

ditional Abrahamic covenant and placed themselves under the conditional covenant of the Law. God would have taken them without any condition whatever, in fulfilment of his covenant promise to Abraham, directly into the promised land. The moment they announced themselves capable in their own strength of doing all that the Lord required, he changed his manner of dealing with them, drew a line between himself and them, gave them the Law written on tables of stone, and added the ceremonial law. He gave them the ceremonial law that in the offerings and sacrifices they might have a continual witness of the original sentence of death against themselves, realize that their redemption was by blood, and that on the ground of blood shedding alone could they draw nigh unto God; and that they might behold each day the outline of that coming spotless Person who should be the Lamb of God, bearing away the sin of the world—might behold him as their sacrificial redeemer and eternal king.

Under the conditional covenant of the law they entered the land. They were to stay in that land so long as they fulfilled the conditions. They had gone in under the choral curses invoked on Ebal, curses invoked for failure in righteousness, or obedience to God. The antiphonal chorus of blessing from Gerizim was never sung. They went in saying: