

Galatians 3:18-19

By Re'uel Dillon

“For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator.”

In the beginning Adonai only imposed one mitzvah...

"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." - Bereisheet (Gen.) 2:17

But, as we continue to read in Bereisheet we see that the first transgression and sin took place. Adam and Chavah broke the above command. From this point on Adonai revealed His Torah to fallen humankind. There are both positive and negative mitzvot (divine commands) both of which reveal Adonai's will to mankind. These mitzvot were given to guide mankind because his nature was to do evil. Every one of us posses what is called in Hebrew the "yetzer Hara", the evil inclination. From the beginning Adonai commanded us to rule over sin and our evil inclination (the fallen nature) we inherited from our first parents...

"If you do well, will it not be lifted up? If you don't do well, sin crouches at the door. It's desire is for you, but you are to rule over it." - Bereisheet (Gen.) 4:7

The Torah of Adonai was added to show us what the definition of sin is and what do avoid and what to rule over. And, we are still commanded to rule over sin today and avoid it in our lives...

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? - Romans 6:1-2

A better promise was added and made available to us in the most recent covenant (which was added to the compound covenant). This promise was the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) as a power and means to rule over sin (that is, if we don't quench the spirit in our life). But, the point of Galatians 3:18 is not that Torah is now done away with, but to show that the promise of salvation was not through observance of the Torah...the promise was to be through the seed of Avraham, through the seed of Yitzchak, and Ya'akov, through the seed of David. The promise of salvation was to come through Messiah, Yeshua. The Torah shows us our need for Messiah, it show us that we have fallen short of the glory of Elohim. It also describes the lifestyle of the redeemed.

May Adonai be praised,

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah