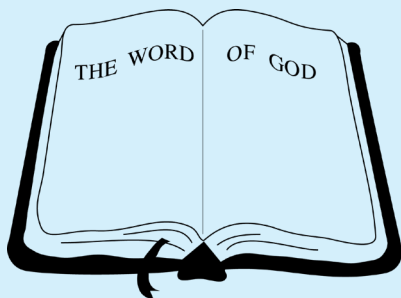


Understanding The Bible

Ephesians 5:17

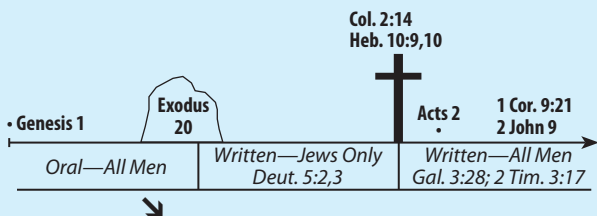


If We Are To Understand The Bible
We Must:

- ☞ Have the desire to understand!
John 7:17; Psalm 119:10, 97
- ☞ Read it! Ephesians 3:2, 4; 2 Timothy 2:15
- ☞ Apply the teaching to ourselves!
Romans 2:21
- ☞ Teach it to others! 2 Timothy 2:2

Lynn D. Headrick

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Patriarchal

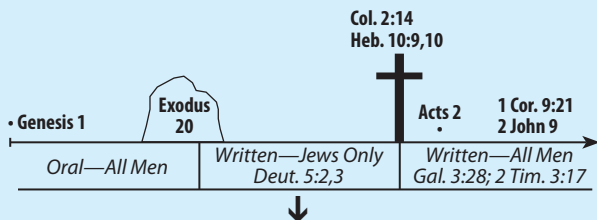
1. Creation. Gen. 1:1
2. Seed after their kind. Gen. 1:12
3. Animal and human life. Gen. 1:24, 27
4. Beginning of sin. Gen. 3:1-8
5. Redemption. Gen. 3:15
6. Worship. Gen. 4:1-8
7. Grace, faith, obedience. Gen. 6:8-22

Genesis 1 through Exodus 19 describes a time frame in which God communicated to such patriarchs as Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses. Genesis 1 affirms that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” He made “herb yielding seed after his kind,” 1:8. There is no exception to this principle. “God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them,” 1:27. “And God made the beasts of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind,” 1:25, being distinct from mankind. “And God saw everything that he had made, ... and ... behold, it was very good,” 1:31.

Sin marred the paradise of Eden. God had given a law concerning what could and could not be eaten.

Satan tempted Eve and she broke God's law. Thus, sin, a transgression of law, is introduced into the world. God promised that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of Satan, Gen. 3:15. This seed is Christ who came to redeem mankind from the consequences of sin, Galatians 4:4,5. Man is to worship God. Genesis 4 tells us that God did not accept the worship of Cain, but He did accept that of Abel. Acceptable worship must be by faith, Hebrews 11:4. God's grace warned Noah of an impending flood and instructed Noah to build an ark. By faith, Noah obeyed and was saved. Salvation is, and always has been, by the grace of God and by the faith and obedience of man.

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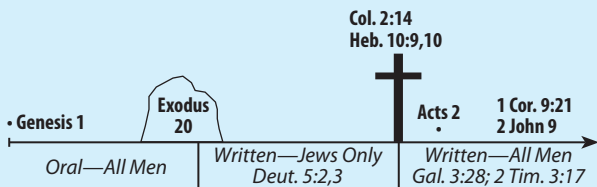
Law of Moses

1. Place of worship.
 - a. Tabernacle — Ex. 25:8,9
 - b. Temple — Jerusalem. Deut. 16:16;
2 Chron. 6:5-7
2. Sabbath Day — Ex. 20:8
3. Circumcision — Lev. 12:3; John 7:22
4. Animal sacrifices — Lev. 16
5. Instrumental music. 2 Chron. 29:25
6. Temporary in nature. Gal. 3:19, 24

