

# Applying the Law

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# True or False?

Are these actual laws somewhere in the world?

- The law requires people to take a bath once a year
- It is illegal to own a dog
- By law, people must know how to read in order to get married

Kentucky

Reykjavik,

Iceland

Finland

# To Clip or Not to Clip?



Lev 19:27– "Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard."



**Are we  
living  
under  
law?**

**Can I  
eat  
pork?**

**Should I  
obey the  
Sabbath?**

**What do you think?**

**LAW**

**How does  
the Law  
relate to  
us?**

**Does God  
require me  
to tithe?**

**Can  
Christians  
eat blood  
(e.g.,  
yong tau  
foo, blood  
pudding)?**

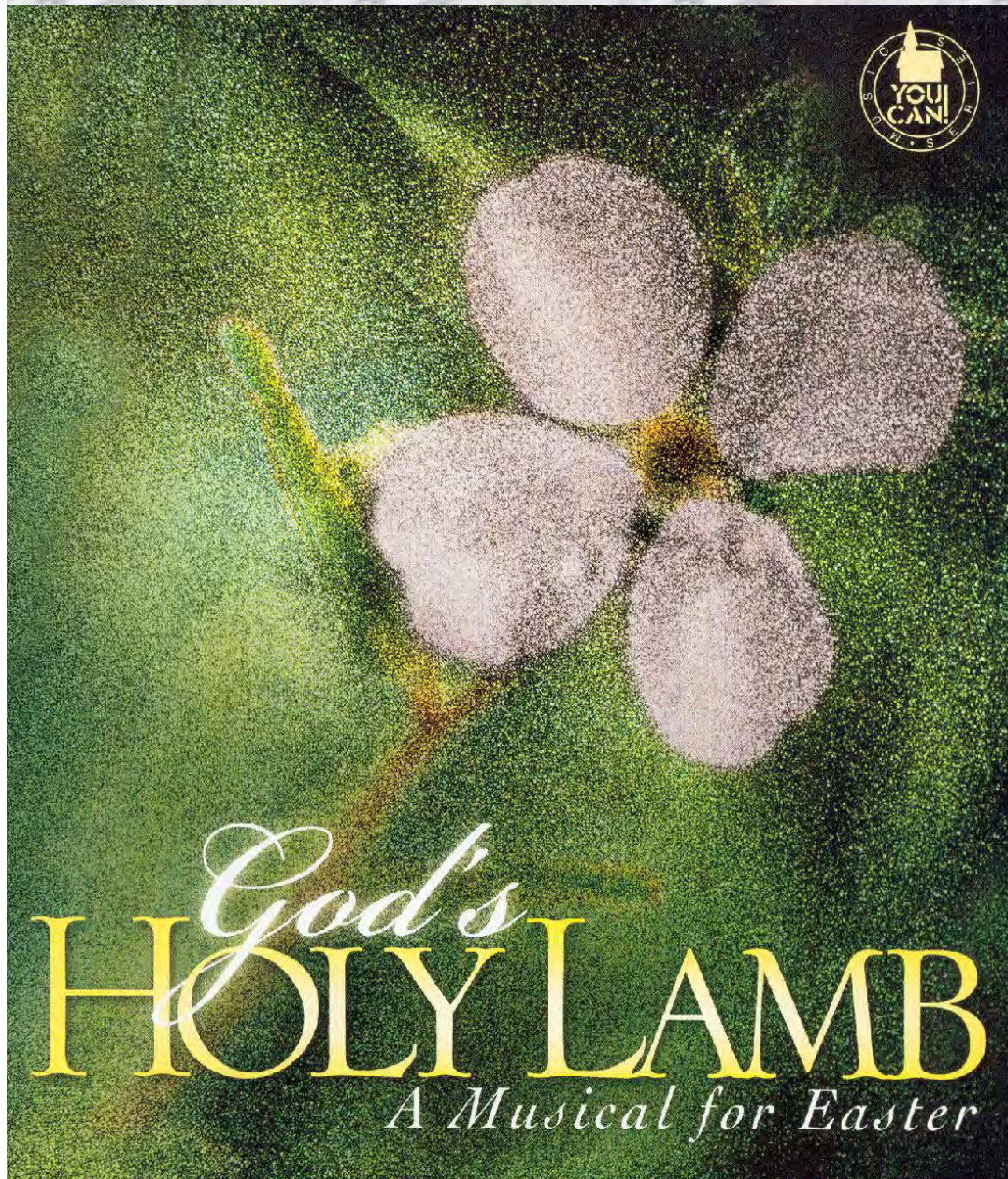


# MESSIAH FOR ALL MANKIND

- Romans 3:21-24 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



# SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST



- **Romans 10:9**  
That if you  
confess with  
your mouth,  
"Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in  
your heart that  
God raised him  
from the dead,  
you will be  
saved.



