

Law – Purpose of the Law

The first thing we need to look at is why the Law existed in the first place. The Law was set as a stipulation under the Suzerain Vassal Treaty for Israel to obey God's commands in their Covenantal agreement on Mt. Sinai through the mediator Moses.

Perfection of keeping the Law was never obtainable for man, because he was required to keep all elements of the Law. This was an impossibility (Jos 24:19). God knew that man would break this covenant through his constant rebellion. The Law made absolutely no one perfect (Heb 10:1) nor were you justified by the keeping the Law (Gal 3:10). Man was always justified by faith alone in Christ alone and not by the works of the Law (Rom 3:28).

Gal 3:10-13 tells us that man was actually under the *curse of the law* and that the one of the seed would break us from the curse of the law and justify us by faith.

So then what purpose did the Law serve? Well the Law couldn't make man perfect, nor could it save man. Gal 3:24 tells us that the Law was a *tutor* to lead us to Christ. 1 Tim 1:9 says that the Law was not for the righteous but for the unrighteous. The Law was added *because* of transgressions (Gal 3:19) and was used to proactively provide a knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20 NASB

because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

What does that mean for us? Are we still under the curse of the Law? Are we still in bondage to the Law? Of course not. We die to the Law:

Romans 7:4 NASB

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:6 NASB

But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Romans 8:2-3 NASB

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. [3] For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh

Galatians 2:19 NASB

For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.

We have been set free from the "law of sin and of death" — because the Law could not save us. Jesus kept the Law for us (Mt. 5:17) and imputes his righteousness to us (2 Cor 5:21) that we would be made the righteousness of God and not continue to "try" to live by the stipulations of the Law. The covenant was fulfilled in Christ in his ability to uphold the Law perfectly.

Galatians 3:19 NASB

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

"Until the seed would come" — The Law served it's purpose in pointing man to Christ and can still be used to show the unrighteous the wicked heart they have, but we as believers are no longer under the law but under grace.

Romans 6:14 NASB

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace