

# PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

## Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.13.3

This issue of Parables Bookshelf continues the book *Laying Down the Law*.

people. Yahweh has determined to have sons and daughters who share His divine nature.

He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

### Hagar

In the preceding chapters I have set forth a panoramic view of Yahweh's plan to bring forth mature spiritual sons and daughters. I have labored to show the place of the Law in God's plan of the ages. Man was not created sinful, nor did Yahweh intend for man to remain perpetually enslaved to sin. The Law would not always be needed to serve as a restraint upon carnal

A great leap forward in the divine plan occurred when Christ sent forth His Spirit to indwell man. Yahshua declared to His disciples:

John 16:7-8

"It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come,

One cannot put too much emphasis on the words, "It is to your advantage..." The Greek word translated into English as "advantage" is "sumphero." It is derived from two root words that mean "to gather together, as if to collect." What Christ was expressing to His disciples is that they would reap an increase; they would be abundantly supplied; they would be greatly enlarged and improved in

### Food for Thought

*"Soar back through all your own experiences. Think of how the Lord has led you in the wilderness and has fed and clothed you every day. How God has borne with your ill manners, and put up with all your murmurings and all your longings after the 'sensual pleasures of Egypt!' Think of how the Lord's grace has been sufficient for you in all your troubles."*

Charles Spurgeon

### Scripture Memory

Romans 3:20

For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For the real function of the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin...

Amplified Bible

#### Parables Newsletter

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## Laying Down the Law

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every way, when Christ sent forth the Holy Spirit unto them.

What man has gained through receiving the Holy Spirit is beyond measure. Those who were dead in their trespasses and sins, were made alive. Those who were formless (lacking the image of God) and void (lacking the indwelling Spirit of God) were fashioned into a new creation.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

It was truly a vain work for any man to attempt to arrive at Yahweh's desire to have offspring in His image through works of the flesh. The flesh profits nothing. The best we can do in our own strength is unacceptable in the eyes of the Father. Our attempts to arrive at the promises of God are mirrored in the life of Abraham.

**The flesh profits nothing.**

Abraham earnestly desired a son in his image, one who sprang from his own loins. When Abraham was unable to acquire such a son through his wife Sarah, he went into his wife's handmaid Hagar in an attempt to produce that which his soul greatly desired. Ishmael was the fruit of this fleshly work, and Yahweh had no regard for him. God has given us this testimony from Abraham's life to reveal important matters pertaining to the Law.

Galatians 4:24-30

For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar - for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children - but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all... What

does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

Consider this parable found in the life of Abraham. Abraham wanted a godly heir that came from his own loins. His wife Sarah, though exceedingly beautiful, was barren. Sarah is a symbol of the heavenly Jerusalem.

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, **to the spirits of just men made perfect**, to Yahshua the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Abraham and his descendants were covenanted to the heavenly Jerusalem PRIOR to being joined to the Jerusalem below. God gave Abraham the covenant of promise 430 years before his descendants received the covenant of Law.

Galatians 3:16-18

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Note that Paul says that this earlier covenant was "confirmed before by God IN CHRIST." When was this done? The sacrifice of Christ was foreshadowed when Yahweh cut a covenant of blood with Abraham. Abraham was instructed to divide various animals in half, and a deep dread fell upon

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him. A smoking pot and a lantern were seen to pass between the pieces. These things pointed to the work to be accomplished by Christ.

A brother wrote to me some days back objecting to my current teaching on the Law. He defended the continuance of the Mosaic covenant by saying that Christ did not bring in a new covenant, but merely RENEWED the covenant. There is truth in that the new covenant in Christ's blood is a RENEWED covenant. One must understand, however, that it is not the covenant instituted by Moses that was renewed. It was the earlier covenant of promise.

When Yahweh cut covenant with Abraham, His plan was for the promise to tarry for many more centuries. Even as the promise of God tarried for Abraham in a natural sense, so too did it tarry in a spiritual sense. Isaac is a type and shadow of Yahshua. Isaac was named "laughter" for his appearing brought gladness and joy to the hearts of Sarah and Abraham in the same way that the appearance of Christ would bring gladness and joy to the world.

Yahweh had far greater things in mind than were to be realized in Isaac when He promised Abraham a seed. Isaac was not the true seed. Yahshua was that seed. God had committed Himself to undertake for Abraham to bring forth a righteous heir. Isaac was in bondage to sin, as was his father, but the long awaited Seed was not. Yahshua was tempted in all ways as we, yet without sin.

We find another spiritual parable in the life of Abraham. When the natural seed that was to be realized in Isaac tarried, Abraham took to himself another wife. Abraham was already married to Sarah, and he took to himself Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, as wife. Marriage represents a covenant between two parties. This covenant is sealed when a man is intimate with a woman. Hagar would have been a virgin when she was given to Abraham, therefore a blood covenant was cut when Abraham had relations with her. (For further reading on this subject, see the book "*The Marriage Covenant.*")

<http://www.heart4god.ws/books/the-marriage-covenant/index.html>

It is necessary to understand that Hagar was Abraham's wife by covenant in order to perceive those things which follow.

