

Doctrine of the Mosaic Law

1. The Law of Moses is given in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.
2. The Law of Moses can be arranged in three sets of rules and regulations known as Codices.
 - Codex I. The Moral Code. Summarized in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17 and in Deuteronomy 5:6-21, the Decalogue defines morality. No nation which violates the Decalogue can survive as a great civilization.
 - Codex II. The Spiritual Code detailed the ordinances regarding the Tabernacle, Holy Days, Levitical Offerings, dress and daily life of the Levitical Priesthood, as well as how a believer was to worship the Lord.
 - Codex III. The Social Code provided the various judgments that were to be rendered in relation to dietary laws, laws of sanitation, quarantine, soil conservation, taxation, military service, marriage, divorce, and many other areas of life.
3. The Law was given to the Hebrew people so that they could be a source of blessing to other nations according to the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - *Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*
 - *Exodus 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;*
 - *Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the Lord made between him and the children of Israel in Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.*
4. The Law given to the Hebrew people was superior to the laws of other nations.
 - *Deuteronomy 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?*
5. The Law is called in Scripture, the “Book of the Covenant” in order to emphasize the grace and mercy of the Sovereign God. Honoring the Lord would produce great prosperity.
 - *Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*

6. While the Law was intended to be the means of bringing the blessings of God upon the nation of Israel, failure to keep the Law was called breaking the Covenant.
 - *Deuteronomy 31:16 And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.*
 - *Deuteronomy 31:20 For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.*
 - *Jeremiah 22:9 Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.*
7. When the Law was initially given, the people were eager to embrace and keep it.
 - *Exodus 24:7 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.*
8. In time, the Law became a heavy burden to people, especially when it was interpreted by the Pharisees.
 - *Matthew 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*
9. The Law has no authority over the Christian living in the New Testament era.
 - *Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses...24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:*
 - *Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
 - *Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*
10. Christ is the fulfillment of the Law.
 - *Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

11. Christ fulfilled all the Codices of the Law.

- Codex I of the Law was fulfilled by Christ living a perfect life during His Incarnation. *John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*
- Codex II of the Law was fulfilled by Christ by His death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and session. *1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- Codex III of the Law was fulfilled by Christ by His obedience to Parental, Religious, and Civil Authorities.

Parental authority. *Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.*

Religious authority. Jesus kept the Law and taught others to keep the Law. *Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*

Civil authority. *Mark 12:17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.*

12. Because Christ is the end of the Law for all who believe, the Christian is to operate under a new principle, a higher law, the law of the life of the Spirit.

- *Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
- *Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*
- *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

13. Every Christian should rejoice that the Law has come to an end, and oppose every movement, including the Messianic Movement, that would bring individuals back under the Law. Notice the limitations of the Law.

- The Law cannot justify.

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

- The Law cannot give eternal life. *Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*
- The Law cannot give the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
- The Law cannot perform a miracle. *Galatians 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
- The Law cannot provide freedom from the indwelling presence of sin.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

14. Though the Law of Moses was temporary and limited, it had a profound purpose and, by way of application, still has a purpose in principle. Specifically, the Law serves as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

- *Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

15. Care must be taken not to make an enemy of the Law of Moses, nor to pit Moses against Christ, for the Law is holy, just, and good.

- *Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*