



## Christian Ambassadors

### Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Q: Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

A: God calls Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers” because ONE COVENANT having TWO PARTS --- *Physical* and **Spiritual** Promises --- was given to them.

Abraham receives the Covenant

**Gen 12:1-3** “Yahweh said to Abram, Go out of your country, and from your people, and from your father's house *into a land that I will show you.* (2) *I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing.* (3) *I will bless those that bless you and curse those who curse you. **In you shall all families of the earth be blessed.***”

**Gen 22:15-18** “The Angel of Yahweh called to Abraham out of the heavens the second time, (16) and said, I have sworn by Myself, says Yahweh; because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only one; (17) that *in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is upon the seashore. Your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.* (18) **In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Isaac receives the Covenant

**Gen 26:1-5** “There was a famine in the land, besides the famine that was in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines to Gerar. [Note: Gerar was in the land of Palestine]. (2) And Yahweh appeared to him and said, Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land that I shall tell you of. (3) *Reside in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and to your seed I will give all these lands; and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham* your father. (4) *And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give to your seed all these lands. **In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**,* (5) because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My Laws.”

Jacob receives the Covenant

**Gen 28:10-14** “Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. (11) He came to a certain place and stayed there all night because the sun had set. He took of the stones of that place, and placed them at his head. And he lay down in that place to sleep. (12) While sleeping he dreamed that a ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven! And behold! The angels of God were ascending and descending on it! (13) And behold! Yahweh stood above it, and said, I am Yahweh, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac! *The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your seed.* (14) *And your seed shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and **in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.***”

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Q: Did God make ONE COVENANT having TWO PARTS --- *Physical* and **Spiritual** Promises --- and give it to the Nation of Israel?

A: No! That’s why we don’t hear the phrase “Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Israel”. God only speaks of the Covenant’s *physical promises* when speaking to Israel.

Israel mentioned in light of the *Physical Promises*

**Gen 50:24** “Joseph said to his brothers, I am about to die. God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land [of Egypt] into the land which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

**Exo 2:23-24** “After many days the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. (24) And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

**Exo 3:6-8** “Yahweh said, I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (7) Yahweh said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows. (8) And I am coming down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, *to bring them up out of that land, to a good land, a large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey,* to the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites and the Jebusites.” [Note: read also vv. 9-17].

**Exo 6:2-8** “God spoke to Moses, and said to him, I am Yahweh. (3) I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty. But I was not known to them by the name YAHWEH. (4) I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they sojourned. (5) I have also heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, those whom the Egyptians are keeping in bondage. And I have remembered My covenant. (6) Therefore say to the sons of Israel, I am Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rescue you out of their bondage. I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH A STRETCHED-OUT ARM, AND WITH GREAT JUDGMENTS. (7) I WILL TAKE YOU TO ME FOR A PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE TO YOU A GOD. [Note: God will form them into a new nation. See section below on “Old Covenant”]. You shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (8) And I will bring you in to the land concerning which I lifted up My hand to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And I will give it to you for a heritage. I am Yahweh!

Note: The Exodus is described in Exo 12. Israel is not yet considered a nation. The formation of the Nation of Israel isn’t described until Exo 19-24 (See section below on “Old Covenant”). The Nation of Israel wanders in the Wilderness for 40 years because of their sin of unbelief. At the end of the 40 years God says the following to Moses: **Deu 34:4** “This is the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, *I will give it to your seed.* I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” Joshua, a type of Yahshua (Jesus), is the one whom God used to bring Israel into the *Promised Land*.

So far we’ve seen that God fulfilled two of the *physical promises* made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: 1) God formed Israel into a nation; and 2) God gave the Nation of Israel the Promised Land.

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Q: Has God already fulfilled all of the *physical promises* in the Covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

A: Yes!

*I will make of you a great nation*

**Deu 4:5-8** “I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as Yahweh my God commanded me, so that you should do these in the land where you go to possess it. (6) You shall keep and do them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes and say, Surely this *great nation* is a wise and understanding people. (7) For who is a *great nation* whose God is coming near to them, as Yahweh our God is, in all our calling on Him? (8) And who is a *great nation* whose statutes and judgments are so righteous as all this Law that I set before you today?”

*Your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies*

**Gen 22:17** “Thy seed<sup>2233</sup> shall possess<sup>3423 (853)</sup> the gate<sup>8179</sup> of his enemies<sup>341</sup>”. [Note: this is the same as saying “Thy seed shall inherit the land”, as found in other scriptures. See section above on “Israel”].

**Num 33:51-53** “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan, (52) you shall drive out<sup>3423 (853)</sup> all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images and completely pluck down all their high places: (53) And you shall dispossess<sup>3423</sup> the inhabitants<sup>(853)</sup> of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you<sup>(853)</sup> the land to possess<sup>3423</sup> it.”

**Num 32:20-22** “Moses said to them, If you will do this thing, if you will go armed before the LORD to war, (21) and will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until He has driven out<sup>3423 (853)</sup> His enemies<sup>341</sup> from before Him, (22) and the land be subdued before the LORD: then afterward you shall return, and be guiltless before the LORD, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.”

[Note: God warned Israel that if they disobeyed Him after driving out their enemies and possessing the Promised Land, He would send their enemies to repossess those gates].

**Deu 28:49-53** “Yahweh shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand, (50) a nation fierce of face who shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young. (51) And he shall eat the fruit of your cattle and the fruit of your land, until you are destroyed. He shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your livestock, or flocks of your sheep, until he has destroyed you. (52) And he shall besiege you in all your gates<sup>8179</sup> until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down, throughout all the land. And he shall besiege you in all your gates<sup>8179</sup> throughout all your land which Yahweh your God has given you. (53) And you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, which Yahweh your God has given you, in the siege and in the anguish with which your enemies<sup>341</sup> shall distress you.”