# **SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST**

**Acts 15:6-11 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."**



# CHRIST IS THE END OF LAW

- **Romans 10:4 Christ is the end of the law** so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.
- **Galatians 3:23-25** Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

# JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

- Galatians 2:15-16 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that **we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law,** because by observing the law no one will be justified."

# LAW OF LOVE

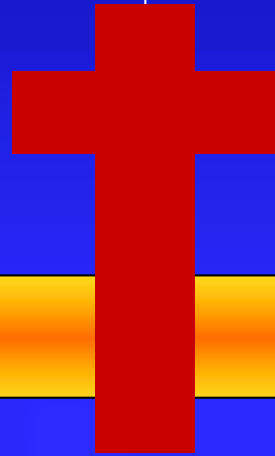
- **Matt. 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."**
- **Gal. 5:13-14 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**



**LAW**

**GRACE**

**EXODUS**



**ISRAELITES**

**CHRISTIANS**

**SINAI COVENANT**

**NEW COVENANT**

**ABRAHAM COVENANT**

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

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# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

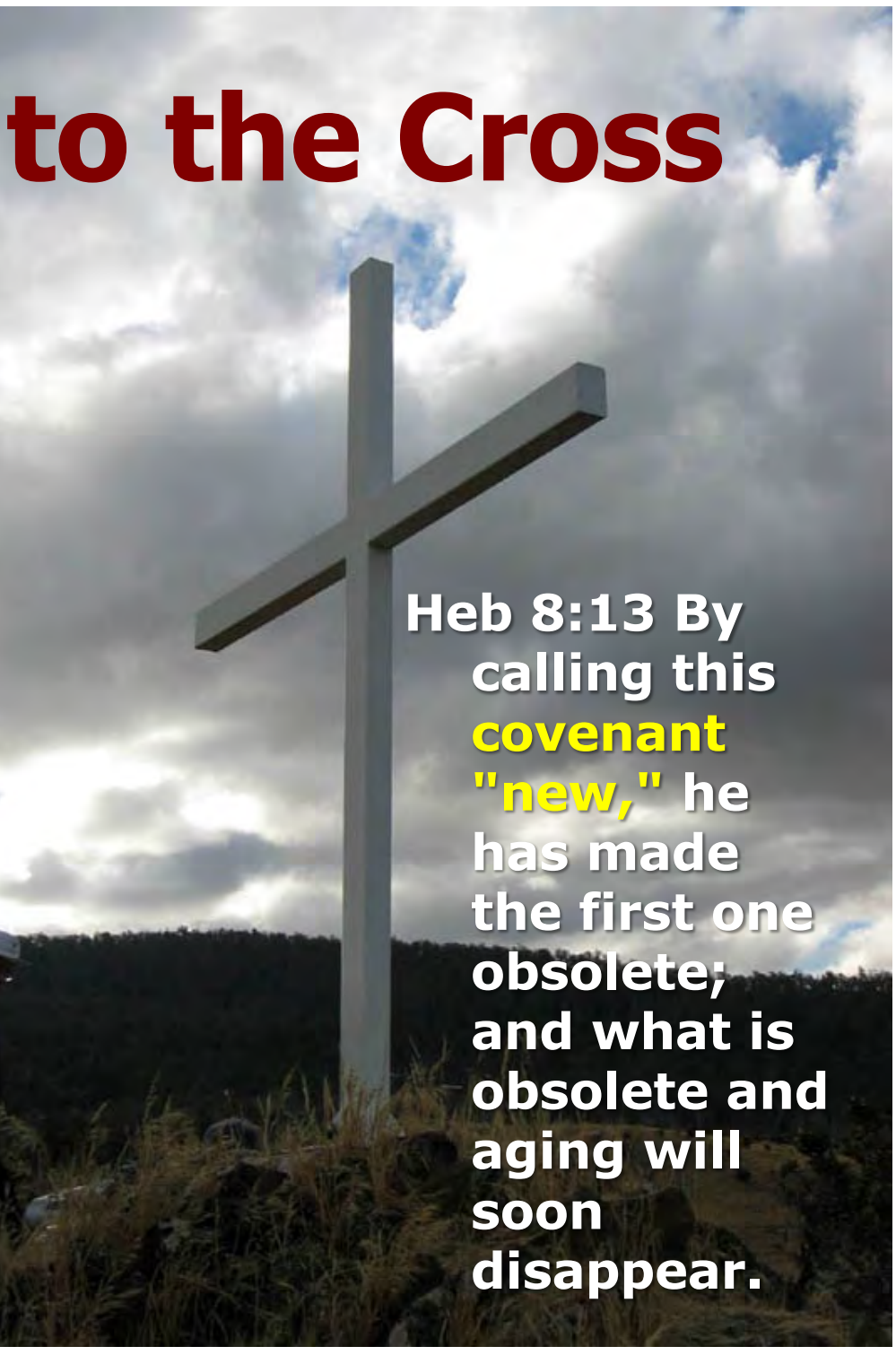
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# From Sinai to the Cross

