

The Seven Commandments for Patriarchs

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. "Abraham obeyed Me and observed My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws" - Gen. 26:5, 18:19
 - 1. What laws? Did God define righteousness for the Patriarchs? What were the terms of His covenant?
 - 2. It was a covenant that produced a priest so holy that Abraham paid tithes to him, Melchizedek - Gen. 14:18
 - 3. It was a covenant that produced a man who never saw death, Enoch
- B. Whatever it was, it remained the covenant for the Gentiles until the Christian dispensation began
 - 1. Rom. 4:8-12, 16
- C. It is the covenant that the Gentiles exchanged for paganism
 - 1. Psalm 22:28; Jer. 16:19; Jonah 3:5-10
 - 2. It is the proto-evangelium, the first law of God given to all men, the covenant that all the earth obeyed in the beginning

I. THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PATRIARCHS

- A. The Noahide Laws or Noachide Code are a set of seven moral imperatives that were restated by God to Noah as a binding set of laws for all mankind.
 - 1. According to Judaism, any non-Jew who lived according to these laws is regarded as a Righteous Gentile and is assured of a place in the world to come.
- B. They are derived from Gen. 2:16, 24, 9:3-7
- C. The seven laws
 - 1. Prohibition of Idolatry: You shall not have any idols before God.
 - 2. Prohibition of Murder: You shall not murder.
 - 3. Prohibition of Theft: You shall not steal.
 - 4. Prohibition of Sexual immorality: You shall not commit fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, and bestiality.
 - 5. Prohibition of Blasphemy: You shall not blaspheme God's name.
 - 6. Dietary Law: Do not eat flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive.
 - 7. Requirement to have just Laws: Have a legal system
- D. They were before the Law of Moses
 - 1. Seven Laws of the Patriarchs were re-given to humanity and embedded in the 613 Laws given to the Children of Israel along with the Ten Commandments, which were only issued to the Jews and are therefore binding only upon them
 - 2. The Jews were required to teach the Noahide laws to the Gentiles as God's righteous will for them, but up until the day of the Pharisees more often than not did not encourage proselyting
- E. Gen. 2:16 - "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat"
 - 1. "Commanded" implies law and justice - Gen. 18:19; Deut. 1:16-17
 - 2. "And the Lord" implies the prohibition of blasphemy - Lev. 24:16

3. "God" (Elohim) implies a prohibition of idolatry - Ex. 20:3
4. "The Man" implies the prohibition of murder - Gen. 9:6, 4:11-15
5. "From all the trees of the Garden" is an implicit prohibition of theft. It shows that permission is needed to take something that is not explicitly yours - Gen. 9:3
 - a. Note that Jewish dietary restrictions were not put on Gentiles
6. "You may eat" implies that there are things which may not be eaten - Gen. 9:4
7. "Cleave to his wife" implies the prohibition against all fornication - Gen. 2:24, 20:3

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THIS DISPENSATION?

- A. Acts 15:28-29 - Elements of the Seven Law for the Patriarchs are included in the present dispensation, simply because moral and righteous conduct remains the same from the beginning
 1. Matt. 19:3-6
 2. These seven laws have been included in the moral covenants of all three dispensations
- B. Ex. 12:47-49; Gal. 5:3 - We as Gentiles were never intended to keep the Law of Moses at any level
- C. When you:
 1. Honor the name of God
 2. Refuse idolatry
 3. Refuse to murder
 4. Refuse to steal
 5. Do not eat live creatures or drink blood
 6. Refuse fornication
 7. Observe civil law and practice justice
- D. You are observing the same kind of moral and righteous conduct as Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, and Jesus
- E. However, even though the moral laws of conduct are the same, the terms of salvation for each dispensation changes.
 1. Heb. 1:1-3, 2:1-4