

God's integrity to His Word, He is true though the years.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, **Hebrews 13:8**

We often quote this verse meaning, God's Word has the same power as it did yesterday, today and forever, but do we also realize that this also refers to how God has interacted with mankind throughout the ages. At times we wonder how God under the old covenants could have done certain things and commanded the Israelites to kill and to annihilate all the people and even their animals and how that agrees with God's mercy of today. However, as we look at certain dispensations of time and the covenants that were in place, we will understand that God has also been the same yesterday, today and forever. For this example, I separate events into three time periods:

- The time before the law was given, ▪ The time during the law, ▪ And the time after the law.

Before the law was given, sin was in the world, but sin was not imputed to us, **Romans 5:13.**

- God does not curse His people, even when they fall. He did not curse Adam when he fell, He cursed the earth, . **Genesis 3:17**. When God made man, He blessed man. That blessing cannot be taken away or reversed, man is blessed and there is nothing that will change that.
- The first murder, Cain killed Abel, (the first murder on the earth). Though Cain received a curse from the earth, yet God protected Cain. The Lord put a mark upon Cain that no one should slay him, **Genesis 4:15**.
- Lamech killed a man for wounding him, and self justified his action, **Genesis 4:23-24**. Before the law there was no moral compass for men to live by. That's why the law was given.
- God flooded the earth, destroying all flesh, but God established His covenant with Noah, saving eight souls so as to preserve all life, **Genesis 6:17**.
- Jacob took two wives, (sisters Leah and Rachel), **Genesis 29:16-28**. According to **Leviticus 18:18**, that was not yet given, this is unlawful to do, yet God used Jacob, he became the father to the twelve tribes of Israel.

The law was given at Mt. Sinai, the 10 commandments, and God now operated under the law.

- A man was stoned for picking up sticks on the Sabbath, **Numbers 15:32-36**. Judged and condemned by God, for working, not resting on the Sabbath, (under the law).
- Elijah called fire down from heaven and took 102 lives, **1st Kings 1:10,12**. Elijah was a prophet of God, and it was a time of judgment. Later in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus rebuked His disciples for wanting to do the same, and He said, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of", **Luke 9:55**.
- God gave Instructions to utterly destroy men, women, children and even their animals, **Deuteronomy 3:2, Ezekiel 9:6**, etc. (The above two scriptures show a law based system, devoid of any compassion).
- I (Apostle Paul), was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died, **Romans 7:9**. For now the knowledge of the law and sin consciousness has been revealed to me.
- The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **1st Corinthians 15:56**. sin is revealed through the law, for none of us can perfectly keep the law, hence we all fall short and come short of the glory of God, **Romans 3:23**.
- The ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, **2nd Corinthians 3:7**. Apostle Paul refereeing to the law as the ministry of death.

The God of the new testament shows us grace and mercy, through His Son Jesus Christ.

- The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, **John 1:17**
- the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, etc, **1st Timothy 1:9**
- For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect, **Hebrews 10:1**.
- For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law, **Hebrews 7:12**.
- Jesus rebuked John & James for wanting to call down fire from heaven, **Luke 9:54**
- Jesus had compassion on the woman taken in adultery, and did not condone stoning her, **John 8:3-11**
- God sent His Son to give, to bring life and life more abundantly, **John 10:10**.
- God's plan from the start was for His peoples good, to give them a future and a hope, **Jeremiah 29:11**. God is a good God and He has always been for His people.

In summary

In each time period the way of operation was different. For it lets us know how God is going to deal with mankind, not that God changes, but rather the ruling structure of that time period was different.

For before the law was given there was no moral compass on the earth, so man did as he willed. God did not impute sin to us before the law **Romans 5:13**, however, man was prone to stay in his own ignorance, living under the corruption of sin, and sin always lead to death, even when there is no law, **Romans 6:23**. This was not God's plan for His people.

During the time of the law, God abided by the law that He gave us, it would have been hypocritical of Him not to abide by His own Word, thus all were judged by the law and all came short, **Romans 3:23**. The law could not keep the people from sin, thus they were still under sins corruption of death. Nor was this God's final plan for His people.

Now through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the law has been disannulled, **Hebrews 7:18**, and we are to have a pure conscience free from sin, **Hebrews 10:2** for we are under God's higher standards of grace and mercy, under a new and better covenant, **Hebrews 8:6** .

Thus, we need to operate under and abide under our current dispensation of time. God has always been and is always true to His Word.

