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5:17-18). The Law and the prophets were going to pass, they were going to expire, when they were fulfilled. Jesus said none of the Law would pass until all of the Law was fulfilled!

Many Sabbatarians try to argue the ceremonial law has passed but the Ten Commandments remain as God's moral law. If any part of the Law has passed away, then Jesus has fulfilled all of the Law and all of the Law has passed away. Jesus said he came to fulfill the Law and did so. "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me" (Lk. 24:44). Since Jesus fulfilled "all things," then the Law and the Prophets have passed.

### OT Law Nailed To the Cross

Paul confirmed Jesus' fulfillment of the Law and it's passing. Through Christ, Christians are "made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And **He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross**... So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (Col. 2:13-17). The cross was the culmination of Christ's fulfillment of the Old Testament Law and prophets. By Christ's death the Law was nailed to the cross and taken out of the way. The Law, including the Sabbath, is no longer binding.

### OT Law "Passing Away"

When the OT Law was nailed to the cross it passed away. "But if the ministry of death, **written and engraved on stones**, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, **which glory was passing away**... For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious... unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at **the end of what was passing away**" (2 Cor. 3:7-13). The Law "written and engraved on stones" included the Ten Com-

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mandments. The death penalties for those breaking this Law made it "a ministry of death and condemnation." Sabbatarians often try to distinguish the Ten Commandments from the rest of the Law, but Paul ties it all together. All of this Law was coming to an end and passing away.

### We Are Dead To the OT Law

The apostle Paul compares the Law of Moses to a husband who has died, thus freeing his wife to marry another. As the wife is no longer bound to her dead husband, we are no longer bound to or under the OT Law. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become **dead to the Law by the body of Christ**; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. **But now we are delivered from the Law, that being dead wherein we were held**" (Rom. 7:1-6). As a wife whose husband has died, we are no longer bound to, loosed from, freed from, dead to and delivered from the Law.

### We Are Under the Law of Christ

Today we are under "the Law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21-22). Christ claimed "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:18-20). He now rules as "Lord of lords and King of kings" (Rev. 17:14; 19:16). He is King of the kingdom of God (Isa. 9:7; Acts 2:36), the head over the body, which is his church (Eph. 1:22-23).

Those who try to go back and keep the Law of Moses and "attempt to be justified by (the) Law... have fallen from grace" and are "estranged from Christ" (Gal. 5:4). We are to honor and glorify Christ by obeying his authority and his Law, all things he commands us.

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He "wiped out the  
handwriting of requirements  
...taking it out of the way,  
having nailed it to the cross"  
Colossians 2:14

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## Are We Under the Old Testament Law & the Ten Commandments Today?



Wayne Greeson

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# Are We Under the Old Testament Law & the Ten Commandments Today?

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The Bible is divided into two major divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Within these two divisions are two distinct laws, the “Law of Moses” in the Old Testament given to the Jews until Christ and the “Law of Christ” in the New Testament given to all men including the Jews.

Most denominations fail to recognize the distinction between these two laws. Some Sabbatarians teach all of the Law, God gave Moses at Mt. Sinai, is binding upon men today. Others argue, only the Ten Commandments are binding. They claim the Ten Commandments are God’s continuing moral law and the rest of the Law is Moses’ ceremonial law done away by Christ. Catholics and most Protestants also take this position, but they say the seventh day “Jewish Sabbath” was replaced by Sunday, which they call the “Christian Sabbath.”

But the Scriptures teach no one today is under the Old Testament Law. Christ took away the Old Testament or Covenant and its Law including the Ten Commandments. He did so to establish the New Testament or New Covenant and his Law.

## OT Law Given Only to the Jews

God gave the Law of Moses and specifically the Ten Commandments to the Jews he brought “out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Ex. 20:2). God made his Covenant, including his Law, with the Jews, not their fathers, nor any other people. “Hear, O Israel, . . . The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. **The Lord did not make this Covenant with our fathers, but with us**, those who are here today, all of us who are alive” (Deut. 5:1-3).

God gave the Jews the Sabbath day as memorial of His deliverance of them from Egyptian bondage. “And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm;

therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day” (Deut. 5:15; Ezk. 20:12, 20; Neh. 9:14).

But God gave the Law for the Jews only till Christ came. Paul explained, “What purpose then does the Law serve? It was added because of transgressions, **till the Seed should come** to whom the promise was made” (Gal. 3:19). When Christ came, the Law was fulfilled, its purpose was served and it was done away with. The purpose of the Law was to be a tutor to bring us to Christ. “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the Law, kept for the Faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore **the Law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor**” (Gal. 3:23-25). Since faith in Christ has come, neither the Jews or anyone else is under the tutor, the Law.

## Ten Commandments in Old Covenant

Some argue God’s Covenant with the Jews included only the “Law of Moses” or the “ceremonial law” but not the Ten Commandments which they call the “Law of God” or “moral law.” Thus, when the Old Covenant was done away with at the coming of Christ, only the Law of Moses was done away with, but the Ten Commandments continued under Christ.

But the Old Covenant included all the Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments. Moses said God “declared to you His Covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone” (Deut. 4:13). And God “wrote on the tablets the words of the Covenant, the Ten Commandments” (Ex. 34:28). The Ten Commandments were on “the tablets of the Covenant which the Lord made with you” (Deut. 9:9-11; 1 Ki. 8:9). The Hebrew writer said “**the first Covenant included**” a tabernacle . . . the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, . . . the golden censer and the ark of the Covenant . . . in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and **the tablets of the Covenant**” (Heb. 9:1-4).

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Since the Ten Commandments were a part of the Covenant God made with Israel, if that first Covenant was done away with, so were the Ten Commandments that were a part of it.

## God Promised A New Covenant

God promised to replace the Covenant He had made with Israel with another covenant. “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My Covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jer. 31:31-33).

A new covenant was going to replace the Covenant God made at Mt. Sinai with the Jews. The new covenant was not going to be like the Old Covenant. The arrival of the New Covenant made the first obsolete, old and vanish away. “In that He says, ‘A New Covenant,’ He has made the first (Covenant) obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away” (Heb. 8:13).

## Christ Brought The New Covenant

Christ brought the New Covenant and Law. “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first Covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance” (Heb. 9:15). Christ took away the first Covenant, which included the Law of Moses, “then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first (Covenant) that He may establish the second (Covenant)” (Heb. 10:9).

Jesus declared he came to fulfill the Law and Prophets. “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Mt.

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