

A religious painting depicting three angels. They are shown from the chest up, wearing long, flowing robes in shades of blue, green, and red. Each angel has a golden halo around their head and large, feathered wings. They are gathered around a table, looking towards the center. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with some architectural details on the left.

# God's Ultimate Promise

Galatians 3:15-29

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*[15] To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. [16] Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. [17] This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. [18] For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.*

*[19] Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. [20] Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.*

*[21] Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. [22] But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. [23] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. [24] So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

*[25] But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, [26] for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*



A watercolor illustration of a person standing in a forest. The person is wearing a purple hooded garment and a white mask with a grid pattern and some markings. They are holding a flaming torch that is lit. The forest has many trees with brown trunks and sparse green foliage. The background is a dark blue sky. The text "Context: 'Promise' and 'Law'" is overlaid in white on the center of the image.

Context: "Promise" and "Law"

Context:  
Abrahamic  
Covenant—  
The Promise

Genesis 17:7-8 *And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”*

Context:  
Abrahamic  
Covenant—  
The Promise

“I Will Be Your God”



Context: Israeli  
Covenant– The  
Law

Exodus 24:7-8 *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”*

Context: Israeli  
Covenant –The  
Law

“Follow my Law and I will be  
your God”

A wooden gavel and a wooden gavel head resting on a dark, marbled surface. The gavel is positioned vertically, with the head at the top and the handle extending downwards. The gavel head is a dark brown wood with a rounded, fluted top. The handle is a lighter brown wood with a smooth finish. The background is a dark, greyish-brown surface with a marbled pattern of light grey veins.

# The Big Question: Why Did God Give the Law?

## The Big Question: Vs. 15

The Foundation of “promise” is that once given, it is not changed.

*[15] To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.*

## The Big Question: Vs. 16

God's promise to Abraham was unconditional— "To be God to you (Abraham) and your offspring after you"—and was fulfilled in Christ.

*[16] Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.*

## The Big Question: Vs. 17-18

The Law, once given, was a *new* Covenant made with *new* terms that were conditional, meaning they could be broken. This new Covenant did not replace the original Promise given to Abraham because that promise was unconditional.

*[17] This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. [18] For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.*



## The Answer: Vs. 19

1. To make us aware of our relational brokenness towards God and each other.
2. To indicate that there would come a person (the offspring) that could repair the brokenness
3. To show us that God is both Holy and knowable.

*[19] Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.*

## The Answer: Vs. 20

The Intermediary (Moses) does not take the place of God as covenant giver.

*[20] Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.*

A wooden gavel is positioned vertically in the center of the frame, resting on a dark surface. The gavel's head is at the top, and its handle extends downwards. The text "The Big Problem: What Did the Law Do?" is overlaid in white, centered over the gavel's head. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Big Problem:  
What Did the Law Do?

## The Big Problem: Vs 21

The Law could only "give life" to the perfect, so it was therefore not a life-giver.

*[21] Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.*

## The Big Problem: Vs 22

1. The Law showed us that we weren't right with God and that nothing we could do would change that.
2. This is what gives faith in Christ its power—the Law has shown us that only He has the power to make things right.

*[22] But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

## The Big Problem: Vs 22

Thousands of years of history stands as a testament that nothing we could do would ever save us.

*[23] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.*



## The Big Problem: Vs 24

However, The Law is still very Good, for it shows us (albeit only in part) who God was. It was preparing us for God Fully Known: Christ.

*[24] So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*



# The Big Solution: God Fully Known

## The Big Solution: Vs 25

The Law showed us  
some of God. Christ  
showed us all of God.

*[25] But now that faith  
has come, we are no  
longer under a guardian,*

## The Big Solution: Vs 26

In knowing God fully through Christ, our broken relationship with Him is utterly transformed.

*[26] for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith.*

## The Big Solution: Vs 28

Our identity as one with Christ Jesus overcomes *any other identity we hold.*

*[28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

## The Big Solution: Vs 28

And, if we are one with Christ, we are the “Offspring” that the Promise spoke of—the receiver of Gods unconditional Covenant.

*[29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*



A rustic wooden cross stands in the center of the frame, constructed from two weathered logs. The background features a misty, mountainous landscape under a dramatic, orange-hued sunset sky. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

# Encountering God's Ultimate Promise

# Signs You're "Under the Law"

1. Church is "performative", not "transformative".
2. You only talk to God when you need forgiveness.
3. Scripture is a chore.
4. Hatred of the "other" has long overcome love of the "other".
5. "At least I'm not like" ... is your justification for everything.
6. Sin is a crime God has paid the fine for, not a broken relationship Jesus has died to repair.

# Living as “Offspring of the Promise”

1. Talk to God like he’s your father, not your parole officer.
2. Savor Scripture.
3. Make repairing relationships a priority over “being perfect”.
4. Be at peace for once.

# But What if I fail?

John 17:25-26

*[25] O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. [26] I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*