Genesis 16:3-4

Then Sarai, Abram's wife, ***took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife***, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

Thus we see that Abraham has now entered into two covenants. The first was with Sarah. The second with Hagar. When the fruit of the first covenant tarried to appear, a second covenant was entered into. In the same way, Abraham's descendants entered into two covenants. The second covenant the descendants of Abraham could not keep. They violated it repeatedly.

Hebrews 8:9

They did not continue in My covenant...

Even so, Abraham did not keep his covenant with Hagar. Though she was his wife and had bore him a son, Abraham sent her away without inheritance or provision. This was to fulfill the types and shadows of the Law. When the promised Seed came according to the more ancient covenant, the covenant of the Law was put away. The Law was never intended to remain forever. It was given only until the promised Seed should come.

*Abraham did not keep his covenant with Hagar.*

Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was

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added because of transgressions, ***until the Seed should come to whom the promise was made.***

Truly, the covenant with Hagar was “added because of transgressions,” for it was the unbelief of Abraham and Sarah that led to this work of the flesh.

Consider carefully that Yahweh permitted Abraham to follow this course in taking Hagar as his wife. Yet the fruit of her flesh was not acceptable in God’s eyes. Ishmael was not a product of faith and obedience. He arose from unbelief and striving. Even so, Yahweh permitted His people to experience striving for 1,500 years until the promised Seed should appear. This striving would reveal the vanity of all fleshly effort to attain to the righteousness of God.

*Ishmael was not a product of faith...*

The Law could never satisfy the heart of Yahweh. He permitted it for a season until the Seed should come who would fulfill Yahweh’s desire, which is “OBEDIENT SONS.” The law could only offer sacrifice to temporarily atone for sins which were continually committed. Yahweh wanted obedience, not sacrifice.

I Samuel 15:22

"Has Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

Yahweh desired sons in His image in the same way that Abraham longed for a son of his loins. We see Yahweh’s dissatisfaction with the Law in the following passage.

Isaiah 1:11-14

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to me? saith Yahweh: I am full of the burnt-offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination to me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble to me; I am weary to bear them.

[Noah Webster’s Bible 1833]

Because the Law could not produce righteousness in the heart of man it was never a pleasing wife for Abraham’s descendants in the eyes of God. The offspring it produced were rebellious. Their hearts were always going astray. Like Ishmael, they could not tame the unruliness of their own souls. All those born of Adam are like “a wild jackass of a man.”

Genesis 16:11-12

And the Angel of Yahweh said to [Hagar]: "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because Yahweh has heard your affliction. He shall be a **wild man**; His hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

In the Hebrew, the words rendered into English as “wild man” are “adam pere.” Adam means “man.” Pere is a Hebrew word describing the onager, which was a wild donkey of the desert. God was testifying that Ishmael, the son of Hagar, would be a man with the nature of a wild ass. Stubbornness and rebellion would be his nature. ***Ishmael is a type and shadow of every man born of the first Adam.*** As the son of Hagar, He is a symbol of all those who enter into the covenant of the Law seeking to please God through works of the flesh.

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The Law cannot restrain sinful men. As Paul testified, it merely stirred up a desire to violate its commands.

Romans 7:5

For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Apart from receiving the new birth in Christ, we are all wild asses. It is with difficulty that we can be restrained. We will always find some way to break free of that which holds us.

Yahweh has no regard for the fruit of man's flesh. The best that fallen man can produce falls short of the desire of God. That which He esteems must be brought forth by His Spirit.

Genesis 17:18-19

And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him."

God's lack of regard for Ishmael finds a parallel in His testimony of that generation of Israel who were given the Law.

Hebrews 8:7-9

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and ***I did not regard them***, says Yahweh."

The Law is mankind's Hagar. It holds forth the allure of producing man's desire. The Law looks fertile. Man believes if he can only come into union with the Law that good fruit will be the result. Union with the Law, however, produces only rebellion and sin.

Romans 7:8-11

But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

The natural man embraces the Law with the hope of producing life. Indeed, outwardly it may appear that man has accomplished his goal. There is an appearance of life being brought forth, but in God's eyes He sees only death.

*The natural man embraces the Law with the hope of producing life.*

Matthew 23:27-28

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

People of God, this judgment spoken by Christ applies to all men who believe that their works will find them approval before Yahweh. After the Spirit had been given to the body of Christ, the apostle Paul said that there were yet men who wanted to bring partakers of the new covenant back under the Law that they might make a good showing in the flesh.