**Exod 34:27–28**

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments.



Heb 8:13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Covenant	Sinai	New
Exodus	Egypt	Darkness



# Egypt and Darkness

Exod. 29:46 They will know that I am the LORD their God, who **brought them out of Egypt** so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who **called you out of darkness** into his wonderful light.



# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Covenant	Sinai	New
Exodus	Egypt	Darkness
People of God	Israelites	Christians

**Lev 26:12-13 I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be **my people**. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.**

**Gal 3:26-29 **You are all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Covenant	Sinai	New
Exodus	Egypt	Darkness
People of God	Israelites	Christians
Holiness	"Be Holy!"	"Be Holy!"



# Holiness

Deut 28:9 The LORD will establish you **as his holy people**, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

Lev 19:2 "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them:  
`**Be holy** because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

1 Pet 1:15-16 But just as he who **called you is holy**, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "**Be holy**, because I am holy."

Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world **to be holy** and blameless in his sight.



# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Covenant	Sinai	New
Exodus	Egypt	Darkness
People of God	Israelites	Christians
Holiness	"Be Holy!"	"Be Holy!"
Law	Torah	Love

**Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the **law of Christ.****

**Rom 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt **to love** one another, for he **who loves** his fellowman **has fulfilled** the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Love** does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love** is the **fulfillment** of the law.**

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Covenant	Sinai	New
Exodus	Egypt	Darkness
People of God	Israelites	Christians
Holiness	"Be Holy!"	"Be Holy!"
Law	Torah	Love
Stipulations	Obey Torah	Faith in Christ



