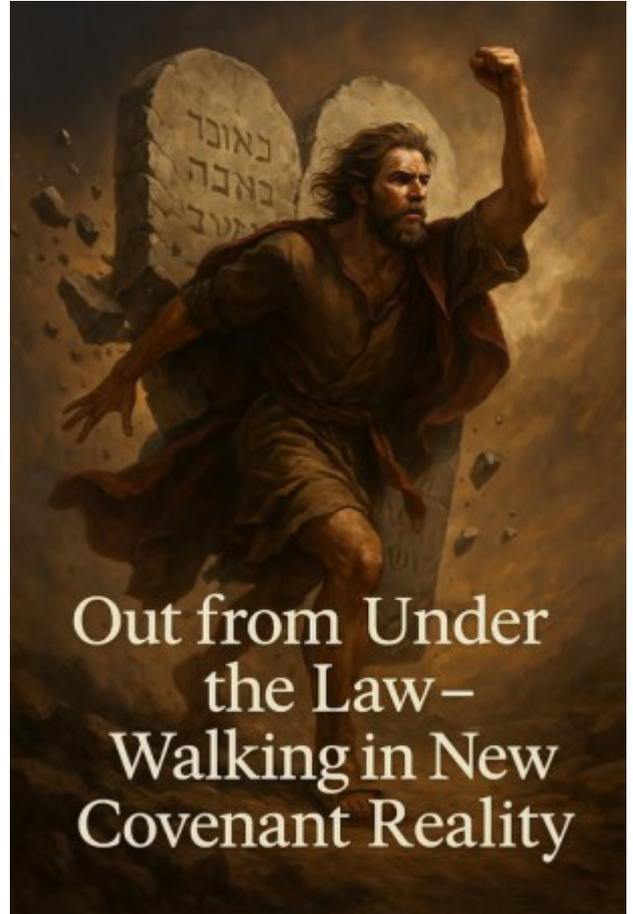


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Law - Out from Under the Law - Walking in New Covenant Reality



By Dan Maines

Out from Under the Law - Walking in New Covenant Reality

Many Christians today still live as if they are under the Old Covenant. They say they believe in Christ, yet they cling to rules, rituals and laws that were never intended to last forever. They may not realize it, but they are living in bondage to a covenant that God has already brought to an end. The reality of the New Covenant is here. It is not coming someday, it has come. The Old has passed. The New has arrived.

The Law Was a Yoke of Bondage Peter himself stood up in the council in Acts 15:10 and said, "Now therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our forefathers nor we have been able to bear?" The law was a burden, not a blessing. It was never meant to bring freedom, only to expose the weight of guilt.

Paul's Testimony in Romans Paul's letter to the Romans leaves no doubt about the nature and purpose of the law.

"Because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20)

"For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified." (Romans 4:14)

"For the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation." (Romans 4:15)

"The Law came in so that the offense would increase."
(Romans 5:20)

"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace." (Romans 6:14)

"You also were put to death in regard to the Law... so that you might belong to another." (Romans 7:4)

"But now we have been released from the Law." (Romans 7:6)

"The very commandment which was to bring life proved to result in death for me." (Romans 7:10)

"So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." (Romans 7:12)

"So that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful." (Romans 7:13)

"For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the Law of sin and of death." (Romans 8:2)

"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did." (Romans 8:3)

Even though the law was holy, it had no power to make anyone holy. It showed the standard but gave no ability to reach it. It revealed the disease but offered no cure.

Paul's Words to the Corinthians Paul's message to Corinth confirms the law's role as a ministry of death.

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law." (1 Corinthians 15:56)

"But if the ministry of death, engraved on stones, came with glory... how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?" (2 Corinthians 3:7-8)

"The ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness excel in glory." (2 Corinthians 3:9)

"For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory, because of the glory that surpasses it." (2 Corinthians 3:10)

"For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory." (2 Corinthians 3:11)

"But their minds were hardened. For until this very day at the reading of the Old Covenant the same veil remains unlifted." (2 Corinthians 3:14)

"But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:15)

The law had a fading glory. It was never meant to last. It served its purpose. But now, in Christ, we live in something better.

To the Galatians – The Law Brings Slavery, Not Freedom

Paul did not hold back when speaking to the Galatians about their foolishness in returning to the law.

"A person is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 2:16)

"For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live for God." (Galatians 2:19)

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." (Galatians 2:21)

"You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?" (Galatians 3:1)

"For all who are of works of the Law are under a curse." (Galatians 3:10)

"However, the Law is not of faith." (Galatians 3:12)

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law." (Galatians 3:13)

"The Law... was added on account of the violations, until the Seed would come." (Galatians 3:19)

"Now before faith came, we were kept in custody under the Law." (Galatians 3:23)

"She is Hagar, representing Mount Sinai... she is enslaved with her children." (Galatians 4:24)

"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law." (Galatians 5:18)

The law was temporary, designed to lead to Christ. Once He came, it had fulfilled its purpose.

Ephesians, Philippians, Timothy – Same Message Paul taught the same message everywhere:

"By abolishing in His flesh the hostility, which is the Law composed of commandments expressed in ordinances." (Ephesians 2:15)

"I count them all as loss... more than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ." (Philippians 3:7-8)

"But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully." (1 Timothy 1:8)

"Realizing that the Law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious." (1 Timothy 1:9)

The law was not made for the righteous in Christ. It was made for sinners, to reveal sin.

Hebrews – The Law Could Never Make Perfect The writer of Hebrews confirms the weakness of the law:

"For, on the one hand, there is the nullification of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness." (Hebrews 7:18)

"For the Law made nothing perfect." (Hebrews 7:19)

"For if that first covenant had been free of fault, no circumstances would have been sought for a second."
(Hebrews 8:7)

"When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete." (Hebrews 8:13)

"For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the form of those things itself, can never... make the worshipers perfect." (Hebrews 10:1)

The law was only a shadow. Christ is the substance. The Old Covenant faded. The New remains forever.

The Old Covenant Was Heavier on Curses Than Blessings

Deuteronomy 28 gives a clear picture. Only 13 verses speak of blessing (28:1-13). But there are 65 verses of curses (27:15-26, 28:16-68). The law was not a path to blessing. It was a constant reminder of failure. Its entire design was to point the people to their need for a Savior.

The Law Exposed the Problem – But Could Never Fix It

Romans 5:20 says, "The Law came in so that the offense would increase." 1 Corinthians 15:56 says, "The power of sin is the Law." The law didn't stop sin. It stirred it up. It inflamed it. It showed the utter sinfulness of sin.

The Purpose of the Law Was to Drive Us to Christ

The law was never meant to be the solution. It was the diagnosis. It was not given to make men righteous, but to show them their deep unrighteousness. It showed that God's standard was far above anything man could reach.

But now Christ has come. He fulfilled the law. He met every requirement. He bore its curse. And now we are free.

We do not live in the shadow. We live in the light. We do not live under the yoke of bondage. We live in the freedom of the Spirit. We do not return to the old. We walk in the new.

Let us not live like we are still under the law. That covenant is obsolete. It has vanished. Let us walk in the New Covenant, the one established in Christ's blood, where grace reigns and righteousness is received by faith.

"So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free." (John 8:36) Amen.

The image is symbolic, not meant to depict a specific biblical person. The man represents someone breaking free from the Old Covenant law, illustrated by the shattered stone tablets behind him and walking into the reality of the New Covenant. His appearance is meant to evoke strength, resolve, and liberation, not to portray a particular historical or biblical figure like Moses or Jesus.

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