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Although God was bringing forth something far better for Abraham than what he had accomplished

*These two covenants are in antipathy toward one another.*

on his own, observe how difficult it was for this man to let go of that which he had produced. Abraham petitioned Yahweh, "May Ishmael LIVE before You." **Life** was

not to be obtained through the Law. Therefore, when LIFE (Yahshua) did appear the son of the bondwoman had to be cast out.

Consider this carefully. Paul tells us that these two women are two covenants. Abraham truly had two wives. He was covenanted to both of them. Yet, when Sarah (the Jerusalem above) brought forth the promised seed, Hagar (the Jerusalem below) was cast out with her son.

Galatians 4:30

"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

Lest we think this was an unrighteous act precipitated by Sarah, consider that Yahweh told Abraham that what Sarah spoke was His will.

Genesis 21:9-13

And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac." And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called."

We read that Hagar, after she had given birth to Ishmael, also acted arrogantly toward her mistress

Sarah. An important truth is revealed here. These two covenants are in antipathy toward one another. They cannot abide together harmoniously.

Hagar's time in the tent of Abraham was only until the promised seed should come. Then she was sent away, with her son. So too do we find that the Law remained only until the promised Seed appeared. The covenant of promise was renewed. Christ has become its Mediator. The bondwoman and her offspring have been sent away.

Before passing onto other types and shadows, let us consider a further contrast between Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman (Law), and Christ. We have seen it described that Ishmael was a wild ass of a man. He was incapable of ruling over the stubbornness and rebellion of his soul. In contrast, let us look to the magnificent parable found in one of the last demonstrations of Yahshua.

Mark 11:1-2

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, **on which no one has sat**. Loose it and bring it.

Matthew 21:4-7

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, **Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass**. And the disciples went, and did as Yahshua commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

The disciples brought to Christ a colt on which no one had ever ridden. This is a parable. No man had ever been able to tame the beast nature within. No man had ever conquered the rebellion and stubborn sinfulness of the natural man. Christ was the

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first to do so. He sat on the colt, and it submitted to bear Him where He must go. So too, did He ever rule over His soul. He never did anything of His own initiative. He lived to do the will of the Father. In Christ, the Father's desire was realized for an obedient Son. All those who by faith are joined to Christ are also transformed into obedient sons.

### My Servant Moses

I have found that by studying the parabolic nature of the lives of Old Testament figures, much insight can be gained concerning matters that are shrouded in a fog of confusion. In the previous chapter we looked at the life of Hagar. Who would have known that the two wives of Abraham were intended by Yahweh to serve as testimonies of two covenants that have been made with His people? If the apostle Paul had not declared this to be so, certainly the matter would have been hidden from the eyes of most Christians.

Let us pause and consider Hagar for one more moment before passing on to Moses. Knowing that Yahweh hates divorce, and that He is a covenant keeping God, does not the sending away of Hagar cause one's attention to be arrested? Why would Yahweh sanction divorce in this case, for truly this is what occurred. Though Hagar was not given a writ of divorce (these were not used until 430 years later when the Law was given) her husband rejected her, casting out the bondwoman and her son.

Such an act appears unjust to those who do not perceive the spiritual pattern being portrayed. How would Hagar and her son survive? All they were sent away with was some bread and water. They had a wilderness to cross on foot. Does not such an act by Abraham smack of treachery? Indeed, it would have been an unrighteous act had he arrived at this course by the counsel of his own soul. However, it was Yahweh who told Abraham to send away the bondwoman and her son.

Many Christians today view the casting away of the covenant of Law as an act of treachery. It is hard for the natural mind to justify such an action. The Law has been the constant companion of the people of God since the days of Moses. It has born fruit according to its ability. The people of God entered into covenant with the Law. How can it be right to cast it away with as apparent little regard as Abraham manifested in sending forth Hagar? Although many cannot justify such a course of action in their minds, the Scriptures reveal it to be the will of God.

Galatians 4:24, 30

For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar... Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

What is spoken here is very plain. The Law entered into by covenant at Mount Sinai must be cast out. Surely this offends the mind of man as much today as it would have for modern Christians to observe Abraham turning Hagar and Ishmael out of his tents. Would not any person of moral conscience chide Abraham for such an act? Apart from hearing Yahweh declare this to be His will, Abraham would stand condemned by those who witnessed his actions.

*The Law entered into by covenant at Mount Sinai must be cast out.*

This is the way of things to this very hour. Those who have not discerned the mind of Yahweh in this matter are greatly troubled, even offended, at the thought of casting out the covenant embraced at Sinai.

Hagar's life is not the only testimony given to us by Yahweh of His will in this matter. This is a matter we see even clearer as we look at the life of Moses, the Law-giver.

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Moses served as a guardian, shepherd, and schoolmaster to the CHILDREN of Israel. Moses is a type of the Law. When Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration, the Son of God was figured standing with the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). The testimony of the Law and the Prophets were given to point men to Christ. Christ is the goal, the fulfillment, and the end of the Law.

