

## Time Audit Chronicles: The Law and God's Promises

(Galatians 3:15-25)

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### Prologue: Understanding the Law and the Promise

The Presswood family sat together in the glow of the evening, reading **Galatians 3:15-25**, where the apostle Paul explains the relationship between the **law** and God's **promise**. Ariel was deeply curious about why the **law** came after the promise to **Abraham**, and how it could lead people to Christ. Alice, playing with Mr. Fluffernutter, was imagining herself in the days of Abraham, watching God make His promise to bless all nations through him.

"Daddy," Ariel asked, "Why did God give the **law** to Israel if the promise of salvation through **faith** came first? Wasn't the promise enough?"

Ryan paused, carefully considering her question. "That's a great question, Ariel. The **promise** God gave to Abraham—that all nations would be blessed through his seed—was indeed **enough**. But God gave the **law** later to show His people the seriousness of **sin** and their need for a **Savior**. The law wasn't meant to replace the promise. Instead, it served as a kind of **tutor** to guide people to Christ."

Ariel's face brightened with understanding. "So, the law was like a teacher, showing people how much they needed **Jesus**?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "The law couldn't save anyone—it could only show people their need for **God's grace**. But the promise of **salvation by faith** predates the law and was always God's ultimate plan. Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and see how the **law** and the **promise** worked together to prepare the way for Jesus."

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### The Journey Begins: The Unchanging Nature of God's Promise (Galatians 3:15-18)

The **Time Audit Machine** hummed to life, and the family found themselves standing in the rugged land of **Canaan**, where **Abraham** gazed up at the stars in awe. God was speaking to him, saying, "**Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them. ... So shall thy seed be.**" (Genesis 15:5).

Ryan pointed to Abraham, standing under the vast night sky. "Here, God is making His **promise** to Abraham. He's telling him that his **descendant**—his 'seed'—will bless all nations. This is the promise of salvation through **faith**."

Ariel watched in awe. "So, even way back then, before the **law** was given to Moses, God was already promising to save people through faith?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "God's promise to Abraham was **unconditional**. It wasn't based on what Abraham did, but on what God would do. Paul explains in Galatians that this promise wasn't changed or annulled when the **law** came 430 years later. The promise always had **priority**."

Ryan continued, quoting Paul's words: "**For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**" (Galatians 3:18).

Ariel nodded, beginning to piece it together. "So, the promise of **salvation by faith** came first, and the **law** didn't replace it—it just came later for a different reason."

"That's exactly right," Ryan said. "The promise is based on **faith**, not works. And it's a reminder that salvation has always been about **trusting in God.**"

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### **Why the Law? A Tutor to Lead to Christ (*Galatians 3:19-24*)**

The scene shifted, and the family found themselves standing at the base of **Mount Sinai**, where **Moses** was receiving the **law** from God. The mountain trembled with fire and smoke, and the sound of a trumpet echoed through the air. The people of Israel stood at a distance, trembling in fear.

Ryan pointed to the scene. "Here is where the **law** comes into the story. Paul explains in Galatians that the law was added because of **transgressions**. It showed the people the **seriousness** of sin and their need for a **Savior.**"

Ariel watched as Moses came down the mountain, holding the tablets of the **Ten Commandments**. "So, the law wasn't given to save people—it was given to **show** them how much they needed **God's grace?**"

"Yes," Ryan said. "The law acted as a **mirror**, reflecting the sinfulness of the human heart. It set a **high standard** of holiness, but it couldn't make anyone righteous. Paul describes the law as a **tutor** or **guardian**—it was meant to lead people to Christ by showing them their need for a **Savior.**"

Ryan quoted Paul's words: "**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**" (Galatians 3:24-25).

Ariel nodded, understanding. "So, the law wasn't the final goal—it was just there to prepare people for **Jesus**, the one who would fulfill the promise."

"Exactly," Ryan said. "The law revealed the problem of **sin**, but the **promise** pointed to the solution—**Jesus Christ.**"

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### **The Seed of Promise: Christ Fulfills the Law (*Galatians 3:16*)**

The family watched as the scene shifted again, this time to the days of **Jesus**. Ariel saw the crowds following Jesus, listening to His teaching about the **kingdom of God**.

Ryan turned to Ariel. "Paul explains that the **seed** God promised to Abraham wasn't just about many descendants—it was about **one person**: Jesus Christ. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, the one through whom all nations would be blessed."

Ryan quoted Paul's words: "**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**" (Galatians 3:16).

Ariel smiled as she watched Jesus teaching. "So, everything—the promise to Abraham, the giving of the law, all of it—was pointing to **Jesus**?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "The promise and the law worked together to prepare the way for **Christ**. The promise reminded people of God's **grace** and His plan for salvation, while the law showed them their **need** for that grace. When Jesus came, He fulfilled both the promise and the law, making it possible for everyone to be saved through **faith in Him**."

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### **Takeaway: The Promise Precedes and Surpasses the Law**

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on what they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to Ryan, her mind filled with new understanding.

"Daddy," Ariel said, "I think I get it now. The **law** wasn't given to save people—it was given to **show** them their need for Jesus. And the **promise** of salvation through faith came first, so it's always been about **trusting in God**."

Ryan smiled warmly. "That's exactly right, Ariel. The law was never meant to replace the promise. It was a **temporary guardian** to guide people to **Christ**, the fulfillment of the promise. Now that Jesus has come, we are no longer under the **tutor** of the law—we live by **faith** in Him."

Ariel nodded thoughtfully. "So, the promise of **salvation by faith** was always God's plan, from the very beginning. The law was just a way to prepare people's hearts for **Jesus**."

"Yes," Ryan said. "And that's the beautiful truth of the gospel: **faith in Jesus** is what saves us, not our works or efforts. The promise of **grace** and **salvation** was always at the heart of God's plan."

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### **Key Teaching: The Law as a Tutor and the Priority of the Promise**

In **Galatians 3:15-25**, Paul explains that the **law** was given to show humanity its **sinfulness** and need for a Savior, but it was never intended to replace the **promise** of salvation through faith. The law served as a **tutor** or guardian, guiding people to Christ by making their need for **grace** clear. However, the promise to Abraham—the promise of **salvation by faith**—predates the law and remains the foundation of God's plan for redemption.

This passage teaches us that salvation has always been about **faith**, not works. The **law** reveals our need for a Savior, and the **promise** is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who makes it possible for us to receive God's grace through faith. As believers, we are no longer under the **tutor** of the law but are called to live in the freedom of God's promise, trusting in the finished work of Jesus to save us and bring us into His kingdom.