# Faith Leads to Obedience

**Deut. 6:20, 24-25**

**In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."**

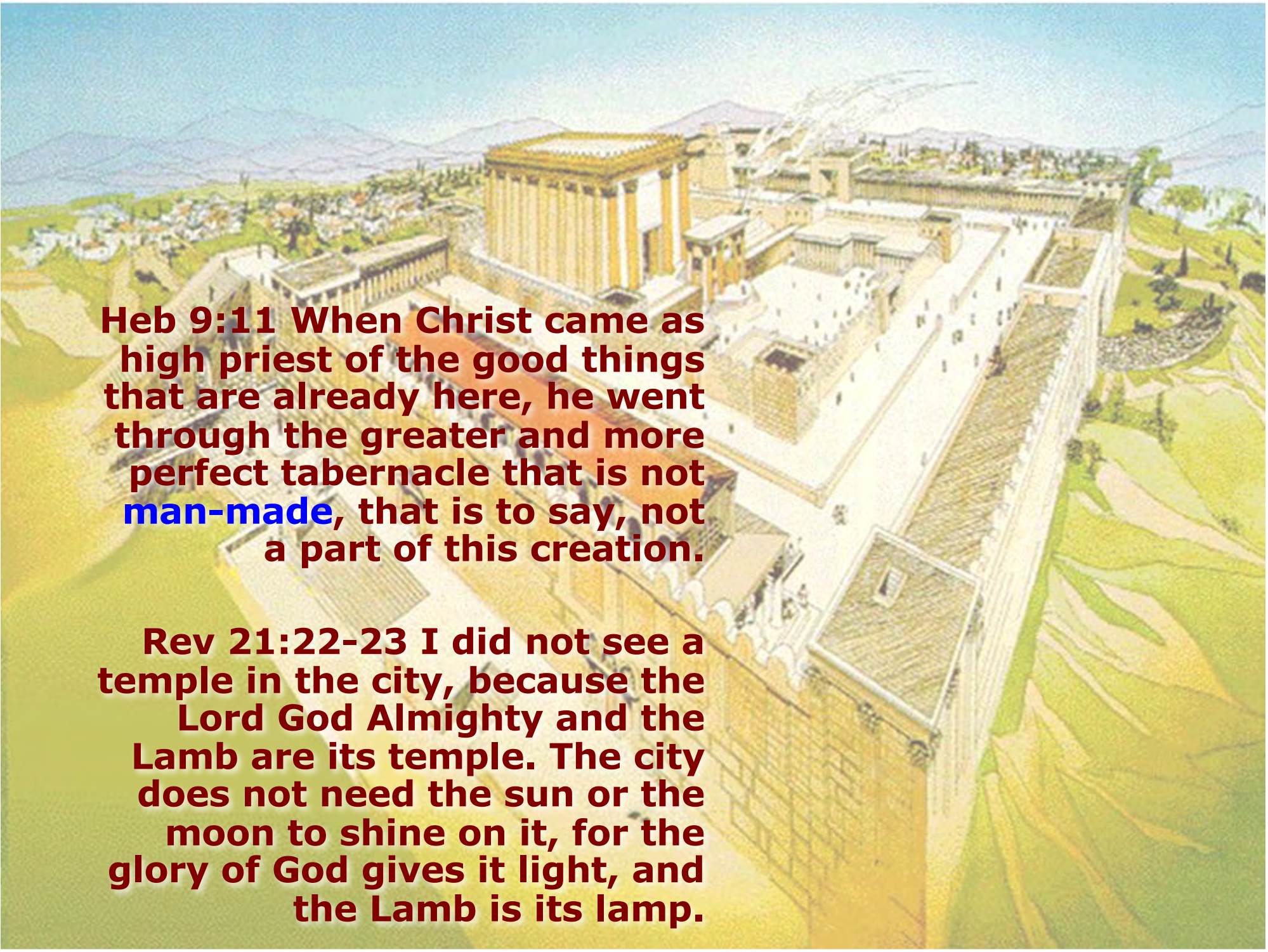
**Rom 4:13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.**

**Gal 3:11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."**

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven



An aerial, artistic rendering of the Temple of Jerusalem, showing the Temple Mount, the Temple itself with its golden roof and columns, and the surrounding city and hills. The image is used as a background for the text.

**Heb 9:11** When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not **man-made**, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

