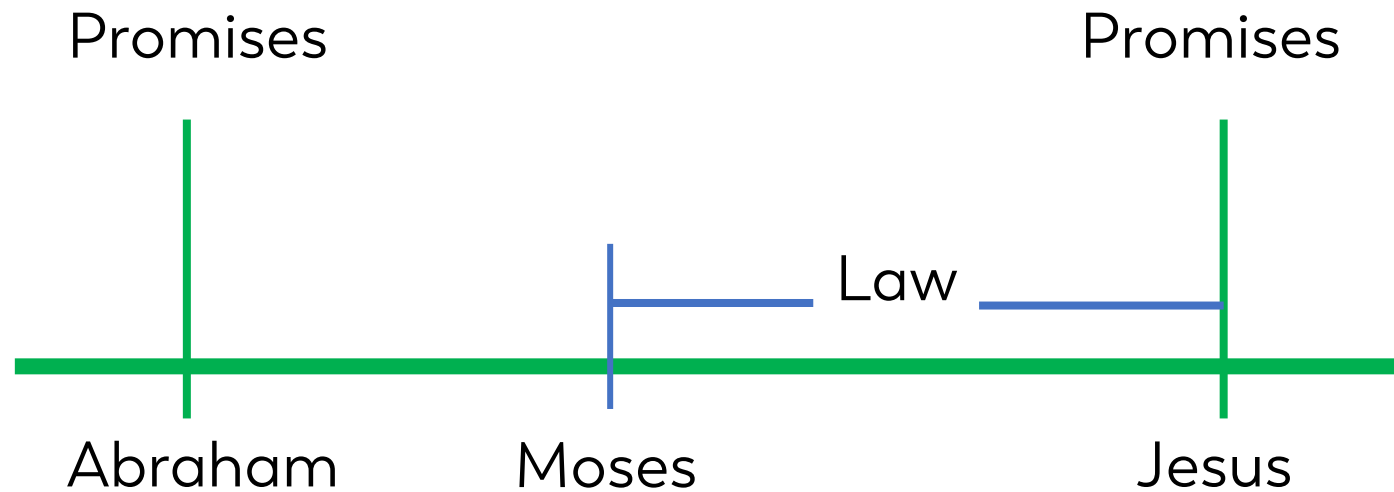


Recap

2,000 year timeline of salvation history



- **Abraham** – given an inheritance based on promises of God
- **Law** – given to make our sin explicit, Law shows us what lines we are crossing when we sin
- **Jesus** – recipient and fulfilment of promises made to Abraham, He is Abraham's true Descendent



Living Under the Law

- **Condemned (3.23)** - we are in a prison cell under the sentence of death with the Law as our jailer because we don't continually keep everything written in the Law
- **Constrained (3.24)** - we are like school children who are reminded of God's standards with the Law functioning as our disciplinarian
- **Enslaved (4.1-3)** – we are in bondage to evil spiritual forces that take a good thing –the Law- and use it for wicked purposes



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH

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3:23-4:7

Living In Christ

- Children (3.26; 4.6-7) – live as sons and daughters of God
 - **Adopted** – God has chosen us to be incorporated into His family
 - **Baptism** – an outward sign of the spiritual reality of adoption
 - **Intimacy** – God is our *Abba* Father; word of familial intimacy
- Heirs (3.29, 4.6-7) – we inherit blessings God promised to Abraham
 - Forgiveness of sins
 - Healing of our bodies
 - Freedom from all the ensnares
 - Destruction of all wickedness



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3:23-4:7

Moving from 'Under the Law' to 'In Christ'

Through faith in Jesus

- 3.23 – before the coming of faith we were held in custody under the Law
- 3.23 - we were locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed
- 3.24 – the Law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith
- 3.25 – now that this faith has come we are no longer under a guardian
- 3.26 – so in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith



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3:23-4:7

Meditate on Romans 8.15-17

The Spirit I have received does not make me a slave, so that I live in fear again; rather, the Spirit I received brought about my adoption to sonship.

And by the Spirit I cry, “Abba, Father.”

The Spirit himself testifies with my spirit that I am God’s child.

Now if I am a child, then I am an heir—an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ, if indeed I share in His sufferings in order that I may also share in His glory.



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Pray Ephesians 3.16-19

Father, I pray that out of Your glorious riches You would strengthen me with power through Your Spirit in my inner being, so that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith. And I pray that being rooted and established in love, I may have power, together with all Your holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for me, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that I may be filled to the measure of all of Your fullness.



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3:23-4:7