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*Seed multiplied like the stars of heaven and the sand on the seashore*

**Deu 1:8-11** “Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their seed after them. (9) I spoke to you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: (10) *Yahweh your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, you are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude.* (11) Yahweh, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!”

**Deu 10:22** “Your fathers went down into Egypt with 70 persons. And now Yahweh your God has made you as the stars of heaven for multitude.”

**1Ki 4:1, 20** “King Solomon was king over all Israel.” (20) “Judah and Israel are many, as the sand by the sea in multitude; eating and drinking and making merry.”

Every *physical promise* God made in His Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was fulfilled in the *physical Nation of Israel* by the end of Joshua’s life. This is very, very significant!

**Jos 23:1-14** “Many days after Yahweh had given rest to Israel from all their enemies, Joshua became old, far along in days. (2) Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and their heads, and their judges, and their officers, and said to them, I am old, far along in days. (3) You have seen all that Yahweh your God has done to all these nations because of you. For Yahweh your God is He who has fought for you. (4) Behold, I have divided to you by lot these nations that are left to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even to the Great Sea westward. (5) Yahweh your God shall put them out from before you, and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, as Yahweh your God has promised to you. (6) Be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the Law of Moses, so that you do not turn aside from it to the right or to the left; (7) so that you do not come among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves to them. (8) But cleave to Yahweh your God, as you have done to this day. (9) For Yahweh has driven out from before you great and strong nations. But as for you, no one has been able to stand before you to this day. (10) One man of you shall chase a thousand. For Yahweh your God is He who fights for you, as He has promised you. (11) Take good heed to yourselves that you love Yahweh your God. (12) Otherwise, if you go back in any way, and hold to those left of these nations, these that remain among you, and shall marry them and go in to them and they to you, (13) know for a certainty that Yahweh your God will no more drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and whips in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which Yahweh your God has given you. (14) Behold, today I am going the way of all the earth. Now you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that **NOT ONE THING HAS FAILED OF ALL THE GOOD THINGS WHICH YAHWEH YOUR GOD PROMISED CONCERNING YOU. ALL HAVE COME TO PASS TO YOU. NOT ONE THING OF IT HAS FAILED.**”

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

- Q: Did God make ONE COVENANT having TWO PARTS --- *Physical* and **Spiritual** Promises --- and give to it to the Church?
- A: No! That's why we don't hear the phrase “Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and The Church”. God only speaks of the Covenant's **spiritual promises** when speaking to The Church.

### Church mentioned in light of the **Spiritual Promises**

**Act 3:11-26** “As the lame man who was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. (12) Seeing this, Peter answered the people, Men, Israelites, why do you marvel at this? Or why do you stare at us, as though we had made this man to walk by our own power or holiness? (13) The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His son Jesus, whom you delivered up, denying Him in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to let Him go. (14) But you denied the Holy and Just One and instead desired a murderer to be given to you. (15) You killed the Prince of Life, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. (16) On the faith of Yahshua's name, this one whom you see and have known was strengthened; and the faith that came through Yahshua has given this man perfect health in the presence of you all. (17) Brothers, I know that you rejected Messiah through ignorance, as also your rulers did. (18) But those things which God before had shown by the mouth of all His prophets, that Christ should suffer, He fulfilled in this manner. (19) Therefore repent and be converted so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. (20) And He shall send Jesus Christ, who before was proclaimed to you, (21) whom Heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the world began. (22) For Moses truly said to the fathers, "The Lord your God shall raise up a Prophet to you from your brothers, One like me. You shall hear Him in all things, whatever He may say to you. (23) And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." (24) All the prophets from Samuel and those following after, as many as spoke, have likewise foretold of these days. (25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "In your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." (26) **Having raised up His son Jesus, God sent Him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you away from his iniquities."**

**Gal 3:6-9, 16** “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. (7) Therefore know that those of faith, these are the sons of Abraham. (8) The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham, saying, **"In you shall all nations be blessed."** (9) So then those of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (16) To Abraham and to his Seed were the promises spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, "And to your Seed," which is Christ.”

**Luk 1:68-77** Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people (69) and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, (70) as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from eternity; (71) that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, (72) to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, (73) the oath which He swore to our father Abraham, (74) that He would grant to us, that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear (75) in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. (76) And you, [John], will be called the prophet of the Highest, for you shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, (77) **to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins..."**

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

- Q: Is the ONE COVENANT given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, having TWO PARTS --- *Physical* and **Spiritual** Promises --- the Old Covenant or the New Covenant?
- A: It is neither the Old nor the New Covenant. These terms were not known until prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer 31), preached by Paul (2 Cor 3) and expounded upon by the writer of the book of Hebrews (Heb 8-10). The Old Covenant did not become the Old Covenant until Yahshua died, was resurrected, ascended into Heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit to Earth to start the New Covenant.
- Q: What is the Old Covenant?
- A: The Old Covenant is the agreement between God and Israel for God to do His part of forming the children of Israel into the Nation of Israel, giving them the *physical promises* contained in the Covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and blessing them for their obedience; Israel's part was to OBEY God to ENSURE that the blessings of their INHERITANCE would be PERPETUATED throughout their generations.

What later became known as the *Old Covenant*

**Exo 19:1-8** “In the 3<sup>rd</sup> month when the sons of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on this day they came to the wilderness of Sinai. (2) They journeyed from Rephidim, and came to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness. And Israel camped there in front of the mount. (3) Moses went up to God, and Yahweh called to him out of the mountain, saying, You shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the sons of Israel: (4) You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. (5) *Now IF you will OBEY My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, THEN you shall be a peculiar treasure to Me above all the nations; for all the earth is Mine. (6) And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.* These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel. (7) So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words that Yahweh commanded him. (8) And all the people answered together and said, All that Yahweh has spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people to Yahweh.” [Note: Exo 19:9 – 24:2 shows details of all of the words that the LORD spoke to Moses, to which the people agreed].

**Exo 24:3-8** “Moses came and told the people all the Words of Yahweh, and all the judgments. All the people answered with one voice and said, All the words that Yahweh has said, we will do. (4) Moses wrote all the Words of Yahweh, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar below the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. (5) And he sent young men of the sons of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bulls to Yahweh. (6) Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. (7) He took the book of the covenant, and read it in the ears of the people. And they said, All that Yahweh has said we will do, and be obedient. (8) Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which Yahweh has made WITH YOU concerning all these words.”

What was the most important part of “all these words”? What was at the “heart” of this Covenant? Knowing the answer to this will help us know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Exodus 19-24 is what the Scriptures refer to as the Old Covenant.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Q: What was the HEART of the Old Covenant?

A: The HEART of the Old Covenant was the 10 COMMANDMENTS written ON 2 TABLES OF STONE! The 10 Commandments were the only words spoken by God to ALL of the people. Everything else God said was spoken to Moses; Moses then spoke God's words to all the people.

God speaks the 10 Commandments to ALL of the people as recorded in Exodus 20:1-17. What was the people's reaction? [Exo 20:18-19](#) “All the people heard the noise of the trumpet and the thunder, and saw the lightning and the mountain smoking. When the people saw, they trembled, and stood afar off. (19) And they said to Moses, You speak with us, and we will hear. But let not God speak with us, lest we die.”

Did God speak anything else to ALL of the people? [Deu 5:1-31](#) “Moses called all Israel and said to them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, so that you may learn them and do them. (2) Yahweh our God made a covenant WITH US in Mt. Horeb [Note: a.k.a. Mt. Sinai; see Exo 19:18]. (3) **Yahweh did not make this covenant with our fathers**, but with us, even us, all of us here, alive today. (4) Yahweh talked with you face to face in the mountain out of the midst of the fire; (5) (I stood between Yahweh and you at that time, to show you the Word of Yahweh, for you were afraid because of the fire, and did not go up into the mountain,) saying, (6) I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. (7) You shall have no other gods besides Me. (8) You shall not make a graven image for you, any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters beneath the earth. (9) You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them. For I Yahweh your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the sons to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, (10) and doing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. (11) You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not acquit the one who takes His name in vain. (12) Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as Yahweh your God has commanded you. (13) Six days you shall labor and do all your work. (14) But the seventh day shall be the Sabbath of Yahweh your God. In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your ass, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger inside your gates, so that your manservant and your maidservant may rest like yourself. (15) Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with a stretched-out arm. Therefore Yahweh your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (16) Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your God has commanded you, so that your days may be made longer, and that it may go well with you in the land which Yahweh your God gives you. (17) You shall not kill. (18) You shall not commit adultery. (19) You shall not steal. (20) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (21) You shall not lust after your neighbor's wife, nor shall you covet your neighbor's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is your neighbor's. (22) Yahweh spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain out of the midst of the fire of the cloud and of the thick darkness with a great voice. **And He added no more. He wrote them in two tables of stone** and delivered them to me.

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(23) And it happened when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, for the mountain burned with fire, you came near me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders, (24) and you said, Behold! Yahweh our God has revealed His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire. We have seen today that God talks with man yet he still lives. (25) Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of Yahweh our God any more, then we shall die. (26) For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? (27) You go near and hear all that Yahweh our God shall say. You speak to us all that Yahweh our God shall speak to you, and we will hear and act. (28) Yahweh heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And Yahweh said to me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well said all that they have spoken. (29) Oh that there were such a **HEART in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always**, so that it might be well with them and with their sons forever! (30) Say to them, Go into your tents again. (31) But as for you, you stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land which I am giving them, to possess it.”

Let's see very clearly that the 10 Commandments, which were written on 2 Tables of Stone, are the Tables of the Covenant.

**Exo 34:27-28** “Yahweh said to Moses, Write these words for yourself; for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel. (28) He was there with Yahweh 40 days and 40 nights. He neither ate bread, nor drank water. And He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the 10 Commandments.”

**Deu 4:12-13** “Yahweh spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the voice of the words, but saw no likeness, only a voice. (13) And He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, 10 Commandments. And He wrote them on 2 tables of stone.”

**Deu 9:8-11** “In Horeb you provoked Yahweh to wrath, so that Yahweh was angry enough with you to destroy you. (9) When I went up into the mountain to receive the tables of stone, the tables of the covenant which Yahweh made with you, I stayed in the mountain 40 days and nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. (10) Yahweh delivered to me 2 tables of stone written with the finger of God, and on them according to all the words that Yahweh spoke with you in the mountain out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. (11) At the end of 40 days and nights Yahweh gave me the 2 tables of stone, the tables of the covenant.”

**1Ki 8:9** There was nothing in the ark except the 2 tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when Yahweh made a covenant with the sons of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Now that we have proven that the 10 Commandments written on 2 Tables of Stone were called the “Tables of the Covenant”, and that they were at the “Heart” of the Covenant made with Israel at Mt. Sinai / Mt. Horeb, and that they were the most important part of “all these words” spoken in Exo 19-24, let's go on to see that this Covenant later became known as “The Old Covenant”.



## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Q: Was the Covenant God made with Israel at Mt. Sinai / Mt. Horeb the same thing as the Old Covenant?

A: Yes.

The Old Covenant was Made at Mt. Sinai / Mt. Horeb

**Jer 31:31-32** “Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, (32) not according to the [old] covenant that I cut with their ancestors in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them, says Yahweh.”

**Heb 8:8-9** “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, and I will make an end on the house of Israel and on the house of Judah; a new covenant shall be, (9) not according to the [old] covenant that I made with their ancestors in the day I took hold of their 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 the Lord.”

These two scriptures above, while not explicitly stating that the Covenant was made at Mt. Sinai, do imply this because the Covenant was made approximately one month after God delivered Israel out of Egypt. See 1 Kings 8:9 for link. The two scriptures below do explicitly state that the Covenant was made at Mt. Sinai.

**Heb 12:18-24** “You have not come to the mountain [Mt. Sinai] that might be touched and that burned with fire, nor to blackness and darkness and tempest, (19) and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words (which voice they who heard begged that a word should not be spoken to them any more, (20) for they could not endure the thing commanded, “And if so much as a beast should touch the mountain, it shall be stoned or thrust through with a dart,” (21) and so fearful was the sight that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake). (22) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (23) to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are written in Heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, (24) and to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” [Note: Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. See Exo 24:8; Heb 9:18-20; John 1:17].

**Gal 4:21-26** “Tell me, those desiring to be under Law, do you not hear the Law? (22) For it is written: Abraham had two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman. (23) But, indeed, he out of the slave-woman has been born according to flesh, and he out of the free woman through the promise; (24) which things are being allegorized; for these are the two covenants, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar. (25) Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children. (26) But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all.”

By putting these 4 passages and previous scriptures together, we can see several things:

- God made a Covenant with Israel after they left Egypt
- This Covenant was made at Mt. Sinai / Mt. Horeb
- It is referred to as the “Old” Covenant (made at Mt. Sinai) as contrasted with the New Covenant (made at Mt. Zion)
- The New Covenant was necessary because Israel broke the Old Covenant
- At the heart of the Old Covenant were the Tables of the Covenant, i.e. the 10 Commandments written on 2 Tables of Stone

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

- Q: What are the differences between the Old and New Covenants?  
A: Plenty; see below.

Contrast between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant

**Jer 31:31-34** “Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that **I will cut a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, (32) **not according to the [old] covenant** that I cut with their ancestors in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; **which covenant of Mine they broke**, although I was a husband to them, says Yahweh; (33) but this shall be the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel: After those days, says Yahweh, **I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (34) And they shall no more teach each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh; for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.”

- A) Cutting a new covenant infers there is an old covenant.
- B) The Old Covenant was made with Israel most likely on the Day of Pentecost, just like the New Covenant was made with the Church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- C) The Old Covenant was a marriage contract with Yahweh, and so is the New Covenant (Jer 3:8; Eph 5:22-32).
- D) Under the New Covenant Yahweh gives Israel the ability to keep the Covenant because He puts His Law in the two “tables” of Israel’s “Heart” and Mind (“Inward Parts”), as opposed to the Old Covenant being put on 2 Tables of Stone --- which was symbolic of Israel having a stony “Heart” and “Mind”, and therefore not capable of obeying.
- E) The New Covenant includes the forgiveness of sins --- something the Old Covenant never grants. See Heb 10:4, 11].

**Heb 8:6-13** “But now Yahshua has obtained a more excellent ministry, by so much He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which was built upon better promises. (7) For **if that first covenant had been without fault, then no place would have been sought for the second.** (8) For finding fault with them, He said to them, “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, and I will make an end on the house of Israel and on the house of Judah; a new covenant shall be, (9) not according to the covenant that I made with their ancestors in the day I took hold of their 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 the Lord. (10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (11) And they shall not each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. (12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more.” (13) In that He says, **A new covenant, He has made the first one old.** Now that which decays and becomes old is ready to vanish away.”

- A) Yahshua is Mediator of a better covenant, which infers there is a lesser covenant.
- B) The better covenant has better promises.
- C) The 1<sup>st</sup> covenant = the Old Covenant; the 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant = the New Covenant.
- D) The 1<sup>st</sup> covenant had a fault, i.e. Israel did not have the heart and mind to obey it.
- E) The 1<sup>st</sup> covenant / Old Covenant ended when Yahshua died in 31 AD; it completely vanished when Jerusalem and the Temple vanished in 70 AD.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

**Heb 10:1-22** “The Law [Note: read context to see that Law in this case = Old Covenant] has a shadow of good things to come, not the very image of the things, appearing year by year with the same sacrifices, which they offer continually, they are never able to perfect those drawing near. (2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because the worshipers, when they had been once for all purged, would have had no more conscience of sin. (3) But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again of sins every year. (4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (5) Therefore when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me. (6) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have had no pleasure. (7) Then I said, Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God." (8) Above, when He said, "Sacrifice and offering, and burnt offerings and offering for sin You did not desire, neither did You have pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), (9) then He said, "Lo, I come to do Your will, O God." **He takes away the first so that He may establish the second.** (10) By this will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (11) And indeed every priest stands daily ministering and offering often the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (12) But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right of God, (13) from then on expecting until His enemies are made His footstool. (14) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified. (15) The Holy Spirit also is a witness to us; for after He had said before, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord; I will put My Laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," (17) also He adds, "their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more." (18) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (19) Therefore, brothers, having boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way which He has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; (21) and having a High Priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies having been washed with pure water.

From Heb 10 we learn that:

- A) The Old Covenant had to be abolished so that the New Covenant could be established.
- B) The Old Covenant was good in that it was a shadow of good things to come in the New Covenant.
- C) The blood of animals (Blood of the Covenant) could not take away sins, whereas the blood of Yahshua (Blood of the Covenant) can take away sins --- and cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God (Heb 9:14).
- D) Under the Old Covenant God put His 10 Commandments on 2 Tables of Stone; under the New Covenant God puts His 10 Commandments on the 2 Tables of our Hearts and Minds.
- E) This “new” and “living” way means that God has taken away the “veil” of a carnal mind that is not subject to the Laws of God, so that we can now worship God in Spirit and Truth. The Spirit of the Law is Love, and the Truth is that God is Love! Since God lives in us, we must be Love (Godly). When we become Love we can Do The RIGHT THINGS For The RIGHT REASONS!!

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Let's continue contrasting the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

**2Co 3:1-18** “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, like some, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? (2) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men, (3) it having been made plain that you are the epistle of Christ, ministered by us, not having been written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; **not on tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.** (4) And we have such trust through Christ toward God, (5) not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God; (6) who also has made us able ministers of the **New Covenant**; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive. (7) But if **the ministry of death, having been engraved in letters in stone** was with glory (so that the sons of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses because of the glory of his face), which was being done away; (8) shall not **the ministry of the Spirit** be with more glory? (9) For if the ministry of condemnation is glorious, much more does the ministry of righteousness exceed in glory. (10) For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. (11) **For if that which has been done away was glorious, much more that which remains is glorious.** (12) Then since we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech. (13) **We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of the thing being done away. (14) (But their thoughts were blinded; for until the present the same veil remains on the reading of the Old Covenant, not taken away.) But this veil has been done away in Christ. (15) But until this day, when Moses is read, the veil is on their heart. (16) But whenever they turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. (17) And the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (18) But we all, with our face having been unveiled, having beheld the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord Spirit.”**

- A) Under the Old Covenant (OC) Moses put a veil over his face when reading to Israel all that God had spoken to him on Mt. Sinai (see Exo 34); under the New Covenant (NC) that veil of blindness is taken away by the Holy Spirit.
- B) The OC was “written with ink”; the NC is written “with the Spirit of the living God”.
- C) Under the OC the 10 Commandments were written on “tables of stone”; under the NC the 10 Commandments are written in “fleshly tables of the heart”.
- D) The “letter” of the Law, which was “engraved in letters in stone”, kills; but the “Spirit” of the Law makes alive.
- E) The OC is the “ministry of death”, whereas the NC is the “ministry of the Spirit”.

Why did God establish the Old Covenant in the first place, knowing that it was the “ministry of death”? What was the purpose of the Old Covenant?

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Q: What was the Purpose of the Old Covenant?

A: The Purpose of the Old Covenant was to lead us to the New Covenant!

If we keep in mind what the Scriptures have already revealed to us, namely, that The 10 Commandments written on 2 Tables of Stone were at the “heart” of the Old Covenant, and that in many cases the term Old Covenant is synonymous with the term “The Law”, then we can understand how the book of Galatians shows us that the Old Covenant lead us to the New Covenant.

### Purpose of the Old Covenant

**Gal 3:1-29** “O foolish Galatians, who bewitched you not to obey the truth, to whom before your eyes it written that Jesus Christ was crucified among you? (2) This only I would learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing of faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, do you now perfect yourself in the flesh? (4) Did you suffer so many things in vain, if indeed it is even in vain? (5) Does He who is supplying the Spirit to you and working powerful works in you do this by works of the Law, or by hearing of faith?”

All throughout Paul’s ministry, Jews attempted to bring Christians into a LEGALISTIC approach to their relationship with God. They could not understand that the Old Covenant was abolished. They could not understand that NO AMOUNT OF GOOD DEEDS --- including Commandment-keeping --- could give them favor with God. They could not understand that Salvation --- which is the state of being forgiven of sins, being counted as righteous, and having eternal life --- comes by Faith. They could not understand that the **spiritual promises** given in Covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were attainable through FAITH in the **PROMISED SEED** Yahshua ha Messiah! They could not understand that THE OLD COVENANT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH INHERITING THE BETTER PROMISES OF THE NEW COVENANT!! Their problem was that, since, under the Old Covenant, they had inherited the blessings of the *physical promises* given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that God expected them to keep those blessings based on “works of the Law”, they thought that they could also inherit and keep the blessings of the **spiritual promises** given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through “works of the Law”. That’s why Paul begins his attack of this flawed argument at the beginning, i.e. where God first made the Covenant with Abraham.

(6) “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness, (7) the same is true about those of faith: these are the sons of Abraham.”

Abraham had faith that God’s would fulfill His promises. Abraham did not have to do some kind of work to earn righteousness. Abraham did works because of his faith in God, and God said to Abraham that his faith is what made him righteous. Faith comes first and foremost, then comes Works. It can never be Works first and foremost or else we would have cause to boast. And this is nothing more than self-righteousness.

Let’s take a close look at the scriptures pertaining to Abraham being counted as righteous because of his faith in God. We’ll see how Abraham had Faith first and foremost, and then his Works flowed from his Faith.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

**Gen 15:1-6** “After these things the Word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your shield and your exceeding great reward. (2) And Abram said, Lord God, what will You give me, since I am going childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? (3) And Abram said, Behold, You have given no seed to me. One born in my house is my heir. (4) The Word of Jehovah came to him saying, This one shall not be your heir. But he that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir. (5) Jehovah brought Abram outside and said, Look now toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, So shall your seed be. (6) Abram believed in Jehovah. And Jehovah counted it to Abram for righteousness.”

**Rom 4:1-25** “What shall we say that our father Abraham has found, according to flesh? (2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has a boast; but not before God. (3) For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.” (4) But to him working, the reward is not reckoned according to grace, but according to debt. (5) But to him not working, but believing on Him justifying the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (6) Even as David also says of the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness without works, (7) saying, “Blessed are those whose lawlessnesses are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; (8) blessed is the man to whom the Lord will in no way impute sin.” (9) Is this blessedness then on the circumcision only, or on the uncircumcision also? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. (10) How then was it reckoned? Being in circumcision or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. (11) And he received a sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith while still uncircumcised; so that he might be the father of all those believing through uncircumcision, for righteousness to be imputed to them also; (12) and a father of circumcision to those not of the circumcision only, but also to those walking by the steps of the faith of our father Abraham during uncircumcision. (13) For the promise that he should be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. (14) For if they of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is made of no effect; (15) because the Law works out wrath, for where no law is, there is no transgression. (16) Therefore it is of faith so that it might be according to grace; for the promise to be made sure to all the seed, not only to that which is of the Law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (17) (as it has been written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) --before God, whom he believed, who makes the dead live, and calls the things which do not exist as though they do exist. (18) For he who beyond hope believed on hope for him to become the father of many nations (according to that which was spoken, “So your seed shall be”). (19) And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body already dead (being about a hundred years old) or the deadening of Sarah's womb. (20) He did not stagger at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform. (22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. (23) Now it was not written for him alone that it was imputed to him, (24) but for us also to whom it is to be imputed, to the ones believing on Him who has raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; (25) who was delivered because of our offenses and was raised for our justification.”

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

**Jam 2:14-26** “My brothers, what profit is it if a man says he has faith and does not have works? Can faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, (16) and if one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them those things which are needful to the body, what good is it? (17) Even so, if it does not have works, faith is dead, being by itself. (18) But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith from my works. (19) You believe that there is one God, you do well; even the demons believe and tremble. (20) But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (22) Do you see how faith worked with his works, and from the works faith was made complete? (23) And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness, and he was called the friend of God." (24) You see then how a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. (25) And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she had received the messengers and had sent them out another way? (26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Here is the summary of the matter.

**Eph 2:4-10** “God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us (5) (even when we were dead in sins) has made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved), (6) and has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Now let's go back to Gal 3.

(8) “The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached the Gospel before to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all nations be blessed.””

The first time God uses the phrase "In you shall all nations be blessed" is in Gen 12:3. Notice that the Gospel is defined as “In you shall all nations be blessed”. We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Gospel is the Good News of what God Has Done, Is Doing, and Will Do through Christ Jesus. This confirms that this phrase, "In you shall all nations be blessed", is a **spiritual promise** about **the Promised Messiah bringing Salvation to all nations of the world!!!** And we can only receive this promise by faith. Everyone in every nation at all times has received and will receive this blessing in the same manner --- by faith.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

(9) “So then those of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (10) For as many as use works of the Law, these are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them.””

The Book of Law is the first 5 books of the Bible. Jews call this the Torah. Gentiles call this the Pentateuch. For scriptures about the Book of the Law, see Deu 17:14-20; 28:58-63; 29:21-29; 30:10; 31:24-26. Deuteronomy means “second reading of the Law”. Since no one can “continue in all things written in the Book of the Law”, no one should rely on these “works of Law” in their relationship with God.

(11) “But that no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God is clear, for, “The just shall live by faith.” (12) But the Law is not of faith; but, “The man who does these things shall live in them.””

Relying on our own human efforts is not a matter of faith --- it’s a matter of works of Law. If I want to live this way then I’ll die this way, because the only door to Salvation is through Yahshua, and we must enter by faith.

(13) “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone hanged on a tree”);”

Obviously, the Law is not the curse. Obviously, the Law brings a curse --- which is death. Sin is the transgression of the Law (1 John 3:4). The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Death is a curse (1 Cor 15:26, 54-56). Obviously, Christ is not a curse. Obviously, Christ’s death on the Cross for our sins is how He became a curse for us. And He did this ...

(14) “so that the blessing of Abraham might be to the nations in Jesus Christ, and that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

How much clearer can God be? The “blessing of Abraham” is the Seed, Jesus Christ! After Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended into Heaven to be seated at the right hand of our Heavenly Father, He sent the Holy Spirit. So we know that the “blessing of Abraham”, which came through the Messiah, constitutes FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE IMPUTATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE GIVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WRITE THE LAWS OF GOD ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS, AND THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE! ALL OF THIS COMES BY FAITH --- AND EVEN THE FAITH IS FROM GOD! NO AMOUNT OF works CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS. THIS IS THE MEANING OF GRACE (Eph 2:1-10). THIS IS GOOD NEWS! THIS IS THE GOSPEL!



## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Continuing in Galatians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, we read ...

(15) “Brothers, I speak according to man, after a covenant is ratified, even among mankind, no one sets it aside or adds to it. (16) To Abraham and to his Seed the promises were spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, "And to your Seed," which is Christ. (17) The [Old] Covenant having been ratified by God in Christ, which is the Law that came into being 430 years after, does not annul the **Promise**, so as to abolish it. (18) For if the inheritance is of Law, it is no more of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by way of promise.”

Paul is clearly referring to 2 separate covenants and saying that the first one cannot be modified or annulled by the second one. So to which 2 covenants does Paul refer? The first covenant is the Covenant to Abraham that says “In your Seed shall all nations be blessed”. The second covenant is the Old Covenant, with it’s hallmark of the Law written on 2 Tables of Stone, which came 430 years after the Covenant to Abraham (from 1877 – 1447 BC). Again, what Paul is clearly addressing is the tension between the *physical promises* in the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that Israel inherited in the Old Covenant, and the **spiritual promises** in the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that the Church inherited in the New Covenant. Paul is explaining that it is illegal (read my lips ... foolish) to believe that the Old Covenant has any validity whatsoever to change the way we receive the promises in the Covenant made with Abraham. In other words, we can’t have an Old Covenant approach in our New Covenant relationship with God. We walk by Faith, not by Works.

(19) Why then the Law? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed should come to those to whom it had been promised, being ordained through angels in the Mediator's hand.

Now here’s a HUGE question that most people completely misunderstand. “Why then the Law?” First, we must understand to which Law Paul is referring. Well, to which Law has he been referring in verses 1 – 18? In verses 2, 5 and 10 we have the phrase “works of the Law”; also in verse 10 is “Book of the Law”; in verse 11 we see “justified by the Law”; in verse 12 it’s “the Law is not of faith”; in verse 13 it’s “curse of the Law”; in verse 17 it says “the Law came 430 years after the Covenant” [with Abraham]; in verse 18 Paul writes about “the inheritance of the Law”. In every case these phrases are contrasted with statements about receiving, through FAITH, the **spiritual promises** given to our Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when God made a Covenant (preached the Gospel) saying “In your Seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed”. So it should be abundantly clear that the Law to which Paul refers in verse 19 is the same as the Law to which he refers in verses 1 – 18, and that is the Old Covenant! We cannot say here that The Law = The 10 Commandments, although the 10 Commandments written on 2 Tables of Stone were the foundation of, and were the heart of, the Old Covenant. And it is a far, far, far stretch to say here that The Law = the animal sacrifices. The Old Covenant had a system of laws that constituted a system of worship. This system of worship was based on “works”. Basically, what God was saying under the Old Covenant was this: if you want to keep the blessings of the *physical promises* inherited from the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then you must obey my 10 Commandments, Statutes, Ordinances, Judgments, Sacrifices, and Offerings. But there was a HUGE problem with this Covenant. What was the problem with the Old Covenant?

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

We’ve already seen what the problem was, but let’s see it again.

**Heb 8:7-9** “If that first covenant [which we now know beyond a shadow of a doubt is the Old Covenant] had been without fault, then no place would have been sought for the second. (8) **For finding fault with them**, He said to them, “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, and I will make an end on the house of Israel and on the house of Judah; the New Covenant shall not be (9) according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their 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 the Lord.”

In other words, due to Israel’s carnal mind that is not subject to the Laws of God, neither indeed can be (Rom 8:7), and due to their hard-heartedness (Deu 9:4-8; 29:4. Eze 36:26-27), they constantly sinned. For emphasis, let me say it this way: Israel committed endless transgressions! What better way to prove Israel’s sinfulness than to write a LAW in black and white telling them in no uncertain terms exactly what sin was, and then challenging them to work as hard as they could to avoid the consequences of sin, while challenging them to work as hard as they could to keep and reap the blessings of obedience.

With this in mind, let’s ask the question again: why was the Law / Old Covenant added? “It was added because of transgressions”. GOD ADDED / BROUGHT INTO EFFECT THE OLD COVENANT TO SHOW ISRAEL THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS! Are there other scriptures that illustrate this same point? Yes. Let’s review Rom 5:12-20.

**Rom 5:12** “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Everyone fits this description. So we’re all on the same level here. But not everyone sins with the same awareness of sin.

**Rom 5:13** “For until the Law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no Law.” “Until the Law” means that there was a time when the Law was not in the world. But how could that be if “sin was in the world” and Sin is the transgression of the Law? When we understand that the Law in this section of Scripture is the Old Covenant, with the 10 Commandments *written on two tables of stone* as its foundation, then we can understand God’s point. The Old Covenant / Law was not in the world until a certain time, yet sin was in the world always because God’s SPIRITUAL LAW was in the world always, and people have always transgressed it (1 John 3:4; Rom 3:3). “But sin is not imputed when there is no Law”, meaning, no one is condemned to eternal death if they sin unknowingly. And since the Old Covenant / Law was not in the world until a certain time, most people sinned in complete ignorance before the Old Covenant / Law was added. Therefore, their sin is not imputed. After the Old Covenant / Law was added people began to sin despite knowing God’s Law. By knowing God’s Law, people would have a higher awareness level of sin, and therefore would have their sins imputed against them.

Okay, now the question is at what time did the Law enter the world?

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

**Rom 5:14** “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” Why would Paul say “death reigned from Adam to Moses”? Because all people sinned, and therefore died the first death during the time between Adam and Moses. But most people sinned on the level of complete ignorance of any of God's Laws because during the period of time between Adam and Moses the Law / Old Covenant was not in the world. So they are not in danger of the second death --- eternal death. During Moses' life the Law / Old Covenant came into the world. The next statement is harrowing. “Even over them that had not sinned in the same way as Adam”. What does this mean? Adam and Eve had direct contact with God, and God specifically revealed His Spiritual Laws to them (Gen. 2:2 –3, 24), yet they still sinned. Adam and Eve had the highest level of awareness of sin, and they still sinned. If they did not repent then they are headed towards the Lake of Fire --- which is the second death (Rev 20:11-15). So we see three levels of awareness of sin: at the lowest level are those who sinned in complete ignorance of God's Spiritual Law, and God's Old Covenant, because God had not revealed either Law to them. This group would be all those who sinned after Adam & Eve but before Moses. At the middle level are those who sinned after the Old Covenant / Law was revealed starting in Moses' time. At the highest level are those who sinned liked Adam & Eve, i.e. knowing God's Spiritual Law. A little later we'll see this highest level of awareness of sin in the Apostle Paul's life.

**Rom 5:20** “Moreover the Law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” Why did God give the Law / Old Covenant (with the 10 Commandments *written on two tables of stone*) in the time of Moses? “Moreover, the Law ENTERED that the offence might abound”! God wanted to use Israel as a proxy for the world to prove that, even with knowledge of the right way to live, no one can love God with all his heart, mind and soul, and love his neighbors as himself --- without God in him! The Law was written down in black and white for everyone to see so that there would be no excuse for sin. Once the Law entered, people saw their sin for what it was. Sin, offences against God, abounded in the sense that they became abundantly clear. It's a foolish argument to say that the Law makes us sin more. But it's a wise acknowledgment to say that the Law makes us see sin more. “For by the Law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20). This applies to both the “letter of the Law”, i.e. the 10 Commandments *written on two tables of stone*, and God's eternal, Spiritual Law (Rom 7:14, 22), i.e. that which is written on the two tables of our hearts and minds.

Now let's look at the Apostle Paul himself because he represents the third and highest level of awareness of sin.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

Saul, an Israelite well versed in Judaism, persecuted Christ. After Saul's conversion to Christianity his name was changed to Paul. Paul proclaims the goodness of the Law because, through the Law, he knew what sin was. But notice this interesting comment: “For I was alive without the Law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be to death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me” (Rom. 7:9 – 11). As Saul, following the 10 Commandments *written on two tables of stone*, he thought he was alive and doing well by God. But he was without the spiritual understanding of the Law. As Paul, God magnified the Law to reveal its spiritual nature. That's when “sin revived” because he now saw himself through God's eyes. With God in him through the Holy Spirit, he was no longer deceived into thinking his righteousness came by the Law. He now understood that death came by the Law because sin is the transgression of the Law, and the wages of sin is death. Paul surmises: “Therefore the Law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good” (v.12). Why? Because the Law did for Paul exactly what God intended it to do. And what did God intend for the Law to do? “Was then that which is good made death to me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, worked death in me by that good [Law]; so that sin, by the commandment, might become exceedingly sinful” (v. 13). Now Paul knew that THE LAW IS SPIRITUAL: but he, as Saul, was carnal, sold under sin (v. 14). Paul reached the highest level of awareness of sin.

By the mouth of three witnesses we correctly conclude that the “Law was added” in the time of Moses because of God's desire to make Israel's transgressions abundantly clear. Therefore, when they sinned they sinned in spite of having the Law written in black and white. Using that same principle of making people aware of sin so that they have no excuse for sin, Jesus said to His disciples concerning Israel, “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have their sins counted against them: but now they have no cloak for their sin” (Jn. 15:17 – 22).

Now let's go back to Gal 3:19 to discuss the second half of the scripture.

**(19) Why then the Law? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed should come to those to whom it had been promised, being ordained through angels in the Mediator's hand.**

The Law was added “Until the Seed should come”. What does this mean? It means that the Old Covenant ended at the beginning of the New Covenant. Or you could express it this way: the system of worship contained in “works of the Law” ended at the beginning of the system of worship contained in “faith”. Another great way of explaining this is to say that relating to God based on the *physical promises* in the Covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is far inferior to the relating to God based on the **spiritual promises** in the Covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. After all, who in their right mind would rather have the promises given to the multitude of seeds than have the promises given to the one Seed? So when the superior Seed came “to those to whom He had been promised”, bringing with Him all of the superior spiritual blessings in the New Covenant, the inferior Old Covenant was useless. Before we totally kick the Old Covenant to the curb, let's learn one final way in which it was useful.

## Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”?

(21) “Is the Law then against the promises of God? Let it not be said! For if a law had been given which could have given life, indeed righteousness would have come from Law.”

In other words, if there was a Law that we could keep perfectly, then we could obtain righteousness through our works of Law, and thereby have life since we wouldn't have earned the wages of sin, which is death. But since no Law like that exists, we must rely on the promises of God to give us life. Again we ask, then what was the usefulness of the Law?

(22) “But the Scripture has concluded all under sin, so that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (23) Before faith came, we were kept under Law, having been shut up to the faith about to be revealed.”

Okay, finally, here is the complete answer. The usefulness of the Law was that it brought us to the conclusion that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). All of us were locked up under the penalty of sin, which is death, with no way out --- except ...

The usefulness of the Law is that it brought us to the conclusion that the only way out from death is through Jesus the Christ! Yahshua ha Messiah is the one Anointed to Save us! That's what it says in the next verse.

(24) “Therefore the Law was our Schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (25) When faith came, we no longer needed to be under a Schoolmaster.”

The Law / Old Covenant did exactly what God intended it to do:

- the Law proved that a stony heart could not have God's Law written on it
- the Law made us aware of sin and left us no excuse for our sins
- the Law concluded us under sin with no earthly way of escape from the death penalty
- the Law taught us that Jesus is our Salvation --- He is our **promised Life**
- the Law revealed the futility of using “works” rather than “faith” when relating to God
- the Law brought us to Grace
- the Old Covenant delivered us to the New Covenant!

(26) “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and **heirs according to the promise**.”

At the beginning of this study we asked the question, Why Does God Call Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers”? We answered it by saying, God calls Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “Our Fathers” because ONE COVENANT having TWO PARTS --- *Physical* and **Spiritual** Promises -- - was given to them.

My prayer is that God has inspired me to prove from Scripture that Israel inherited the blessings of the *physical promises* in what later became known as the Old Covenant, and that the Church inherited the blessings of the **spiritual promises** in what later became known as the New Covenant. Let us not walk by works, but by faith, for then we shall be Abraham's spiritual seed and heirs according to the spiritual promise of “In your Seed”, Yahshua, you shall be blessed!!!