



## Lesson 2: Christ and the Law of Moses

### Introduction:

Thankfulness for Russell's Introduction to the Lesson Guide Watching it on YouTube was a blessing, but not as good as being here in person.

Watching it on another day did vindicate my wife's frequent comment to me after any given class: most of my comments could be left unsaid and the points would still be made by someone else most of the time. I will have to admit, that for this past week, most of the thoughts and notes I had made in my Lesson Guide were more than adequately defended by members of the class who were in attendance last week. Thank you.

### Christ and Law of Moses:

One other use of the terminology of "law" not mentioned last week in the lesson study guide.

- It was mentioned on Thursday of this week's lesson
- "The Law and the prophets"
  - Matthew 5:17-20 ESV "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (18) For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (19) Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (20) For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
  - Matt 7:12 Golden rule is "the Law and the Prophets" ESV "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."
  - Matt 11:13 prophesied until John
  - Matt 22:40 "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"
  - Luke 24:27 On the road to Emmaus
  - Luke 24:43 Later (in the same chapter) in the upper room he "the Law of Moses and in the prophets and in the psalms concerning me. Luke 24:44 KJV And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.
- Law, prophets, writings
- Tanakh
  - Torah, Prophets, Writings
  - It was with some consternation that I found out that the book of Daniel was not considered to be one of the prophets, but rather one of the "writings". That placed it in the same category as the Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, etc.



The lesson guide is directing us to the study of the ceremonial laws given to the Children of Israel by God through Moses during the period of the Exodus and continued until their dispersion during the time of Roman authority.

Galatians 3:19 GNB “What, then, was the purpose of the Law? It was added in order to show what wrongdoing is, and it was meant to last until the coming of Abraham's descendant, to whom the promise was made. The Law was handed down by angels, with a man acting as a go-between.”

- Here Paul says the law was “added”
- What was added?
  - Divorce law
  - Ceremonial requirements
  - Ten commandments
  - All Law
- How do we know what was added?
- When was it added?
- Why was it added?
  - If the law is inherent in the design, why did it have to be added?
- What does it mean “due to transgressions?”
  - Does “hardness of your hearts” help (Matthew 19:8) understand why it was added? The same description is given of the Jewish rulers at the time of healing of the man with the withered hand on Sabbath in the synagogue. They then plotted to kill Christ.
- If it was added, then was it an imposed law or a natural law?
- How can it be added if the Law of God has been forever?
- Matthew 22:37-40 GNB “Jesus answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' (38) This is the greatest and the most important commandment. (39) The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' (40) The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

In this class we have heard a quotation from the book Patriarchs & Prophets about how and why God gave additional directions to the Children of Israel.

- Russell read it last week
- I would like to read it again in relationship to our topic today, paying particular attention to the ending.
- PP 364.2 “If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God's law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.”  
{PP 364.2}



- What do you understand the additional directions to be?
- Were these additional directions natural/ foundational or imposed?

Is the Law proscriptive or descriptive? (Yes, both)

- Early on, it may be proscriptive
- Later it should be descriptive
- **Negative Law:** The rule about not smoking tobacco in our household growing up
- **Positive Law:** The rule of sleep
  - When I was young there were certain rules made about when I had to go to bed and when I had to stop talking and when I had to stop bothering my brothers.
  - At times I have had external forces of society tell me I had to go to bed/sleep (Academy dorm life, mutual camping trips with clubs, etc)
  - I now have figured out my rules of sleep
    - I don't always adhere to the rules
    - Enforcement / consequences are not always immediate
    - Eleven rules of sleep hygiene. It is amazing how many do not know these or abide by them and wonder why things are not going well for them.

### What is the difference between the ceremonial and the civic laws of Moses?

Let's look at some examples

- Levirate marriage
- rules on sexual relations
- rules on feasts (Passover, Booths, First Fruits) and sacrifices (sin, purification, dedication, thank)

Newton's laws of motion are three physical laws that together laid the foundation for classical mechanics. They describe the relationship between a body and the forces acting upon it, and its motion in response to said forces. They have been expressed in several different ways over nearly three centuries, and can be summarized as follows:

- First law: When viewed in an inertial reference frame, an object either remains at rest or continues to move at a constant velocity, unless acted upon by an external force.
- Second law:  $F = ma$ . The vector sum of the forces  $F$  on an object is equal to the mass  $m$  of that object multiplied by the acceleration vector  $a$  of the object.
- Third law: When one body exerts a force on a second body, the second body simultaneously exerts a force equal in magnitude and opposite in direction on the first body.
- Newton's law of universal gravitation states that any two bodies in the universe attract each other with a force that is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. (July 5, 1687)

Questions:

- Is Newton's laws enacted or natural?
- When did they become laws?



- Newton first published his laws of motion in 1687.
- Is that when they first became effective?
- What is the benefit if that is not when they went into effect?
- Is that (July 5, 1687) when these laws were first enforced?
- Who is enforcing these laws?

Just because God gave them a rule or law to live by, does not mean it was the best for them. Because of their sinfulness, they (we) failed to reach all that God had in mind for them. Some rules were better than where they had been, but were not as far as God wanted for them to go. Consider Christ's statements on divorce or his sermon on the mount "you have heard it said, but I say unto you. . ."

