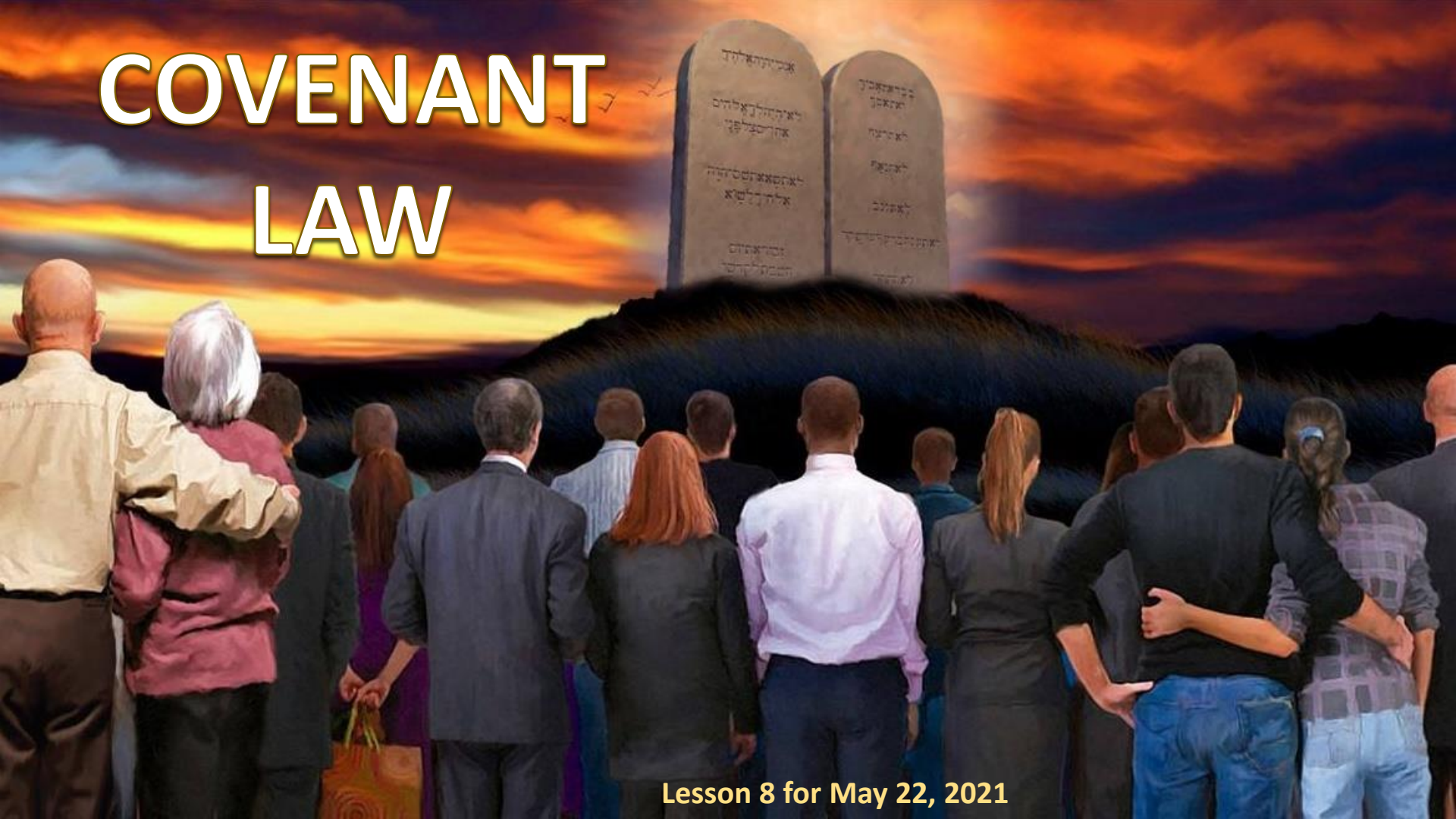


COVENANT LAW

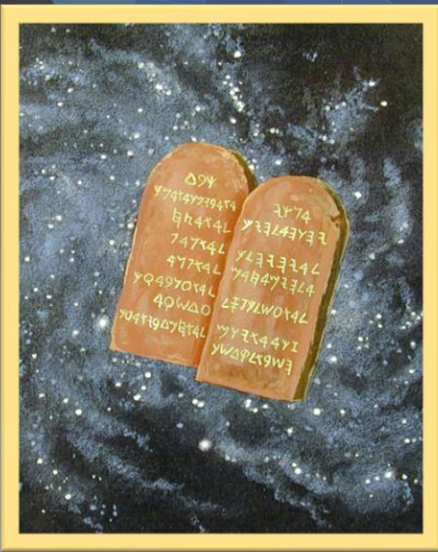


Lesson 8 for May 22, 2021

A covenant requires two parties that are willing to begin a relationship.