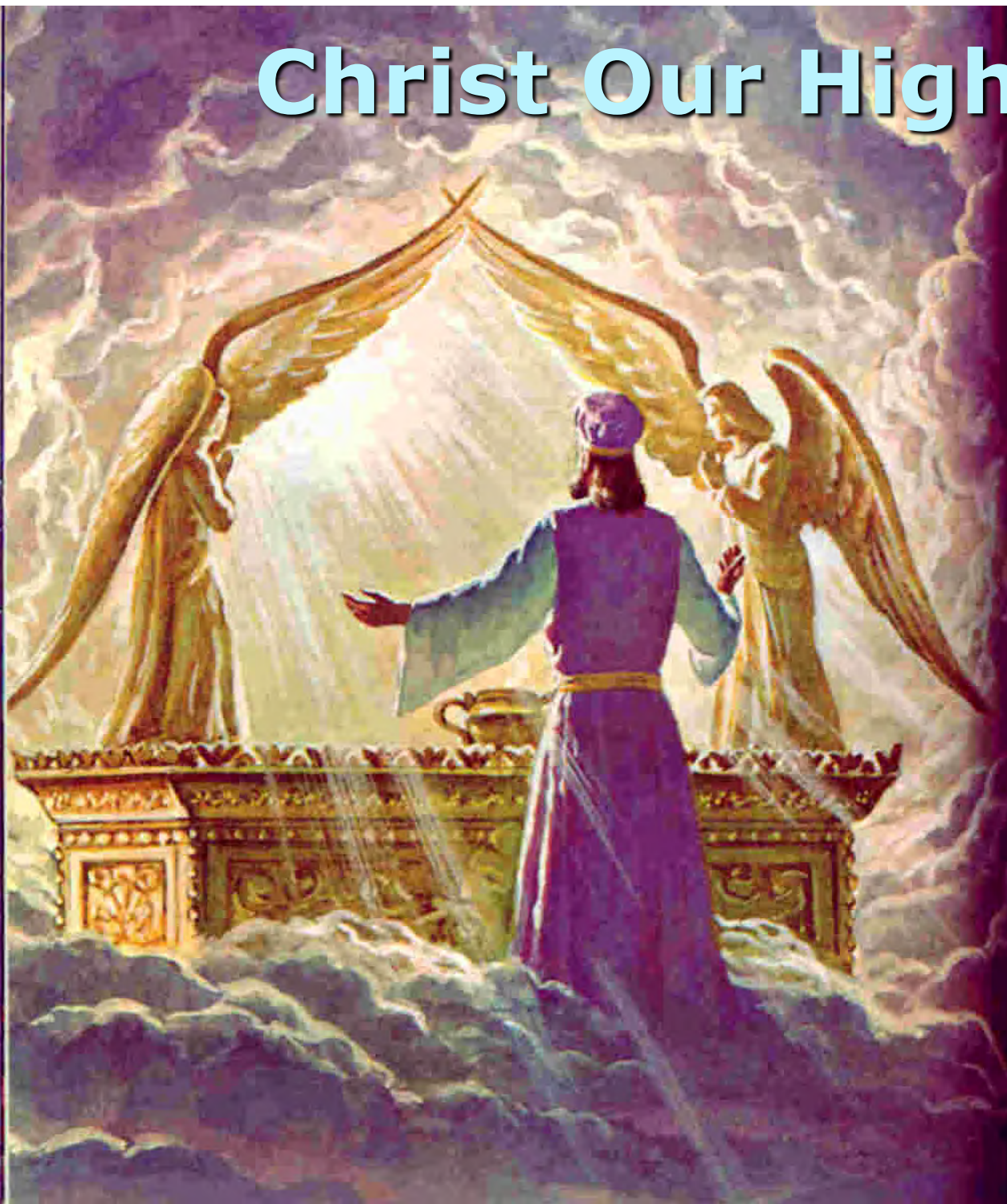
**Rev 21:22-23** I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.



# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven
High Priest	Levites	Jesus

# Christ Our High Priest



**Heb 8:1-2 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.**



# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven
High Priest	Levites	Jesus
Blood/ Sacrifice	Animal	Jesus



# Christ's Blood



**Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.**

# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven
High Priest	Levites	Jesus
Blood/ Sacrifice	Animal	Jesus
Purity	Ritual	Heart



**2 Cor 7:1**

**Since we have these  
promises, dear friends,  
let us purify ourselves  
from everything that  
contaminates  
**body and spirit**,  
perfecting  
holiness out of  
reverence for God.**



# **Heart Purity**

**2 Tim 2:22**

**Flee the evil desires of  
youth, and pursue  
righteousness, faith,  
love and peace, along  
with those who call on  
the Lord out of a **pure  
heart**.**



# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven
High Priest	Levites	Jesus
Blood/ Sacrifice	Animal	Jesus
Purity	Ritual	Heart
Forgiveness	Sacrifice	Confession

