

# How Should We Apply Old Covenant Laws as New Covenant Believers?

Deuteronomy 21:22-25:19

## I. Introduction

### A. Moses' 2nd sermon to the people of Israel as they get ready to enter the land.

1. Ch. 5-11 have focused on what Israel is to do as God's people in the land: Love God and neighbor
2. Ch. 12-26 focus on detailed application of how that will look in the land

### B. How we will approach today

1. Big picture: how to apply Old Covenant Laws as New Covenant believers
2. Then, apply that to some of the laws in this large section

## II. How Should We Apply Old Covenant Laws as New Covenant Believers?

### A. Terms

1. **Old Covenant** = the promises and requirements of the covenant God made through Moses with Israel. It begins in Exodus and lasts through the resurrection of Jesus (when the New Covenant is enacted).
2. **New Covenant** = the promises and requirements of the covenant God made through His Son (pointed to in all the other covenants) with the church. It begins with the resurrection of Jesus.
3. There were other covenants that are earlier than the Old Covenant (Noahic, Abrahamic)

### B. Some Foundations

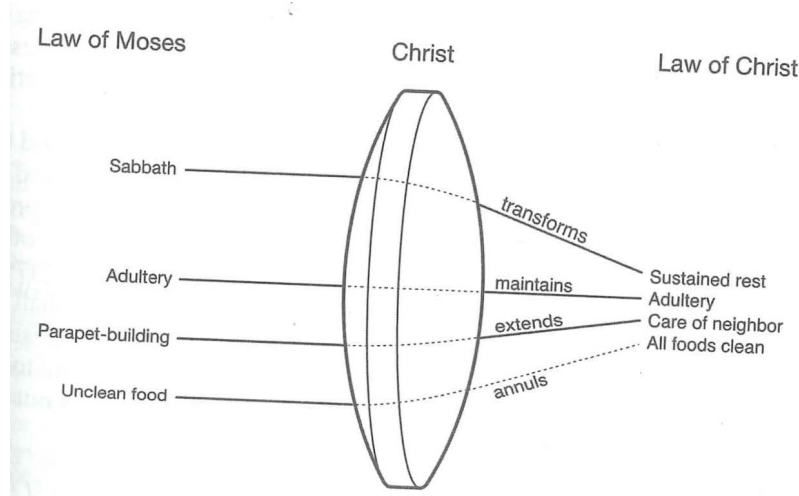
1. The New Covenant is actually a new covenant, but it is not "plan B" (Gal. 4:4-5, Eph. 1:4)
2. We are not under the *direct* and *immediate* requirements of the Old Covenant since it ended with the coming of Christ (Heb. 8:6-13, Eph. 2:14-15, Rom. 10:4, Gal. 3:19-25, Col. 2:16-17)  
**Heb. 8:6-9, 13a** "...the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. . . I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel... <sup>13</sup> In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."  
**Eph. 2:14-15** "[Jesus] . . . has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances"  
**Rom. 10:4** "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."  
**Galatians 3:19, 23** note that we were under the law "*until*" the coming of Christ (i.e. new covenant)  
**Col 2:16-17** "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ." (Emphasis added)
3. The Old Covenant is still important and God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 10:6, Rom. 15:4).  
**2 Tim. 3:16-17** "<sup>6</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

**2 Cor 10:6** “<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.”

**Rom. 15:4** “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

### C. How Should New Covenant Believer’s View the Old Covenant Law

1. The law of Moses must be seen through the lens of Christ and the New Covenant He brought in



2. Three steps in applying an Old Covenant Law<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Determine the law’s original meaning, significance, and purpose, including all implications
  - b. Determine its theological significance
    - (i) **Creation:** Are there pre-Mosaic Law creation principles
    - (ii) **Character of God:** What do we learn about God and his ways
    - (iii) **Coming of Christ:** How does Christ’s fulfillment of the law impacts the law
  - c. Apply it based on God’s unchanging character and the stage of redemption we are in.

### III. Look at some laws from Deuteronomy 21:22-25:19

<sup>1</sup> Jason DeRouchie, “What is a Biblical Theology of the Law?,” in *40 Questions about Biblical Theology*, 253.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Jason DeRouchie, “Confronting the Transgender Storm: A Sermon on Deuteronomy 22:5,” preached at Bethlehem College & Seminary, 15 November 2015, pg 5. Accessed at <https://jasonderouchie.com/derouchie-confronting-the-transgender-storm-a-sermon-on-deuteronomy-225/> on 3/1/2024.