The Everlasting Covenant is a relationship that will live on. Rules and limits are necessary for long-lasting relationships.

Why am I signing this covenant? What can I give? What should I do (or stop doing) to stay within the terms of the covenant?



Who signs this covenant?

What do they commit to?

How should we approach the Law?

- ☆ The role of the Law
- ☆ The purpose of the Law
- ☆ Keeping the Law



WHO SIGN THIS COVENANT?

“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)

God signed the covenant first. He called the Everlasting Covenant “my Covenant” (Genesis 6:18; 17:2; Exodus 6:4-5; 19:5).

Who is the other party signing the covenant?



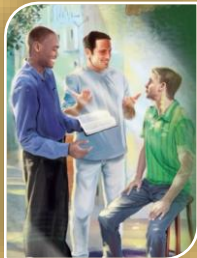
Initially, specific people: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob



Later, the people of Israel



Finally, all the people



The signing is gradual. Every time someone signs the covenant with God, they commit to make the covenant public and to invite others to sign it too (Is. 42:6; 1P. 2:9).

WHAT DO THEY COMMIT TO?

"So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone." (Deuteronomy 4:13)

A long-lasting covenant requires clear rules and limits which establish the responsibilities of each party.

Those limits are defined in the Ten Commandments. They are also explained through precepts, statutes, commandments, and laws. All those are known as "the Law" ("Tôrāh" in Hebrew).

Abraham already knew the Law and kept it (Genesis 26:5). Then it was written down at mount Sinai.

If we want to be part of the Everlasting Covenant, we must pledge to respect its limits; that is, to keep the Law. The covenant is an act of grace from God, but that does not exempt us from fulfilling our obligations.



THE ROLE OF THE LAW

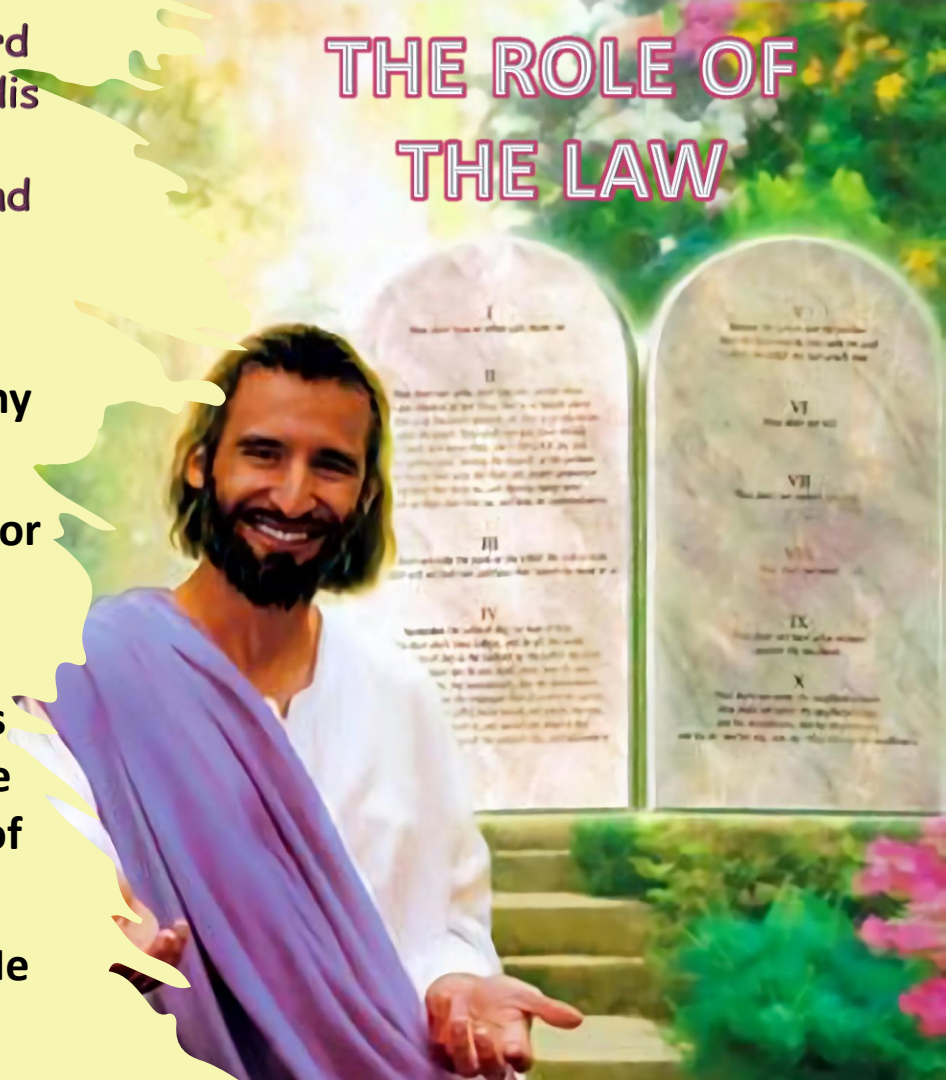
"in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess." (Deuteronomy 30:16)

What is the role of the Law in the covenant? Why did God make it a main part of the covenant?

The Law was not made to make things difficult, or to become an exam that we must approve to benefit from the covenant.

The Law was made for our well-being, to give us life and blessings, to deliver us from the horrible consequences of sin. It protects all the aspects of our life.

Above all, the Law shows us how God is, what He likes, and how we can achieve holiness.



THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

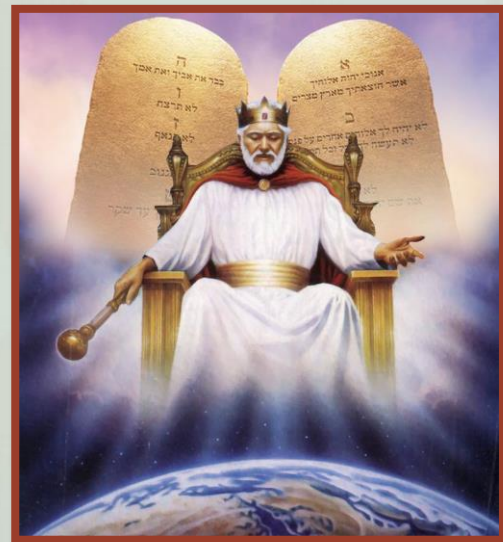
"For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob." (Malachi 3:6)

The Law of God is a display of His will, a transcription of His character. God never changes, and so does the Law. The Law is not arbitrary or fickle, but fully just and trustworthy.

Its purpose is not to deliver us from sin, to give us salvation, or to make us righteous.

Its purpose is to help us to know God and to imitate Him. It shows us how we should interact with Him (commandments 1-4) and with others (commandments 5-10).

The Law sets forth the manner of life that God designs for His covenant children to live, for their own happiness and well-being.



KEEPING THE LAW

"I will always obey your law, for ever and ever." (Psalm 119:44 NIV)



The conditional nature of the Covenant is found several times in the Bible: "If ... you keep" (Ex. 15:26; 1K. 6:12; Pr. 2:1; Zec. 3:7).

Keeping the commandments is not a mandatory payment to get the blessings of the covenant. God blesses us and saves us by grace alone.

When we freely choose to behave the way God wants us to, we create the right atmosphere for the blessings of faith.

I will long for the things God likes if "My soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You" (Ps. 63:1). Then, God will work in mi "both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).



“Let it be made plain that the way of God’s commandments is the way of life. God has established the laws of nature, but His laws are not arbitrary exactions. Every “Thou shalt not,” whether in physical or in moral law, implies a promise. If we obey it, blessing will attend our steps. God never forces us to do right, but He seeks to save us from the evil and lead us to the good.”

E. G. W. (The Ministry of Healing, cp. 7, p. 114)