

Here is my questions for you ...

In Luke 22:20, does Jesus say that the New Covenant frees all believers from the OT Law?
Where is the New Covenant for the House of Israel/Judah defined in scripture? (Jer 31:33)
Did Jesus say He was sent only for the lost sheep of the House of Israel? (Matt 15:24)

No, Jesus did not say that the New Covenant frees all believers from the O.T. Law in Luke 22:20. He also did not say that all those in the New Covenant were bound by the O.T. Law in any way shape or form in Luke 22:20. Luke 22:20 is an explanation of the inauguration of the New Covenant which will be explained as the New Testament unfolds culminating in the inspired words of Hebrews which makes it clear that New Covenant believers are no longer under the O.T. Law.

Heb 8:6-13

6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said:

"The time is coming, declares the Lord,
 when I will make a new covenant
 with the house of Israel
 and with the house of Judah.
 9 It will not be like the covenant
 I made with their forefathers
 when I took them by the hand
 to lead them out of Egypt,
 because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
 and I turned away from them,
 declares the Lord.

10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
 after that time, declares the Lord.
 I will put my laws in their minds
 and write them on their hearts.
 I will be their God,
 and they will be my people.
 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
 or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'
 because they will all know me,
 from the least of them to the greatest.
 12 For I will forgive their wickedness
 and will remember their sins no more."

13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear. NIV

By the way, of course Jesus was sent to gather both Jews and Gentiles but not to put either of them under the Law of Moses.

What does Jesus say about the law? (Matt 5:18)

In summary, Jesus came to fulfill the Law. He did not destroy it. He did not cut and paste it as a condition for salvation or for holiness for New Covenant Christians. He did not re-institute it. He did not command any Christian to pick and choose which part of the law they should follow. By fulfilling the Law Jesus becomes the new "way". By subsuming the Law under Him and fulfilling the law's requirements all obedience is due to the directives of the Lord Jesus Christ. His perfect obedience to the Law and fulfilling of the Law is our righteousness gained by faith alone. The Law pointed to the words and works of Jesus thus the Law is properly obeyed by being conformed to His Word.

What caused Jesus to make this statement (Mark 2:23-26) in the first place?

Did the Pharisees add their own restrictions to the original Mosaic Law when they required hand washing before eating?

Here is the verse: Mark 2:23-28

23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" 25 He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." NIV

The Pharisees were insistent that picking heads of grain constituted reaping which was against the Law of the Sabbath (Ex. 34:21). Jesus pointed out that the stringent application of the Law was not in accordance with the general tenor of the Law. Jesus had such authority as He was Lord of the Sabbath and Sabbath Law. It is evident that the Sabbath was instituted for the joy and refreshment of man and the fence built around it by the Pharisees simply went too far. We agree that the Pharisees commonly did this sort of thing. The question for Christians is whether any part of the Sabbath is binding on our conscience. Surely Jesus did not break the intention of the Sabbath as indicated here. The New Covenant does not command Sabbath restrictions on Believers in Christ. Jesus did not violate or break the Mosaic Law. He broke the traditions of the Pharisees. If Jesus had broken the Law then He would have sinned. Jesus came to fulfill not to break!

Did Jesus and the Apostles (including Paul) observe the Sabbath?

Why would Paul chastise new believers for keeping the Sabbath and feast days if he himself kept them? (1 Cor 5:8)

Jesus was under the prescriptions of the proper prescriptions of Sabbath Law until He fulfilled the Law by His perfect obedience. But Jesus made it perfectly clear that He was the one greater than either the Law or Moses. Paul kept the Sabbath Law so as to not offend those who were convinced that they were under the Law. But Paul did not put Christians under the Sabbath Law.

1 Cor 9:19-22

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. NASU

Salvation is by faith in Jesus alone. Righteousness comes from following Torah. (Rev 22:12) Did the Hebrew believers think their salvation came from following Torah?

What on earth could you mean by affirming "Righteousness comes from following Torah?" First of all what do you mean by the word "Torah"? Could you explain to me what "following Torah" means? I am with the apostle Paul who wanted nothing to do with Law righteousness:

Phil 3:7-9

7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 **and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,** NASU

The New Testament informs us that the nation of Israel in the main did indeed think their salvation came from following Torah. Here is the New Testament comment on the way the Nation of Israel tried to gain salvation.

Rom 9:30-10:4

30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. 32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." 33 As it is written:

"See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble

and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Romans 10

10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. NIV

On the contrary, God told us to choose life or death, blessings or curses. Following His commands will not cause death or a curse. If Paul is teaching something different than either there must be a translation error or we do not understand Paul correctly. Scripture cannot contradict itself.

Belinda, I think that you are promoting the idea that the Law cannot possibly justify since no one can keep it perfectly. With this I agree. But then you seem to be saying that following the Torah will sanctify. So, you begin by faith alone but end by works of the Law. Right? But what works? Remember most people have no idea what it means to "follow the Torah." You have to explain this first. In the meantime I am sticking with the apostle Paul:

Gal 3:1-5

1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? 5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? NASU

What did Peter have to say about Paul's writings?

Here is what Peter says about Paul's letters:

2 Peter 3:14-16

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. NIV

Yes, the ignorant and unstable distort both Paul's writings and other Scriptures but who are these ignorant and unstable people.

What did Jesus say about teaching the Law?

Jesus said that keeping the Law was not necessary for justification. He also said through Peter that it was unfair to put on the neck of gentiles the yoke of the Law that the even the Israel fathers could not bear. Once again I am sticking with the apostle Paul. He explains under inspiration the intent of the law and its purpose:

Gal 3:21-25

21 Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! **For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.** 22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. 23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 **So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.** 25 **Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.** NIV

Belinda, do you believe the entire N.T. as we have it is a reliable translation of the Greek and Hebrew text? What translation do you use? Odd that you would not give the apostle Paul the same validity as you would Moses. Both the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God. Right?

