

Angels and the Mosaic Law

The following verses teach that angels were involved in the giving of the Law to Moses. When we read Exodus 19-20 we do not see angels mentioned. This is an example of the New Testament in the Old Testament yet concealed. The flip side is the Old Testament is now in the New Testament revealed. We see other examples of angels being used to communicate God's message to man (Revelation 1:1; 22:6; 22:16). One of the purposes of the angels is that they function as witnesses of God's working in the lives of man (1Pe.1:12).

Galatians 3:19: "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

Acts 7:53: "Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it."

Hebrews 2:2: "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;"

Deuteronomy 33:2: "And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them."

Moses mediated to the children of Israel)

Galatians 3:19-20 - The mention of a mediator describes a covenant between two parties. Here the parties are the children of Israel and God. The mediator is Moses. The mediator does not simply represent one party but both parties. Galatians contrasts the law and the promises. Paul acknowledges that the differences between the Mosaic Covenant and the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant make them seem hopelessly contradictory. In other words, he asserts that the Galatians should not be attempting to mix them. Law and grace do not blend.

The law shows us our condition, and having a mediator (Moses) places responsibility on both parties. The Abrahamic covenant promises on the other hand, are unilateral because it was given directly to man without a mediator. Thus, God alone is responsible for fulfilling it. The promises are not dependant on human effort.

The reason for mentioning the Angels and Moses is that it prevents the Judaizers from saying that they could have modified the Abrahamic Covenant or annulled it. This is not so. They had a secondary (almost secretarial role in the Mosaic Covenant). They were not parties to the Abrahamic Covenant. Furthermore, the bilateral nature of the Mosaic Covenant is quite distinct from the unilateral nature of the Abrahamic.



**Mediator
Representing
Man
(Moses)**



The Mosaic Law was written by the finger of God. As Moses came off Mt Sinai, finding the children of Israel involved in idolatry, he broke the tablets. There were 10,000 "holy ones" or angels present (De.33:2).

**Mediator
Representing
God
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Acts 7:53 - Paul informs us that angels were there at the giving of the Mosaic Law. The "mediator" was Moses, and the "seed" is Jesus Christ. The law was added or given because of sin, and through angels. The verb "ordained" (*diatasso*, Strongs 1299) means something that is ordered or structured. Angels organized and structured, the giving of the Law. Stephen is speaking and confronting the Pharisees by rehearsing the history of Israel. He points out that angels were instruments and ministered by arranging in the giving of the law. The implication of the verb "have received" denotes not only privilege, but responsibility. Stephen's accusation is that they accepted the privilege, but not the responsibility.