

What is the Gospel and the Christian's Relationship to the "Law of Moses"?

Jehovah redeemed His people Israel out of Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea and the wilderness to Mount Sinai.
Ex 12:12,13, 15:13.

At Mount Sinai, Jehovah gave the law to Israel through Moses, *Ex 19-24.*

The Law given on Mount Sinai has 613 commands. The heart of the Law is the Ten Commandments, *Ex 20:3-17.* The Law given by God on Mount Sinai through Moses, is the law of how to live a life of love to God and to other people. It is an expression of God's character of love. The commands of the Law cover all aspects of Israel's day to day existence, such as moral behaviour, marriage, social life, worship, sacrifices, priesthood, food, hygiene, agriculture, and ceremonial events etc. Israel is the only nation to whom the "Law of Moses" on Mount Sinai was given. The other nations had their own laws.

The Law was a code of right behaviour for Israel. It is summed up in *Deut 6:4,5*, and *Lev 19:18*, as love to God and love to people. Jesus repeats this in *Mat 22:36-40*, *Mk 12:28-34*, *Lk 10:27*. This is called "The Great Commandment!"

Jesus Christ was of Israel and was the Only Person ever to perfectly keep all the Law, *Heb 4:15*. He is the Only Person who was righteous before God by obedience to the Law, *Mat 17:5*. Jesus fulfilled *Lev 18:5*, *Rom 10:5*, *Gal 3:12*. This is called the righteousness of the Law. No other person has ever fulfilled the righteousness of the "Law of Moses."

Love is actively seeking the highest good of God and of other people. Love is the fulfilling of the Law as it says: *Gal 5:14*, *Rom 13:8-10*, *Jam 2:8*. God is love, *1Jn 4:8*, and when we act in love, we fulfil God's Law.

The Law of Moses was not given as a means of obtaining righteousness with God, *Gal 2:16*, *Rom 3:20*. **The Law was given to make people aware of sin, of our inability to keep it, and to point us to Christ as our Saviour,** *Gal 3:19*, *Rom 5:20*, *Rom 3:20*, *Rom 7:7*, *Gal 3:24,25*.

The Gospel promise of salvation through faith in the Seed of the Woman, Jesus Christ, was first given in *Gen 3:15*. Abel, by faith, in God's good news promise, achieved righteousness with God, *Heb 11:4*. So did Enoch, Noah and Abraham, *Heb 11:5,7,8-19*, *Gen 15:6*, *Rom 4:1-25*, and so on.

There has only been, and ever will be, one way whereby a fallen sinful person can achieve righteousness before God and that is by the Gospel of faith in God's promised Messiah or Christ, *Gen 15:6*, *Rom 4:1-5*. Jesus Christ is the promised Seed whereby we might gain eternal life, by faith in Him, *Gen 17:7*, *Gal 3:17-22*.

Moses made this clear to the people of Israel in *Deut 30:11-14*, and **Paul repeats the same in** *Rom 10:5-8*, **as his definition of the Gospel which he preached.** "Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead and you will be saved," *Rom 10:9*. God did not give the Law to Israel, which they could not keep, and then condemn them for not keeping it. **The Law was not given as a means for fallen people to get right with God. The Law was given to show the extent of sin, our inability to keep it, and to point us to Christ.**

When Jesus spoke about the Law in *Mat 5:17*, He said that He had come to fulfil the Law, not to destroy it. In His teaching Jesus Christ gave us many commandments. In many cases He took the commands of the "Law of Moses" and gave them a much deeper and more demanding meaning, *Mat 5:21,22*, *5:27,28*, *5:31,32*, *5:33,34*, *5:38,39*, *5:43,44*.

Many of Jesus' commands are mentioned in *Mat 5-7*. His summary is in *Mat 7:24*. He said that if we obey His words, we are wise, and will build our house/life on a rock. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His words and commands, *Jn 14:23*, *14:21*, *15:10*, *15:14*, *Jn 14:15*.

The "Law of Moses" was actually given by Jehovah God to Moses on Sinai. God, the Son, who we know as "Jesus Christ," gave the Law to Moses on the Mountain. In the New Testament, the same God the Son, is giving the Law of Christ for those who believe in Him. The Law of Christ is the spiritual fulfilment of the Law of "Moses", *Mat 5:17*.

As Christians, those who have been baptised into Christ and have put on Christ, *Gal 3:27*, *Rom 6:3*, *Ac 2:38*, **we are not under the "Law of Moses" given to Israel, but we are under the Law of Christ,** *1Cor 9:21*, *Gal 6:2*, *Jn 14:15*, *1Thes 4:2*, *Rom 10:4*, *Col 2:14*, *Eph 2:14-16*.

As believers in Christ, God gives us the life and power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to enable us to walk in obedience to Him. The moment a person repents of sin and believes in Jesus Christ they are justified before God, and are 100% righteous in God's sight. This is righteousness by faith, *Rom 5:1*. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, *Rom 4:5,6*. As we continue to follow Christ, deny self, believe His Word and walk in His Spirit, we are changed in our behaviour into His likeness, *2Cor 3:18*, *Heb 10:14*, *1Thes 4:3-7*, *Col 3:10*. This is our "sanctification," *Heb 12:14*. Without holiness no-one shall see the Lord. As we walk by faith in the Spirit of God, the righteousness of the "Law of Moses" is fulfilled in us, *Rom 8:4*.