What are "God's commands" that Paul refers to in 1 Cor 7:19?

Here is the verse:

1 Cor 7:19-20

19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. NIV

Circumcision is part of the Torah to be obeyed by God's people. How then can it be called "nothing" by the apostle? It has been eclipsed by the New Covenant and keeping God's commands means listening to His Son. The Holy Spirit will convict of sin and unrighteousness. Notice that Torah is not mentioned here. As the apostle Paul explains, we are under the Law of Christ.

Was circumcision commanded by God? (Gen 17:9)

Did God say that only Hebrews were to be circumcised? (Gen 17:12-13)

Circumcision is nothing in the New Covenant. Perhaps you should re-read the council of Jerusalem in Acts 15?

Did Paul say that he was writing his own personal opinion in 1 Corinthians 7:12, 25, and 40? In 2 Cor 8:8-10? In 2 Cor 11:17?

Paul most assuredly did not say that he was writing his own personal opinion. The fact that Paul notes that what he is about to say was not mentioned by Jesus in His incarnation does not negate the fact that Paul is speaking with authority under inspiration.

1 Cor 14:37-38

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. 38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. NASU

1 Thess 2:13-14

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. NASU

In Acts 24:14, why did Paul say he believed everything written in the Law and the Prophets?

Here is the verse you mention in context:

Acts 24:14-16

14 "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. 16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men. NASU

This context indicates Paul's ongoing contention that the Law and the Prophets spoke of and pointed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. What Paul believed about the Law and prophets is explained over and over again in the context of the New Covenant. Paul is not saying that Christians are responsible to obey Old Covenant restrictions placed upon the nation Israel. Circumcision being a prime example. Read verse 14 above, "According to the Way (New Covenant in Christ) which they call a sect, I do serve the God of our father..."

What are the blessings God gives us for following Torah? (Deut 28:1-14)
Did God say we would be cursed by following His commands?

Why would a loving God curse us for following His commands?

I think the point is that the Lord God Almighty does not require New Covenant born again Christians to observe the Torah restrictions and follow Israel's Law codes. I am uncertain of your claims. Are you saying that blessings come in greater abundance to those who try to follow the Torah today? Or are you saying it is optional with blessings being equal from God to all Christians even those who do not try to follow the Torah? Please go back and make sure you tell me what Torah means to you and what parts of Torah you follow exactly as they are written.

Where in the Scriptures did Jesus define the "Law of Christ"?

Did Jesus say He came to put an end to the Law in Matthew 5:17?

What did Jesus say about those who teach others not to follow the least of His commandments? (Matt 5:19)

Did Jesus say He came down to start a new religion with new laws and holidays? (John 6:38)

I have already answered Matt. 5:17-19. Here then is the Law of Christ:

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." NASU

John 14:25-28

25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. 27 " Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. NASU

John 15:26-27

26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. NASU

John 16:7-11

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. NASU

Gal 5:16-24

6 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. NASU

Please show me the scriptures where Jesus said not to follow God's commandments and not to observe the Sabbath or God's appointed times..

Col 2:16-19

16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. NASU

Rom 14:5-9

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. NASU

Acts 15:1-11

A Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. 3 Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. 4 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."

6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; 9 and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 **"Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? NASU**

There are 26 Bible verses that refer to being "cut off from your people". They all have to do with not following the Torah instructions.

According to the Blue Letter Bible, the New Testament contains approximately 933 direct quotes, allusions and possible allusions to the Old Testament.

How can one comprehend the New Testament without the Old Testament?
How can one even define sin without the Old Testament? (1 John 3:4)

No one is putting forth the position that the Old Testament is worthless or completely useless. What we contend is that the New Testament rightly interprets and applies the Old as well as eclipsing the Old Covenant Law. The New informs us of how the Old points to Christ. The New is the flower as the Old is the seed. In the new covenant the Holy Spirit convicts of sin and unrighteousness. The law was a school master teaching us to Christ. Here again are the words of the apostle Paul:

Gal 4:1-11

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. 3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, **how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?** 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 **I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.** NASU

This is why Christians fear for you. You want to turn back to the weak, elemental things in comparison to Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:23-26

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. NASU

Peter warned us about Paul's writings with these words:

".....and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

If you will truly read what Jesus says, not just Paul, you may come to a different conclusion.

Why do you continually pit Jesus against Paul? Under inspiration when we read Paul we are reading what Jesus says. God inspired all the Scripture not just the red-letter version of the Gospels.

Yes, listen to Him.

Jesus had harsh words for shepherds who lead His people astray ...

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but *he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.* Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; - DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

Christians bear the fruit of the Spirit. They do not practice lawlessness. In my humble opinion we are free from the Law of Moses and in-lawed to Christ. The New Covenant in Christ secures my eternal salvation. The Word of God as explicated in the New Testament gives me my moral and ethical walking orders. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit guides me in the path of living for the truth and walking as I have been called.

The Law of Moses is no guard against lawlessness. Perhaps the following two passages will be of help.

Rom 3:19-20

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, **so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;** 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. NASU

Gal 3:21-22

21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe NASU

Belinda I will stop here and ask a question of you that I believe the apostle Paul is asking you. It begins in Galatians Chapter 4 verse 21. Here is the start of it. You can read the rest of it by simply going to your Bible: "Gal 4:21

Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?
NASU

May the Lord give to you: "eyes to see and ears to hear".

Sincerely, found in Him not having a righteousness of my own... Rob