**1 John 1:8-9**  
**If we claim to**  
**be without sin,**  
**we deceive**  
**ourselves and**  
**the truth is not**  
**in us. If we**  
**confess our**  
**sins, he is**  
**faithful and**  
**just and will**  
**forgive us our**  
**sins and purify**  
**us from all**  
**unrighteous-**  
**ness.**

**forgiveness**





# PROGRESSIVE COVENANT

Theme	SC	NC
Tabernacle	Man-made	Heaven
High Priest	Levites	Jesus
Blood/ Sacrifice	Animal	Jesus
Purity	Ritual	Heart
Forgiveness	Sacrifice	Confession
Blessing	Prosperity	Eternal Life





**Deut 6:3**

**Hear, O Israel, and be  
careful to obey so that it  
may go well with you  
and that you may  
increase greatly in a  
land flowing with milk  
and honey, just as the  
LORD, the God of your  
fathers, promised you.**

**Blessings of  
the Covenants**

**John 3:16**

**For God so loved  
the world that  
he gave his one  
and only Son,  
that whoever  
believes in him  
shall not perish  
but have  
eternal life.**

# SO?

- The Law of Moses (especially Leviticus) helps us more vividly understand Jesus' work on the cross
- Torah gives theological design of God's redemptive plan for man

# Does the Law of Moses Apply to Me? (5 Views) 113c

## *Spectrum on Degree of Applicability:*

**Theonomic**

Greg  
Bahnsen

**Reformed**

Willem  
VanGemenen

**Weightier Issues**

Walter  
Kaiser

**Modified**

**Lutheran**  
Douglas Moo

**Dispensational**

Wayne G.  
Strickland



This chart summarizes Stanley N. Gundry, ed. *Five Views on Law and Gospel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), where each author presents his view and responds to the other four views. Generally speaking, views 1-2 are similar as both are Reformed (stressing continuity between the NT and OT) and these stand against views 3-5 which alike stress discontinuity. In my opinion, the dispensational view has the most to commend it as law in the NT is never broken into component parts and this view clearly distinguishes Israel from the church. Further, it is inconsistent to change the Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday but not apply the OT penalties for Sabbath-breaking today (i.e., death by stoning; cf. Exod. 31:14-15; 35:2). The following chart is adapted from Lee Hwee Chin, "The Applicability of the Law Today," unpublished research paper for the course "Old Testament Survey," Singapore: Singapore Bible College, 2001, 1.



# ***Does the Law of Moses Apply to Me?*** 113b

Stanley N. Gundry, ed. *Five Views on Law & Gospel* summarized by Lee Hwee Chin, SBC, 2001

	<b>THEONOMIC Bahnsen</b>	<b>REFORMED Van Gemeren</b>	<b>WEIGHTIER ISSUES Kaiser</b>	<b>MODIFIED LUTHERAN Moo</b>	<b>DISPENSATIONAL Strickland</b>
<b>What is the Law?</b>	<b>Same definition as the views 3-5</b>	<b>God's oral or written instructions since creation</b>	<b>The whole Mosaic law given in the Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy) but also amplified in the rest of the Old Testament</b>		
<b>Who is the Law for?</b>	<b>The Elect (Israel = Church)</b>	<b>All mankind (Israel = Church)</b>	<b>Believers (Israel and Church)</b>	<b>Believers (Israel and Church)</b>	<b>Israel only (Israel ≠ Church)</b>

# Does the Law of Moses Apply to Me? 113b

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Which parts of the Law apply today?	All moral laws apply to people of God only in every age, so all elect persons since creation should observe either the Jewish Sabbath (Sat. before Christ) or "Christian Sabbath," (Sunday, after Christ)	All moral laws apply to believers and unbelievers of every age (e.g., all persons—including unbelieving Gentiles since creation—should observe the Sabbath or "Christian Sabbath," being Sunday)	All moral laws that stem from God's character: • 10 Commandments • Leviticus 18–19 (sex) (i.e., Sabbath is required since Israel's nationhood & prohibited sexual practices still apply)	The Mosaic Law is fully abolished, but its moral content are good Christian guidelines. Yet Christ holds the final say via the Spirit's ministry in believers today; Sabbath obedience is not consistently applied (?)	God's "moral law" before Moses is now called the "law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2) and governs believers through the Spirit's new covenant indwelling; The Law does not easily divide into "parts" and is done away with in its entirety (Rom. 7:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:19-21; Heb. 8:13), including the Sabbath (Col. 2:16-17)
• "Moral law"? (i.e., Decalogue or 10 Commandments)					

