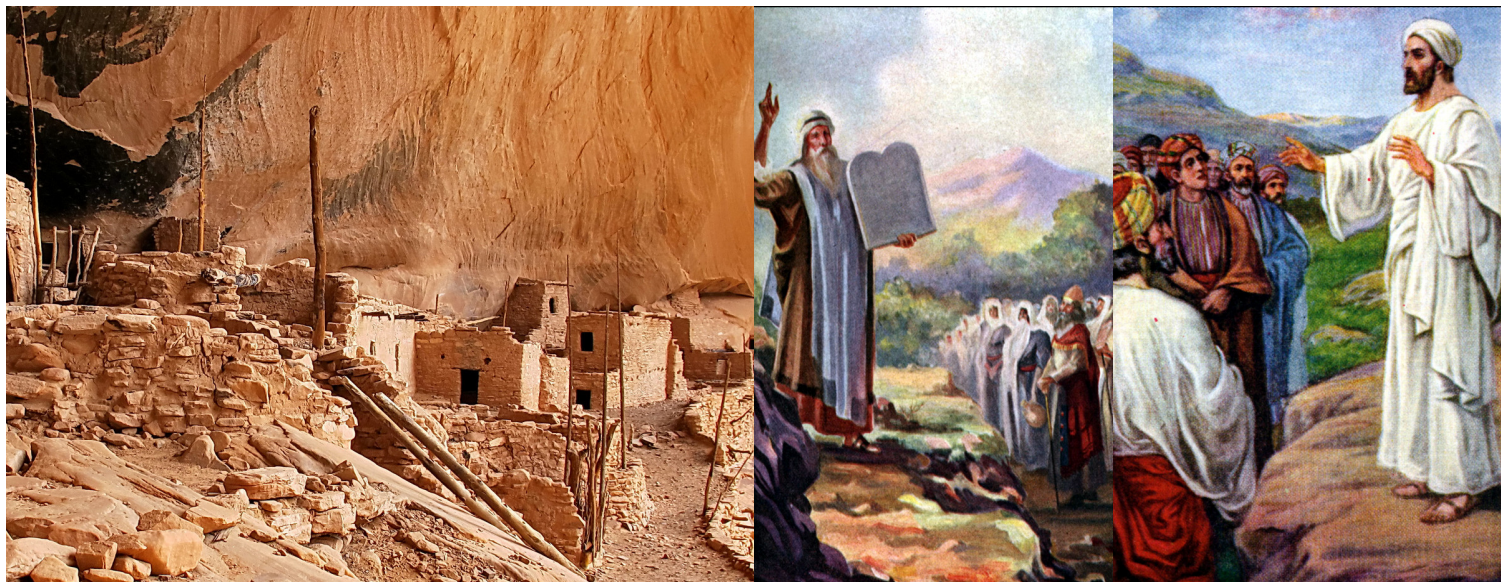
32

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

Matthew 5:17-18

Jesus then quotes several examples from the Book of the Covenant, and strengthens it, like Daniel said He would.

41



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We have seen that at His death, Jesus would cause the sacrifices and oblations to cease. Did He say anything about confirming the covenant? Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount early in His ministry. In this sermon, He talks specifically about how we should think about the Sinai Covenant, and the Old Testament prophets.

40



Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Isaiah 56 : 6

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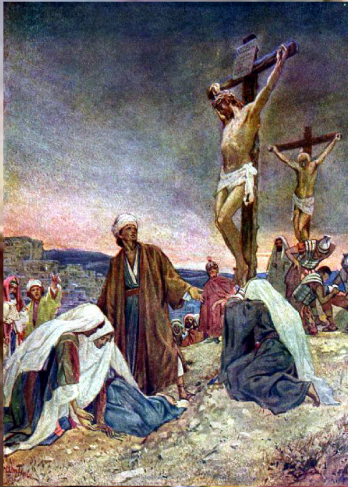
Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. Isaiah 56 : 7

Not only did Jesus' death fill these requirements, he also paid for the sins which sacrifices could not cover. This includes cursing parents, murdering, and any sin that the criminal already knew was wrong.¹³ Jesus is willing to be responsible for all of our sins, if we accept his death as our punishment. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53 : 5



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Be Perfect		X	=		
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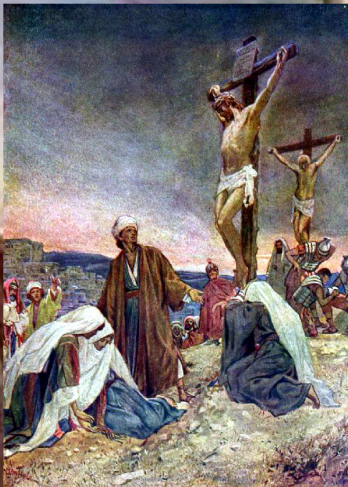
Are there any other verses that predict that Jesus would fill the need for sacrifices and offerings when He died? Yes.

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Zechariah 13 : 1

The book of Zechariah has many other prophecies which Jesus also fulfilled.¹² So it agrees with Daniel's prophecy by saying that Jesus would fulfill the part of the law and prophets that require sacrifices and offerings.

So everyone can join God's Covenant, if they keep God's sabbaths, and choose the things that please Him, and take hold of His covenant. This is very similar to the New Testament passage 1 John 3 : 22 which says that if we keep God's commandments and do the things that please Him, He will give us whatever we ask.



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Will this covenant last forever? Some people might think that the Messiah would replace this covenant. Let's take a look at the prophecies about the Messiah to learn about His mission. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:27

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Judgements **Jesus is Sacrifice**

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Choose What Pleases God

No Abominations			X	=	X
Other Regulations		X	X	≠	

This prophecy says that Jesus, the Messiah, would confirm or strengthen¹¹ the covenant, and would stop sacrifices and offerings. Notice that he will make things desolate because of abominations. Later, in part 3, we will take a closer look at what God considers abominations.



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