

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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PART 9: COVENANTS & ATONEMENT

WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

Paul exhorted the Christians in Rome to rejoice in the atonement provided by Jesus on the cross. **Romans 5:11**

The word “atonement” means “reparation for a wrong or injury.” The theological definition of atonement is the “reconciliation of God and the human race through the death of Jesus on the cross and His subsequent resurrection.”

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they brought the curse of sin upon their offspring. **Romans 5:12**

Sin was present before God gave His laws to Moses. **verse 13a**

Guilt cannot be assigned if there is no law. There were no laws written for the animals as to how they should conduct themselves and therefore they are without sin. **verse 13b**

THE FIRST LAW

The first laws were given to Adam and Eve. **Genesis 1:26-30**

1. They were to be fruitful, have children and repopulate the earth.
2. They were to subdue the earth. This means they were to develop the resources God has deposited upon the earth and develop civilizations so that mankind could live and work in harmony.
3. They were to have dominion over nature and to make sure that the environment in which the animals, birds and fish live was not damaged.
4. They were to be vegetarians.
5. They were not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 2:16-17**

It is easy to see that humanity has always been under the laws of God!

REVISION OF THE FIRST LAWS

This revision came into existence 1,676 years after Adam.

Mankind was no longer mandated to be a vegetarian after the flood. **Genesis 9:2-3**

God forbade humanity to consume blood. **verse 4**

Any person who committed murder was to be executed and any animal that killed a human being was also to be put to death. **verses 5-6**



THE COVENANT LAWS

There were several covenants between God and mankind prior to Moses.

1. The first covenant was with Noah. **Genesis 9:8-17**
2. The second covenant was between God and Abraham. **Genesis 15:1-21**
 - a. God reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac. **Genesis 26:1-6**
 - b. God reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant with Jacob. **Genesis 35:9-15**

When Moses was called to lead the people out of Egypt, God began to give Moses new laws that He wanted the children of Israel to obey. Most of them dealt with everyday life, sacrifices and the setup of the tabernacle.

But God also gave Moses and the people a universal law that was to govern all of mankind and became known as the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:1-17**

THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND ISRAEL

All the aforementioned covenants were made between God and individuals. It was in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt that God made a covenant with the people of Israel. This is referred to as "The First Covenant." **Exodus 24:1-8; Deuteronomy 29:1-15**

The First Covenant entered 920 years after Noah and consisted of two parts:

1. The Atonement
 - A. God promised Adam and Eve a Savior would come. **Genesis 3:15**
 - B. God spoke to Enoch and revealed that the Savior would be known as the "Son of Man."
 - C. Job knew about the Redeemer. **Job 19:23-27**
 - D. The Passover began in Egypt and the people were told to keep that tradition from year to year. **Exodus 12:2-27**
 - E. The high priest was to enter the holiest of holy in the tabernacle once a year and offer sacrifices for himself and the people. **Exodus 30:10-16**
2. The Promised Land
 - A. God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that the land of Canaan would be the homeland of their descendants. But this covenant was conditional in that it depended upon the behavior of the people. If they turned away from God's laws and lived in sin, God would then cast them out from the land. **Deuteronomy 28:15, 60-68**

FIRST COVENANT SUMMARY

The land covenant is no longer in force.

- ❖ The ten northern tribes lost their land and capitol of Samaria in 721 B.C. to the Assyrians.

- ❖ The tribes of Judah and Benjamin lost their land and capitol of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. to the Babylonians.

After 70 years in captivity in Babylon, King Cyrus decreed that the Jews who wanted to return to Judea and Jerusalem could do so. There were more than one million Jews living in Babylon and Persia but only 42,360 Jews took advantage of this offer. **Ezra 2:64-65**

The Jews never regained political control over the Promised Land. It was hoped that the Messiah would remove all foreigners and reestablish the kingdom of Israel.

The disciples were rebuffed when they asked Jesus about restoring the kingdom of Israel. **Acts 1:6-7**

The First Covenant does not exist anymore. It came to an end the moment Jesus died on the cross and will never be revived again. Any Jews trying to keep it alive are laboring in vain. **Hebrews 8:6-13; 9:7-18, 24-26**

SECOND COVENANT

The Second Covenant came into existence 4,149 years after Adam. It is perfect because it was established between God the Father and God the Son. Mankind's only participation is accepting the work of Jesus on the cross. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

Jesus is the only one way to enter into this covenant. **John 14:6**

This is also known as the new birth. Are you born again? **John 3:3-7**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?