Once, “the whole earth was of one language,” Gen. 11:1, but soon after the flood God confounded the language so that the people could not “understand one another’s speech,” 11:7. Here is the beginning of nations. God selected Abraham through whose seed, Christ, all nations could be saved, Galatians 3:16. The descendants of Abraham, Israelites, spent many years as slaves in Egypt but were miraculously delivered by God through Moses. At Mt. Sinai God gave Israel only, not other nations, a written law called the Law of Moses or the Law of God. The diagram above indicates that this law lasted from Sinai to the cross of Christ, a period

of about 1500 years. God's spokesman was Moses and God manifested His presence with the people from the tabernacle or tent of meeting, Exodus 25:8,9; 29:44-46. After Israel settled in the promised land, Jerusalem was God's selection as a site for the temple and as the city to which males among the Jews were to go for worship three times each year, Deuteronomy 16:16; 2 Chronicles 6:5-78. Animal sacrifices, Leviticus 16, instrumental music, 2 Chronicles 29:25, and strict observance of the seventh day or sabbath day, Numbers 15:32-36, were cardinal features of Moses' Law. God put His word in the mouths of men like: 1) Isaiah, who foretold the coming kingdom of the Messiah; 2) Jeremiah, who told of a New Covenant which God would establish for all men everywhere, and 3) Malachi, the last prophet before John prepared the way for Christ. These powerful preachers urged the people to follow Moses' Law, to be a holy people, and to anticipate the coming of Christ.

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The Law of Christ

Eph. 2:14-17; Gal. 3:26-28; Mt. 28:18-20

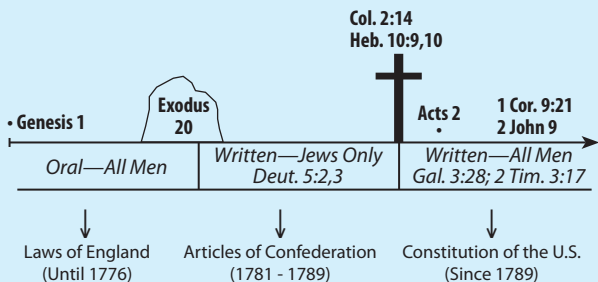
1. For all nations. Matt. 28:18-20
2. Christ, the sacrifice for sins. Heb. 10:4-10
3. Baptism for remission of sins. Acts 2:38
4. Church = body of the saved. Eph. 5:23
5. Worship. Jn. 4:23f
6. First day of week. Acts 20:7
7. Return of Christ and the end of time.
2 Thes. 1:7-9; 1 Cor. 15:24; Matt. 25:46

Christ is the central figure of the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give ample evidence for the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, Savior of the world, and the way to heaven. Their testimony climaxes at the cross. “God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” Romans 5:8. “... apart from the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ,” Romans 3:21,22. Christ’s death is the redemption price for sin, Ephesians 1:7,

and marks the end of the Law of Moses and the ushering in of the law of Christ by which all are sanctified, Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 10:9, 10; 1 Corinthians 9:21. Christ has all authority, Matthew 28:18-20; His authority extends to all nations, Acts 3:22-26; His word is complete, 2 Timothy 3:16,17, and men are to remain within its bounds, John 8:31,32; 2 John 9. The baptism of Christ is immersion in water for the remission of sins, Romans 6:3,4; Acts 2:38; 8:38. Believers who were baptized were “added to the church,” Acts 2:47. They met on the first day of the week, the Lord’s day, to eat the Lord’s supper, Acts 20:7, to give as they had been prospered, 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2, to pray and to sing, unaccompanied with mechanical musical instruments, Ephesians 5:19, and to be taught from Christ’s word. Worship may be conducted anywhere in the world but must be done “in spirit and truth,” John 4:23, 24. The letters of the New Testament are written to churches and individuals teaching all how “to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God,” 1 Timothy 3:15. At the end of time, Christ will return and the faithful will meet him in the air, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, all the dead will be raised, John 5:28, the earth will be burned up, 2 Peter 3:10, the judgment of all will occur, Matthew 25:46; Acts 17:31, the wicked will be turned into hell and the faithful will worship around the throne of God, world without end.

The American colonists lived under the Laws of England until 1776, under the Articles of Con-

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federation from 1781–1789, and under the Constitution of the United States since 1789. So, likewise, God has had three different laws for the three distinct periods of history. *Thus, today, the New Testament is God's law for all mankind.*

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