



[Galatians 3:16-17](#)

(16) The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. (17) What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

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Under the New Covenant, the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant are valid, and [Abraham](#) is our spiritual father, as it were. He is the model of the family, with whom [God](#) first made the covenant, and he obeyed God's voice ([Genesis 26:5](#)). He kept the commandments and the laws, and Abraham's children are going to do the same thing! Otherwise, they will not really be his children.

Paul is not doing away with the law! He is simply saying that the law cannot justify us. We see here, by God's own witness, that Abraham lived up to the terms of the covenant. Because he did, it was passed on to [Isaac](#) for him to do as his father had done.

The problem of transgressions in the Old Covenant was not resolved until the promised Seed, Christ, came. He lived perfectly, qualifying to be the payment for [sin](#), and at the same time, He confirmed the promises that were made unto Abraham—and they were made absolutely and eternally binding. God then proposed the New Covenant that He had previously shown in prophecy (Jeremiah 31). God has presented it to all of mankind—not just to Abraham's physical descendants.

It is not circumcision that makes one a part of this covenant. Rather, it is circumcision of the heart! The sign is [repentance](#) and [faith](#) in the sacrifice of the promised Seed, [Jesus Christ](#). The receipt of the [Holy Spirit](#) is the seal; it authenticates what has occurred. It completes the making of the New Covenant with the individuals whom God calls.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Galatians 3:16-17 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
Nowhere does God say that the laws that define sin are done away. On the contrary, the One who made the New Covenant possible said that not one jot or tittle would pass from the law until all was fulfilled ([Matthew 5:18](#)).

God's moral and spiritual laws have been from eternity, and an agreement between Him and mere man is not going to do away with them. God Himself would have to pass from existence for that to occur. In addition, the loving intent of those laws as they apply to human relationships is still valid.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Covenants, Grace, and Law \(Part 27\)](#)



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