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• Civil laws? (i.e., judicial law)	All apply (e.g., laws today should require death for adultery)	Some apply (e.g., still tithe and don't charge believers interest)	Judicial <i>principles</i> (not laws) apply since moral laws underlie all judicial and ceremonial laws	Only principles apply now as the Mosaic law was given only to Israel	None apply as these regulated Israel alone (but principles such as love and compassion still apply)
• Ceremonial laws?	All five views agree that ceremonial aspects such as the sacrificial system and Jewish priesthood are now fulfilled in Jesus Christ				



# ***Does the Law of Moses Apply to Me?* 113b**

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<b>What is the relationship of the Abrahamic Covenant to Mosaic Covenant?</b>	<b>Both are God's "covenant of grace." They consist of the same substance of God's saving relationship which makes the MC still apply today</b>	<b>MC was added to the AC; both still apply though they are similar in substance but different in form and purpose</b>	<b>MC was given specifically to Israel but its moral principles are still relevant to all believers under the AC</b>	<b>Like dispensationalists, MC was conditional but AC was not; MC was a temporary framework that prescribed terms of obedience for Israel in Law period</b>	<b>MC regulated Israel's life so she could experience the blessings of the AC, but MC is no longer operative as it is fulfilled in Christ</b>

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<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity between the OT and NT upheld</li> <li>• Desires ethics to relate to all of life</li> <li>• Sees positive aspects of the law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity between the OT and NT upheld</li> <li>• Notes Mosaic law's foreshadow-ing of Christ</li> <li>• Sees a convicting role of the law today for unbelievers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biblical support for some law aspects (i.e., moral) being weightier than others (Matt. 23:23)</li> <li>• Holiness Code of Leviticus 18–19 stem from nature of God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accounts for new covenant emphases under the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2)</li> <li>• Says OT laws repeated in the NT are applicable</li> <li>• Applies law principles today</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biblical in that Mosaic law began at Sinai and ended with Christ's death as a temporary tutor (Gal. 3:19, 24-25)</li> <li>• Keeps Israel and church separate</li> <li>• Advocates continued guidance in law of Christ</li> </ul>

