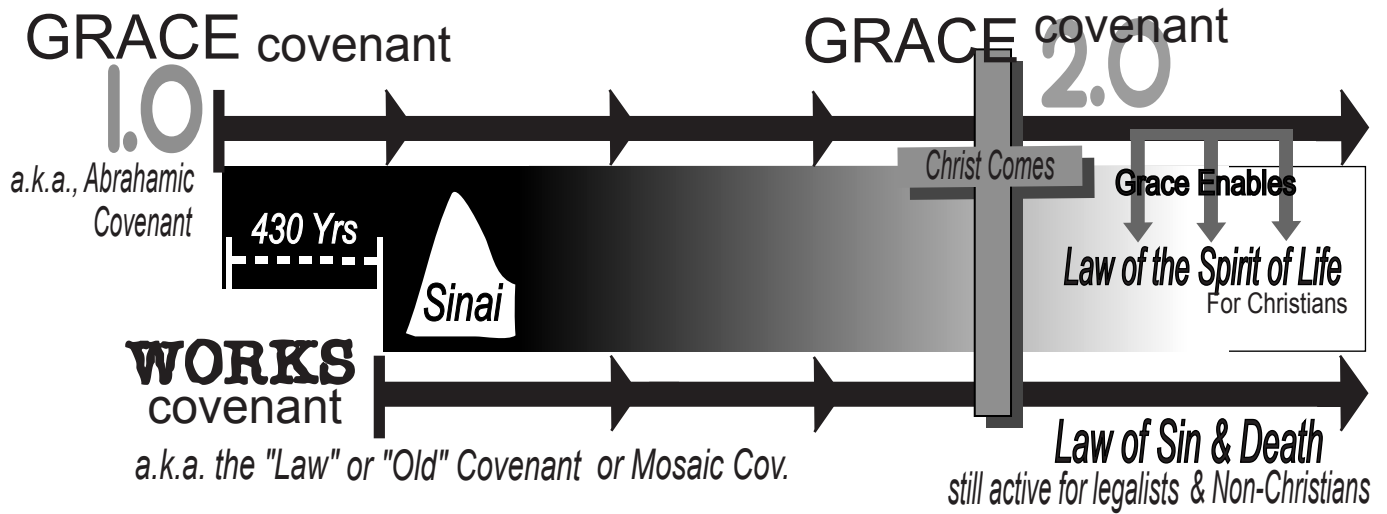


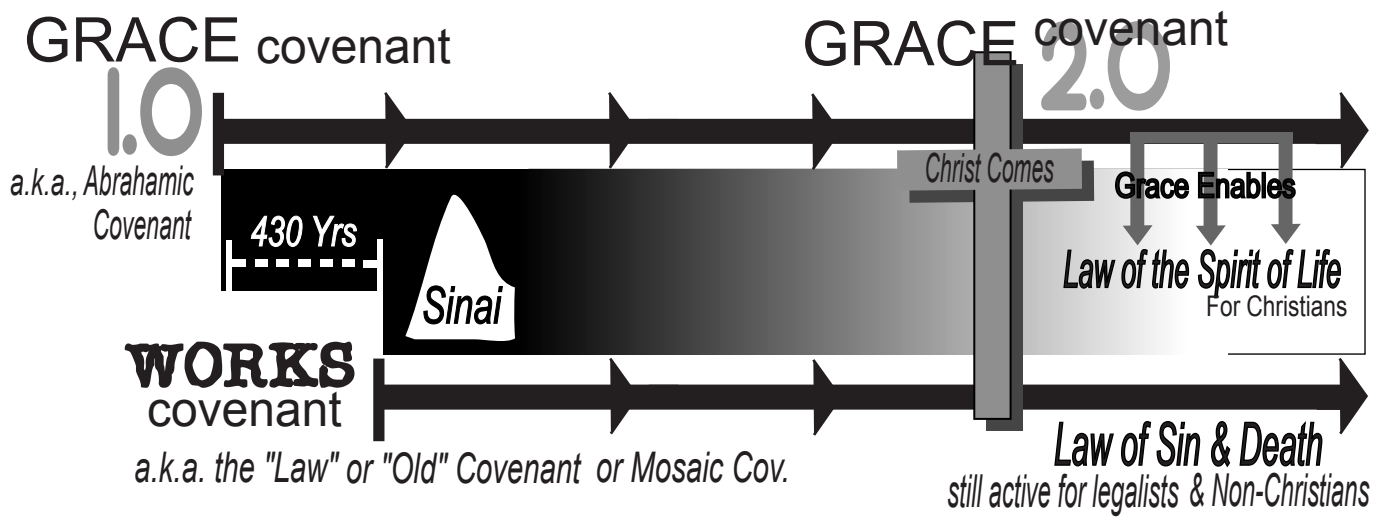
Parallel Covenants



DESCRIPTION OF CHART:

Many people oversimplify the sequence of the "Old and "New Covenants". In fact, "testament" means covenant (or contract); thus, people think that the Bible's covenants can be neatly organized into an "Old" covenant (before Christ) and a "New Covenant" after Christ; but, such a sequential way of thinking isn't quite true (See Gal.3). Certainly terms like "Old and New Testament" work great for describing the books which came before & after Christ (a separation attributed to the Early Church Father Origen in the 3rd century); but, this sequential thinking is a confusing & inaccurate way of viewing covenants. As a result people have been misled to think that grace didn't exist before Christ & that law doesn't exist after Christ. However, in truth, these covenants parallel each other in both Old and New Testaments. A "grace through faith" Covenant existed in the Old Testament. Christ both fulfilled this "Abrahamic Covenant" as well as upgraded it by ushering in the power of the Holy Spirit. The law is simply a babysitter (as well as a mirror) to show us our need for Christ (Gal.3:17). Once in Christ, the law merely functions as an exciting & refreshing worship list in which we show appreciation to Christ. CHART © 2009 Peter Haas

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