*Christ is the goal, the fulfillment, and the end of the Law.*

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The word “end” is translated from the Greek “telos.” Strong’s Concordance defines telos in the following manner:

telos (tel'-os); (to set out for a definite point or goal); properly, the point aimed at as a limit, i.e. (by implication) the conclusion of an act or state (termination [literally, figuratively or indefinitely])

The Law pointed to Christ through its many types and shadows. Christ is the atoning sacrifice. He is the Passover Lamb. Christ is the firstfruit offering. Yahshua is the righteousness of God. He is the fulfillment of Sabbath rest, etc.. The Son of God is also the termination point of the Law, for when the adoption as a son is received, the child is freed from the rule of the guardian.

Seeing that Abraham’s two wives represented two covenants that the people of God would enter into, how much more can we anticipate tremendous insight to be revealed through the life of Moses? Indeed, God has used this man’s life to reveal far more than most saints today have imagined. A great mystery is unveiled as one examines the most common appellation Yahweh used when speaking of Moses.

Exodus 14:31

So the people feared Yahweh, and believed Yahweh and His **servant** Moses.

Yahweh chooses His words with great precision. He teaches profound truth through what man mistakes as insignificant details. Why did Yahweh refer to Moses as His **servant**? It is because the Law was given to men who were slaves to sin. Christ came to set them free by giving them the heart of an obedient **son**!

Hebrews 3:5-6

And **Moses** indeed was faithful in all His house as **a servant**, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but **Christ as a Son** over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

The Scriptures reveal that there is a very great difference between servants and sons. It is necessary to grasp this distinction that we might recognize the temporal nature of the Law.

I mentioned previously that there is a mystery contained in the fact that the people of God in the wilderness were called “the CHILDREN of Israel.” What we see in the life of Moses and the covenant at Sinai is God’s dealing with immature humanity. Although the children were called to become sons, they were treated no differently than slaves while they were minors.

Galatians 4:1-5

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, **when we were children**, were in bondage under the elements of the world. **But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the**



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**law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

Do you see a transition in God's dealing with His people in the passage above? **When we were children we were kept under the Law.** "But when the fulness of time had come..." God redeemed those under the Law that they might enter into sonship.

One argument I have often encountered from those who argue for a continuance of the Law is that God does not change, therefore the Law must still retain its role as moral guardian to the people of God. Such arguments are predicated upon very poor logic. God's character and nature do not change, but His dealings with mankind have often changed. Man existed for 2,500 years on this earth PRIOR to the Law being given. Abraham was called of God to be the patriarch of a people who would be Yahweh's unique possession 430 years BEFORE the Law was given.

Did not God alter His dealings with man when He chose one nation to be His own people? Did He not change again when He gave this people the Law at Sinai? Previously they had only a covenant of promise. How then can one argue for a perpetual continuance of the Law based upon an argument that God does not change?

People of God, understand me clearly. I am not teaching a position of lawlessness. In Christ we have died to the Law so that we might bear fruit unto God. The Law, like Hagar, could not produce fruit acceptable unto God.

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another - to Him who was raised from the dead, **that we should bear fruit to God.**

If we die to the Law, but fail to enter into the obedience of the Spirit in Christ, we are truly anti-nomian. This is the sad state of many Christians today, and it provides much cannon fodder for those who proclaim that it is error to send away the bondwoman. Christ came that man might be enabled to fulfill the will and pleasure of the Father. The myriads who have adopted the view that Yahweh exists for man's will and pleasure are following the "way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is death." To be ruled by the soul is the broad path that leads to destruction. To be as Christ we must be led of the Spirit in ALL THINGS.

Paul is testifying to believers in the body of Christ that the Law was given to the people of God while they were children. The day would come when they received a new spirit. Having received this new heart they are able to bear fruit unto God. Those who walk by the Spirit are not under the Law.

Galatians 5:18

If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

This is that which I proclaim. The Law does not end so that men can be led by their souls. It ends that they might be led by the Spirit. The Spirit will never lead a man contrary to the will and pleasure of the Father. The Holy Spirit will lead men to a far greater obedience than the shadow of the Law could ever make known. Additionally, the Spirit provides the divine life needed to walk as our Father.

*The Law does not end so that men can be led by their souls.*

The apostle Paul testifies that while under the guardian of the Law men were treated no differently than slaves. This guardianship was to continue until the children entered into the maturity of sonship. What is the line of demarcation between servanthood and sonship? It is Pentecost, the giv-

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ing of the Spirit.

Consider that on the day Moses descended from Mount Sinai with the tablets of the Law, three thousand men died. One the day that the Spirit descended upon the 120 men and women gathered in an upper room, three thousand people were saved.