# Does the Law of Moses Apply to Me? 113b

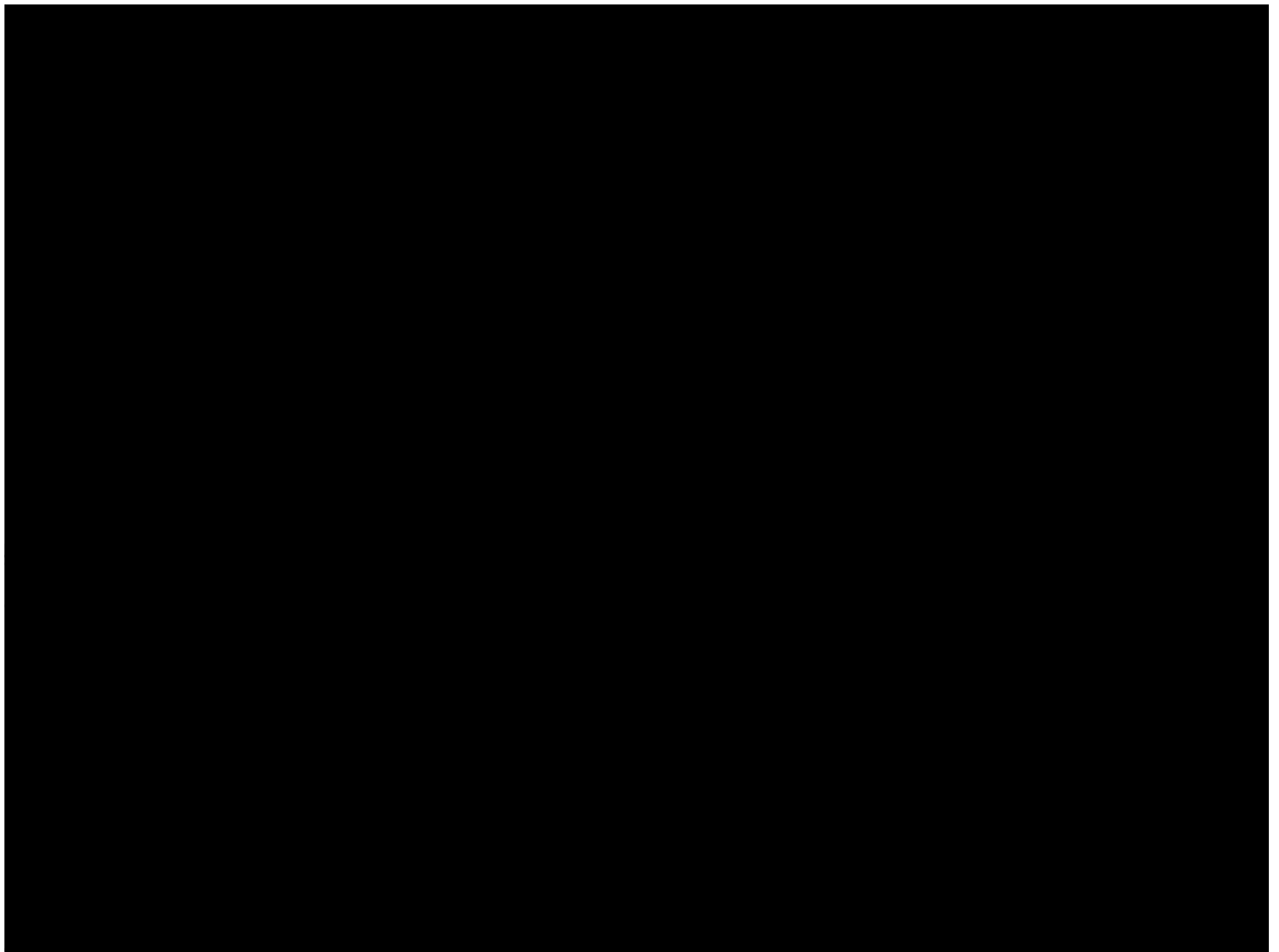
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	THEONOMIC Bahnsen	REFORMED Van Gemeren	WEIGHTIER ISSUES Kaiser	MODIFIED LUTHERAN Moo	DISPENSATIONAL Strickland
<b>Weak- nesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dividing law as moral, civil &amp; ceremonial not biblical</li> <li>• Misguided to apply godly commands to unregenerate</li> <li>• All "law" need not be Mosaic (natural law and law of Christ also exist)</li> <li>• The NT never applies the OT to civil matters</li> <li>• Law condemned man (2 Cor. 3:9)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dividing law as moral, civil &amp; ceremonial not biblical</li> <li>• Using "law" in differing ways is inconsistent &amp; confusing</li> <li>• Requiring Sabbath for today contradicts Col. 2:16-17</li> <li>• Unclear if moral law became law of Christ</li> <li>• Merges Israel &amp; church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dividing law as moral, civil &amp; ceremonial not biblical</li> <li>• Arbitrary to pick and choose which parts of the law are required</li> <li>• Choice of Decalogue and Lev. 18–19 too narrow for moral law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks to teach the indivisibility of the law while upholding its moral content</li> <li>• Too extreme to claim that the law has absolutely no purpose today</li> <li>• Fails to see the gospel in the OT by demarcating Law and Gospel into distinct, discontinuous eras</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguishing law's revelatory aspects (eternal, revealing God's nature) from regulatory (temporary, ruled Israel) makes distinctions within an inseparable code—if the OT law is essentially a unity, then why divide it into two parts?</li> <li>• The law is not nullified but actually upheld</li> </ul>



# **HOW TO APPLY THE LAW?**

- **Get the theological significance in the light of the New Testament**
- **Observe some laws that are fulfilled/obsolete by the work of the Cross**
- **Love and heart**




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