## SABBATH

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First paragraph: "Jesus spoke out against abuses of the religion, . . . but not against the religion itself"

- Why is this true?
- Any scriptural support for your answer?
  - John 4:22 GW You don't know what you're worshipping. We Jews know what we're worshipping, because salvation comes from the Jews.
  - Matthew 16:6 "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
  - Matthew 23:1 - 12 Do what they say, but do not do what they do.
- If Christ knew what the pharisees and Jewish leaders were like, why would he say to do what they say? (Matt 23:3)
- How is the position of the people different in Christ's day from our position today with our church leaders?
- What was Christ commanding us to do?
- What is being "subject to the authorities" mean?
  - Read Romans 13:1 & Titus
  - Smoldering wick he will not put out.
  - Voice is not heard in the street.
  - "The malice of the Jews was so great in consequence of the miracle of Jesus in healing the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath day, that he with his disciples withdrew to a more favorable field of labor. They went to the seaside of Galilee, and great multitudes followed him, for this new miracle wrought upon the Sabbath day was noised abroad through all that region." SP 201.1
  - "The news that had been carried to John concerning the success of Jesus, was also borne to Jerusalem, and there created against him jealousy, envy, and hatred. Jesus knew the hard hearts and darkened minds of the Pharisees, and that they would spare no pains to create a division between his own disciples and those of John that would greatly injure the work, so he quietly ceased to baptize and withdrew to Galilee. He knew that the storm was gathering which was soon to sweep away the noblest prophet God had ever given to the world. He wished to avoid all division of feeling in the great work before him, and, for the time, removed from that region for the purpose of



allaying all excitement detrimental to the cause of God.” {2SP 139.1, DA541} (See RH May 4, 1911 for a more complete statement)

- Christ was both the source of the Law as given to Moses and subject to the same law.
- The Law of Moses is an explanation of the Law of God (Law of Love) for humans.
  - Angels have the law of God, but not the same parameters as humans need, such as Honor parents and Not commit adultery.

## **SUNDAY: CIRCUMCISION AND DEDICATION**

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### Circumcision

- Ceremonial

### Dedication

- Civic (or both)
  - Time of registration of name
  - Registration into tribal lists / geneology
  - Birth

Mary & Joseph were pretty conservative in practice

Firstborn dedicated to the Lord

- Redeem with Shekel
- ½ shekel per year temple tax

## **MONDAY: JEWISH FEASTS**

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Which law: ceremonial function

### Feasts

- Passover, then unleavened bread
- Pentecost (fifty days later)
- Feast of Booths, followed by Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
- Purim
- Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication)
  - There is no recorded Biblical command to observe this feast but John 10:22 shows Christ partook of this as well as the “big three”
- Fifth paragraph: “Of course, the biblical feasts were done away with . . .”

How do we know this?

- Christ is the illustration of what the Law of Love is really like.
  - what parts of the law pointed to Christ?
  - Why are certain parts no longer needed?
  - What about Communion?



- The hymn “Sweet Hour of Prayer”  
The last stanza says “and shout while passing through the air, “Farewell, Farewell, sweet hour of prayer”  
Does that mean we are saying, “Jesus, I never want to talk to you again.”  
Why will we say goodbye to something that is so crucial to a relationship with God?
- Pink section at bottom of page:
  - “Though we no longer keep the feasts, . . .”  
Do you celebrate the feasts? If so, why? If not, why not?
- “What things can we do that help to keep before us the reality of God, what He has done for us, and what He asks of us?”

## **TUESDAY: JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

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This is a story about Christ’s first Passover in the temple

- Age 12
- Bar Mitzvah

Each of the questions

- How does the story illustrate Jewish character?
- How is it significant that this story took place during the Passover?
- How many days. . . Of what does that remind you?
- Though Jesus was an obedient child. . . Submission in the right time and place. . .

## **WEDNESDAY: TAXES**

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Civil or ceremonial: (this is a religious tax)

- ½ shekel temple tax every year
- What significance is the fact that Jesus was not subject to the tax and still paid it?
- Offend them?. . . Read Romans 8 in its entirety.
  - Vs 12 “And so, by sinning against the brethren and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.” . . . “I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.”
- Larry Stevens
  - Pastor
  - Bible teacher
  - did not eat ice cream for an entire year for the sake of one of his students.
- Read pink section at bottom of page.
  - Is it ever appropriate to not pay tithe / offerings?
  - Money gains / is attention.

## **THURSDAY: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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Read the first paragraph

Stories

- John 8:1-11 the adulterous woman
- Matthew 19:1-9 Teaching regarding divorce
- Deut. 22:23,24 Stoning for adultery delineated
- Deut. 24:1-4 Rules for divorce and remarriage

In all these stories, Christ upheld not only the civic law, the ceremonial law, the authority of the priests and rabbis, but also the Roman laws.

Read the highlighted area at bottom of page.

## FRIDAY

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Discussion questions:

- Dwell on the incredible truth that though Jesus instituted these laws, when He enters into humanity He places Himself under them. What does this tell us about the Character of God?

Questions:

- Would Jesus be human if he were not under the law?
- Is it possible for anyone not be to under the Law of God?
- If the law is the design template for the universe, then it is not possible to live outside the law without some support mechanism.
- Angels have a different subset of the Law of God from humans. ( No need for “Honor your father and mother . . .; Adultery prohibition, etc”)