Exodus 32:25-28

Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side - come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. And he said to them, "Thus says Yahweh God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'" So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

Remember, Moses is a type of the Law. The day the

The Law is a minister of condemnation and death.

Law was given Moses gave the command to slay "every man his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor." The Law does not discriminate. The Law is a minister

of condemnation and death.

Romans 7:9-11

I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Look at the contrast revealed when Christ sent forth His Spirit to indwell man.

Acts 2:38-42

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahshua Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call..." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

At the inauguration of the covenant of Law three thousand souls died. At the inauguration of the covenant of the Spirit three thousand souls were made alive. The life of Christ stands as the pivotal point between these two covenants. Christ fulfilled the Law and was put to death by men who sat in the seat of Moses. The chief priests and entire priesthood that condemned Him were of the tribe of Levi, the same tribe that Moses commanded to slay their brethren. The righteousness of the Law was fulfilled in Christ, and the penalty of the Law was paid by Christ. His death ended the rule of the Law. With His dying breath He said "It is finished." When He sent forth His Spirit 50 days later to indwell mankind, the covenant of promise was renewed.

Moses stands as a symbol of the Law. He guarded and instructed the people of God in their childish state. In their immaturity the people, although called to be sons, were treated no differently than slaves. Such a condition can only be temporary.

John 8:34-35

Yahshua answered them..., "A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever."

Moses, the *servant* of God, could not remain forever. From the moment that Moses descended the mountain, the days of his ministry were numbered. This is further observed in the fact that his face shone with a radiant glory when he came from the mountain bearing the Law of God, but the glory soon began to fade away.

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II Corinthians 3:7-11

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if that which was done away was glorious, much more that which remains is glorious.

Moses and the Law fulfilled an intermediate role for the people of God. Moses guided the Children of Israel through the wilderness. However, he could not lead them into their inheritance as sons. It would require another to arise to lead them into their inheritance. This was Joshua, who bears the same name as the Savior Yahshua. In this a great truth is revealed. The Law leads men to Christ who alone is able to lead them into their inheritance as sons of God.

Servants do not inherit, only sons receive an inheritance. Therefore, Moses was not permitted to set even one foot in the land of Israel's inheritance. Moses had to fulfill the type of the Law perfectly. Yahweh was absolutely immovable when He heard Moses' petition to be able to enter the land of promise. Only those who are of *the covenant of promise* can enter *the land of promise*.

Deuteronomy 3:23-28

"Then I pleaded with Yahweh at that time, saying: 'O Yahweh God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.' But Yahweh was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So Yahweh said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift

your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. But command Joshua (Yahshua), and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.'"

Moses fulfilled this command to strengthen Yahshua when he appeared with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration just prior to the crucifixion. How did Moses and Elijah minister to Christ, strengthening Him? They most certainly did so by reminding Him of all those things the Law and the Prophets testified concerning the suffering He must endure and the glories to follow.

Only Yahshua can take men into their inheritance. He does so by sending forth His Spirit into our hearts. This is the Spirit of sonship by which we cry out, "ABBA, Father!"

Let us therefore let go of Moses, childhood, and slavery that we might follow Yahshua to obtain possession of our inheritance as sons of God. Hagar and Ishmael were sent away. Moses died and was buried without entering Canaan. Moses, the servant of God, could not remain in the house forever. The Son remains forever.

*Moses had to fulfill  
the type of the Law  
perfectly.*

# Laying Down the Law

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## Moses My Servant is Dead

Joshua 1:1-2

Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of Yahweh, that Yahweh spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, "**Moses My servant is dead**; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."

Andrew Eberly, a brother in Christ, wrote to me after reading the previous post on the life of Moses as a type and shadow of the Law. Andrew shared some further insights into Moses as a type and shadow of the Law. I found his comments to be excellent and wanted to share them with you.

Dear Brother Joseph,

*I have been extremely blessed by your teaching series 'Laying Down the Law.' My eyes have been*

*Moses is the only person in the Bible that was personally buried by the Lord.*

*opened to many things and I have been challenged to seek a life in the Spirit more and more. It is so much easier to return to the law and have an appearance*

*of righteousness than it is to pick up our cross and follow the lamb wherever He goes. However, true freedom is only found in Christ and life in the Spirit. Otherwise, we find ourselves remaining a slave to sin as Paul declares:*

Romans 7:21-25

*So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **Thanks be to God, who delivers me***

***through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

*In reading the recent post about Moses' life being a parable, or type of the Law, one additional thought came to my mind that really drives home God's decision to put an end to the law. I may be wrong, but I think that Moses is the only person in the Bible that was personally buried by the Lord.*

*See the following verse references regarding the body of Moses (i.e., the body of the LAW).*

Deuteronomy 34:5-6

*And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. **He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.** Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.*

Jude 1:9

*But even the archangel Michael, **when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses**, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

