

Stephens, GregGod, The Covenant and the Contradiction

11. God's Covenant With Moses

This chapter traces how Abraham's Blood covenant passed down through Joseph and into the nation of Israel, and how God 'remembered' that covenant to rescue Israel from 400 years of slavery through Moses. It then explains the covenant God cut with Moses at Sinai—the Law—arguing the Law was never a way to earn salvation but a response to it, given to expose sin and drive people toward relationship and a coming Savior.

Key takeaways

- Abraham didn't just keep his covenant with God; he taught it to his children, so a covenant family grew into a covenant nation.
- Joseph's story shows THE BLESSING protecting the covenant bloodline even through betrayal, slavery, and prison—preserving the line of the Promised Seed.
- When God 'remembers' a covenant (Hebrew *zakar*), He acts. He heard Israel's cry and moved to deliver them because of His promise to Abraham.
- The Moses covenant was the most detailed—the whole moral, civil, and ceremonial Law—with blessings, conditions, curses, and mediators (Moses, Aaron, the Levites).

- The Law came AFTER God already saved Israel from Egypt, proving salvation was never earned by rule-keeping; obedience is a thank-you response to grace.
- The point of the Law was to reveal humanity's fallen nature and inability to keep it perfectly, pointing to the need for a Savior.
- Copeland's 'hang the rod, not the curtains' vision: hang the rod of Love first, and faith, healing, and prosperity come attached. Love fulfills the Law and casts out fear.
- The Moses covenant required constant animal blood sacrifice, which could never truly remove sin—only Jesus' blood, offered once for all, does.
- The Sabbath was the seal (sign) of the Moses covenant; Israel repeatedly failed it, showing obedience is a matter of the heart, not rule-keeping.
- Israel failed four faith tests between Egypt and Sinai (Red Sea fear, bitter water at Marah, hunger, thirst at Rephidim), proving no one can keep the Law by self-effort.
- Go Deeper: every covenant must be activated by faith and action. Copeland gave his 'only'—a pencil—to become a partner, illustrating faith begins where you are.
- Believers can activate covenant promises today, including assigned angels who 'bless your bread and water' (Exodus 23) as you do your part.

Passages worth keeping

“HANG THE ROD, NOT THE CURTAINS! THE CURTAINS ARE ALREADY ATTACHED TO THE ROD!”

The chapter's central image: put Love first and faith, healing, and prosperity follow—striving without love produces fear and torment.

“The purpose of the Law was to reveal sin and invite the Israelites into Blood-covenant relationship with their God.”

States the chapter's main argument—the Law aims at relationship, not self-earned righteousness.

How it connects

The chapter frames Moses' Law as a bridge between Abraham's promise and the Cross: both older covenants flow into the New Covenant, where Abraham's is fulfilled and Moses' is abolished. Galatians 3:13-14 ties it together—Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law so THE BLESSING of Abraham could come to all through faith.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 15:13** -- God foretold Israel's 400 years of slavery when He cut covenant with Abraham.
- **Exodus 3:6, 8, 10** -- God calls Moses at the burning bush as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to deliver Israel.
- **Exodus 19:3-6** -- God's covenant offer at Sinai—obey and be His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests.

- **Exodus 20:2-3** -- The Ten Commandments open with 'I am your Source'—commandments with a good reason behind each.
- **Romans 13:10** -- Love works no ill to a neighbor; love is the fulfilling of the Law.
- **Hebrews 9:12** -- Jesus' blood offered once for all, replacing the endless animal sacrifices of the Moses covenant.