# "THE LAW'S RELATION TO THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT"

## GALATIANS 3:15-18

1. **GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM, AS WAS THE CASE WITH ALL GENUINE COVENANTS, ONCE RATIFIED, COULD NEVER BE ALTERED (3:15)**
   1. Not Unilaterally
   2. Not with A Codicil
2. **GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM EXTENDED BEYOND THE PATRIARCH (3:16)**
   1. The Abrahamic Covenant Was A Covenant Of "Promise"
   2. The Abrahamic Covenant Was Made With Abraham And A Distant, Future Descendant (i.e. The Lord Jesus Christ).
      1. Paul Emphasizes The Singular "Seed"
      2. Paul Is Highlighting The Longevity Of The Covenant
3. **GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM COULD NOT AND WAS NOT INVALIDATED BY THE LAW (3:17-18)**
   1. The Chronological Sequence Argument (3:17)
   2. The Incompatibility Argument (3:18)

# SIX ARGUMENTS FROM GALATIANS THREE & FOUR DESIGNED TO UPHOLD THE FAITH PRINCIPLE IN JUSTIFICATION AS OPPOSED TO ATTAINMENT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW

1. **THE PERSONAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:1-5)**

The Apostle Asks The Galatians Five Questions From Their Own Initial Personal Experience With The True Gospel Of Christ.

1. **THE OLD TESTAMENT ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:6-14)**

Paul Quotes No Less Than Six Key O.T. Passages In This Section From Four Different O.T. Books [3:6,8,10,11,12,13 From Genesis (2) Leviticus (1) Deuteronomy (2) & Habbakuk (1)].

1. **THE LOGICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 3:15-29)**

In This Section Paul Reasons With The Galatians On The Basis Of What A Covenant Is And How A Covenant Works.

1. **THE HISTORICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:1-11)**

Here, The Apostle Explains The Place Of The Law In The History Of Israel.

1. **THE SENTIMENTAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:12-18)**

At This Point, Paul's Love For His Converts Comes To The Surface. He Appeals To Them To Remember His Love And Their Happy Relationship At An Earlier Time.

1. **THE ALLEGORICAL ARGUMENT (GALATIANS 4:19-31)**

Paul Returns To the Life Of Abraham, Only This Time As It Pertains To The Patriarchs Relationships To Sarah & Hagar.

# THE ISSUE OF THE 430 YEARS: WHEN DID THEY BEGIN?

## GALATIANS 3:17

* **FROM ABRAHAM'S CALL (Genesis 12) TO JACOB'S ARRIVAL IN EGYPT (Genesis 46) IS 215 YEARS**
  + **Abraham Was 75 Years Old When God Called Him (Genesis 12:4)**
  + **Abraham Was 100 Years Old When Isaac Was Born (Genesis 21:5)**
  + **This Gives Us 25 Years.**
  + **Isaac Was 60 Years Old When Jacob Was Born (Genesis 25:26)**
  + **Jacob Was 130 Years Old When He Arrived In Egypt (Genesis 47:9)**
  + **This Gives Us A Total Of 215 Years.**
* **BUT MOSES TELLS US THAT ISRAEL SOJOURNED IN EGYPT FOR 430 YEARS (Exodus 12:40)**
  + **So The Total Number Of Years From Abraham's Call To The Giving Of The Law Is 645 Years, Not 430 Years.**
  + **The Length Of The Stay In Egypt Is Recorded Also (Genesis 15:13; Acts 7:6) Using The Round Number Of 400 Years.**
* **THE COVENANT WHICH GOD MADE WITH ABRAHAM WAS REPEATED AND CONFIRMED IN IDENTICAL LANGUAGE IN THE SPECIFIC PROMISE ADDRESSED TO BOTH ISAAC & JACOB: *...AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED* (Genesis 22:18; 26:4; 28:14)**
  + **Paul Begins His Count From The Time Jacob Went Into Egypt, When God Appeared To Him And *Reaffirmed* The Covenant He Had Originally Made With Abraham (Genesis 46:1-4)**
  + **The 430 Years Then, Is The Time From God's Final Confirmation Of His Promise To Jacob Until The Giving Of The Law At Sinai (From The End Of One Era [The Age Of Promise] To The Beginning Of Another [The Age Of Law]**
  + **This Fits Best With The Timing Of The Sojourn In Egypt As Stated In (Exodus 12:40)**