*We can discern from the first verse that it was the Lord himself who buried the body of the Law and that was His intent. In the second verse, we are reminded that it seems the devil has an undue interest in the body of the Law and even disputed with Michael about it. I'm sure it is the devil's ongoing pursuit to revive the Law that the saints may be kept under bondage and never come to maturity. The devil knows that once the 'sons of God' are revealed that his time is short, so the longer he can keep the saints under bondage failing to come into maturity, the longer he can retain his rule as prince of this world. Nevertheless, we know that it will happen according to God's timetable and no one else's, even though the devil tries in vain to change the times, or in this case to buy more time.*

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*One other thing jumped out at me as well in the above verses. At the initiation of the law, you mentioned that 3,000 died, and at Pentecost (initiation of life in the Spirit) that 3,000 were saved. Likewise, at the death of the law, Moses was 120, and at Pentecost (renewal of covenant of promise) 120 were in the upper room. Just an observation, but like you said, Yahweh is a God of details and nothing is by chance!*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Brother Andrew*

Andrew is correct in that Moses is the only person named to have been buried by Yahweh. Such an unusual occurrence certainly bears careful scrutiny. I will add some additional thoughts on this matter. In the Scripture Andrew cited we read, *“Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, **yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.**”* What this signifies is that the Law never abated in its ability to show man his condition (his eyes were not weak). Additionally, the Law retained its strength to the end, having the power to put men to death (nor his strength gone).

It is certainly symbolic that Moses at the age of forty, sensing that he was called of God, slew an Egyptian. The Law is a manslayer. Its ministry is one of condemnation and death.

II Corinthians 3:9

For if **the ministry of condemnation** had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

II Corinthians 3:7-9

But if **the ministry of death**, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of

the Spirit not be more glorious?

We read that when Moses descended the mountain with the tablets of the Law, he commanded the Levites to slay their brethren and 3,000 fell on that day. Later, Moses commanded those who had transgressed by sinning in the matter of Baal of Peor to be hung. Over and over we see Moses carrying out the Law, slaying men, for the wages of sin is death. The Law could not deliver men from their slavery to sin. It could only carry out the judgment for sin.

Moses, like the Law, retained his strength until the end. In truth, the very last act of the Law was to put the Son of God to death. What incredible strength was in the Law.

Hebrews 2:2

For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty...

Christ did not die for His own sins. He took mankind's sin upon Himself. The Law effectually slew all men when Christ hung on the cross, for He died in our place. Until the very end, the Law retained its power. When its last act was accomplished, having slain every man, Christ removed the Law, putting it away.

*Over and over we see Moses carrying out the Law, slaying men...*

Colossians 2:13-14

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

## Laying Down the Law

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There is further significance in the fact that Moses was buried, not in Israel, but in Moab. We read: **“He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.”**

Moab was outside the land of Canaan. Yahweh did not give the Israelites any portion that belonged to Moab.

Deuteronomy 2:9

Then Yahweh said to me, “Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession.”

Neither in life, nor in death, could Moses enter into the land of promise, that land flowing with milk and honey. The Law cannot take men into their inheritance.

Why did Satan contend with Michael for the body of Moses? Moses was dead, and Michael was sent to bury him. Satan opposed this action. He still opposes it to this day. Although the Law’s power and rule over man ended when Christ was slain, Satan seeks to prop it up as a living thing to this day. There is no life to be found in the Law.

Galatians 3:21

For if there had been a law given which was able to impart life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

Satan, with much cunning and deceit wants to ever lead men away from the true source of life and bring them to focus on that which is dead. We must see ourselves joined to Christ and dead to the Law. The Law was a minister of condemnation and death. It slew all men. In Christ Yahshua we are

made alive.

Romans 7:4

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.

Let us look at one last detail of Moses’ death before passing on to other things. We read, **“He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.”**

In the Hebrew the word *Beth* means “House.” *Peor* means “open, gaping, or yawning.” Combined they mean “open house,” or “gaping house.” It speaks of a habitation that is open. The door is not shut.

Where did the Law come to its final resting place? Was it not in the person of Christ? Is this not what was signified when Moses placed the tablets of the Law in the golden Ark? The Son of God fully satisfied all the righteous requirements of the Law. Christ accepted the Law’s judgment of death for the sin of mankind. He was crucified, then laid in a tomb. The Law went there with Him.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Christ is no longer in the tomb. The tomb is open, gaping, yawning. The earth could not hold Him. Death could not keep Him bound. He has risen. His death, burial, and resurrection marked a turning point in Yahweh’s dealings with His people. The Law was satisfied in the person of Christ and laid to rest. Christ then sent forth His Spirit that we might become partakers of the divine nature. Those who are in Christ have passed from servant to son, from childhood to maturity, from the

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guardian and schoolmaster of the Law, to life in the Spirit.

What glorious things are revealed in the types and shadows Yahweh has given to us!

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

## The Missing Pieces

One aspect of the Law of Moses that many Christians have failed to properly examine today is the unique setting in which the Law was intended to be carried out. The Law was given to a peculiar people, at a specific time, under a unique government, and carried out by a priesthood especially ordained to oversee its implementation.

According to the Jewish Rabbi Maimonides, there are 613 Laws found in the five books of Moses. Maimonides listed 365 negative Laws (prohibitions), one to correspond with every day of the year. Additionally, he listed 248 positive Laws.

In 1990 Chofetz Chaim published the book “*Sefer HaMitzvot HaKatzar*.” In this book he determined that it was only possible to observe 77 of the 365 negative commandments of the Law today, and 194 of the 248 positive commandments. Of this number, 26 of the Laws could only be carried out by those who reside in Israel.

If one does the math, only 21% of the Laws of Moses stated as negative commands can be observed today. Only 44% of the entire body of commandments can be observed, and this number drops to 40% if a person resides outside of Israel.

What this reveals is that Yahweh intended the Law to exist in a very specific environment. When

Moses presented the Law to the children of Israel in the wilderness, it was possible for them to observe 100% of the commandments of God. One of the chief requirements for this to occur was that the people receiving the Law had to belong to a nation that adopted the Mosaic Law as its legal code. The nation’s rulers had to provide an environment where the Law’s commandments could legally be observed, while also enforcing the penalties of the Law.

A priesthood also had to exist in order for many of the requirements of the Law to be fulfilled. Tithes and offerings were to be delivered into the hands of the priesthood. Sacrifices were to be performed by them. A vast array of Laws required the involvement of the priesthood. For example, Yahweh declared it to be the priests’ role to inspect houses where mold was present to determine whether the mold could be eradicated, or whether the house must be torn down. Another example of priestly responsibility was determining whether a woman accused of adultery was guilty, or not. This is observed in the following unusual procedure.

*A vast array of Laws required the involvement of the priesthood.*

Numbers 5:16-22

And the priest shall bring her near, and set her before Yahweh. The priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel, and take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put it into the water. Then the priest shall stand the woman before Yahweh, uncover the woman's head, and put the offering for remembering in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy. And the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that brings a curse. And the priest shall put her under oath, and say to the woman, "If no man has lain with you, and if you have not gone astray to uncleanness while under your husband's authority, be free from this bitter water that brings a curse. But if you have gone astray while under your husband's authority, and if you have defiled yourself and some man other than your husband has lain with you" - then the priest

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shall put the woman under the oath of the curse, and he shall say to the woman - "Yahweh make you a curse and an oath among your people, when Yahweh makes your thigh rot and your belly swell; and may this water that causes the curse go into your stomach, and make your belly swell and your thigh rot." Then the woman shall say, "Amen, so be it."

Because there does not exist on the earth today a nation that has adopted the Law of Moses as their legal code, and there is no longer a functioning priesthood, nor even a Temple with an altar, the majority of the Law's requirements CANNOT be fulfilled. This presents the person who desires to be "Torah Observant" with an insurmountable obstacle. James, the brother of the Messiah, wrote the following:

*The Law required a very specific environment in which to function.*

James 2:10

Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

Under the covenant delivered to Moses, Yahweh could only be satisfied when a man kept the entirety of the Law.

Deuteronomy 27:26

'Cursed is the one who does not confirm **ALL** the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

The Law required a very specific environment in which to function. The situation was very different from the days of Moses to Christ. However, in A.D. 70, the Roman Emperor ended a rebellion of the Jewish people by burning the city, tearing down the temple, and abolishing the priesthood. To this date the temple has not been rebuilt, nor the priesthood restored. Neither is there a government in place that has adopted the Law of Moses as its

legal code.

Was it merely coincidental that the ability to observe the Law's commandments ended shortly after the death of Christ, and this condition has continued to this day? It is no more a coincidence than the curtain barring entrance to the Holy of Holies being torn asunder from top to bottom at the moment Christ breathed His last on the cross of Calvary. Yahweh had irreversibly altered the manner through which mankind could approach Him. Man had gone from shadow to substance.

Hebrews 10:19-20

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Yahshua, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh...

The plan of Yahweh for the redemption of mankind is ever moving forward. The types of the Law find their antitypes in Christ and His body. As the shadows of the Law are fulfilled, they pass away for something more substantial has come.

I have had a number of people write to me over the years, arguing that the Law continues to this day, citing the following passage from Zechariah as evidence.

Zechariah 14:16-18

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

This prophetic passage looks forward to the Millenarian reign of Christ. Of that day we are told that a firstfruit group of sons will attain to the first resur-



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rection. These sons will rule and reign over the nations.

Revelation 2:26-29

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' as I also have received from My Father... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

One might wonder why the nations will only be required to go up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles each year. The Law of Moses required that God's people go up to Jerusalem three times a year.

Deuteronomy 16:16

"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles..."

I believe the reason is that once the types and shadows of the Law have been fulfilled and their substance has come, it is no longer required for the people to observe the shadows.

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day - things which are a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Passover was required to be observed annually by the people of God UNTIL it found its fulfillment in Christ.

I Corinthians 5:7

For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Fifty days later Pentecost found its fulfillment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem. The only feast remaining to be fulfilled is Tabernacles.

Tabernacles represents God and man dwelling together in fulness. This only occurs when a man has laid aside his earthly dwelling and receives a glorified body. This is symbolized at the feast, for men are required to build booths outside their homes and to dwell in them during the feast of tabernacles. They exit one dwelling place to enter another.

*It is error to conclude...  
that Christians are to  
continue to observe the  
Law.*

During the Millennial period, those saints who attained to the first resurrection will have entered into the substance of Tabernacles. However, the nations they are ruling over will not yet have entered in. The next resurrection does not occur until the thousand years is up (Revelation 20:5). Yahweh, wanting to foreshadow that which is to come, will require the nations to observe the feast annually until the substance has come.

It is error to conclude from this passage in Zechariah, that Christians are to continue to observe the Law. The apostles gave no instruction regarding such things. Indeed, Paul wrote that new moons, sabbaths, **feast days** and laws pertaining to food and drink were given to God's people as shadows to point them to the substance that is found in Christ.

Consider for a moment that the apostles' behavior reveals that they were not bound to the observance of the Law. Although Paul continued to observe the feasts on occasion, he did not do so out of obligation. We have the record of his missionary journeys. Some of these journeys lasted for years. We have detailed accounts of his whereabouts. Paul did not leave the mission field to which God had sent him to travel to Jerusalem three times a year to keep the feasts. If he believed that Christians were under obligation to keep the Law, then he surely

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would have made the journey.

People of God, what I am declaring is that the Law was temporal. Yahweh provided a special environment for a season in which it could be observed. This environment no longer exists.

Some Christians have adopted what is termed by some as “replacement theology.” They believe that Christians, who are the spiritual seed of Abraham, have replaced the natural seed of Abraham. Therefore the covenant of the Law, and the priesthood now belong to them. The Bible clearly refutes such a view.

The Law of Moses was served by the Levitical priesthood. It is great error to suggest that Christians have taken up this priesthood. The Law, and by extension the Levitical Priesthood, could make nothing perfect. We have examined this carefully in earlier chapters. Therefore, it was necessary to put away that

*Christ was not, and is not, a Levitical priest.*

which is imperfect and to usher in something better. Christ was not, and is not, a Levitical priest. Yahshua was from the tribe of Judah, not Levi.

Hebrews 7:14

For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

Nevertheless, Yahshua is a priest. Indeed He is a High Priest, but of a different order, a perfect order. And He is priest of a different Law.

Hebrews 7:11-13, 18-19

Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to **the order of Mel-**

**chizedek**, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? **For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law...** For on the one hand **there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect**; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

People of God, do you not see that those who are teaching the Law of Moses as a code of conduct for the body of Christ are acting as Levitical Priests? Christians are not called to be ministers of the Old Covenant, but of the New.

II Corinthians 3:6

[It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.

[Amplified Bible]

The apostle Peter proclaimed that Christians are a nation of priests. They are not Levitical priests administering the Law of Moses. They are priests of the order of Melchizedek. They have been entrusted with a new covenant, based upon far surpassing promises. That which was imperfect has given way to that which is perfect.

Hebrews 8:1-7, 13

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since **there are priests who offer the gifts according to the**

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***law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things***, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ***But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second... In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete.***

Let us not look back to that work which has been. Rather, let us look to that which now is. Christ is the High Priest of a new priestly order. Perfection was not to be found in the Levitical Priesthood (for under it the people received the Law, and the Law made nothing perfect). Christ has come to make men perfect.

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God..., to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Yahshua the Mediator of the new covenant...

*Christ is the High  
Priest of a new  
priestly order.*

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### PARABLES PRECEPT— Is That in the Bible?

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#### Cain and Abel

People occasionally ask where the wives came from that the sons of Adam and Eve married. The only offspring of the first

couple mentioned by name in the Bible are Cain, Abel (whom Cain killed), and Seth. However, these are not Adam and Eve's only children.

Genesis 5:4

Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, **and he had other sons and daughters.**

In an age when men and women lived to be nearly a thousand years old, they would have been physically mature and able to bear children for many centuries.

Just a couple generations ago when America was largely a rural and agricultural society, it was not uncommon for a man and wife to have a dozen or more children in a lifespan of 60-70 years. Consider how many children a man and woman could have if they lived to the age of Adam.

Genesis 5:5

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

Adam and Eve could easily have had scores of children.