

# I AM YAHWEH- I CHANGE NOT

## PP THE LAW OF MOSES

Tonight we wish to consider the Regulatory and disciplinary functions of the LAW OF MOSES

The benefit to us is to realise how God administers justice and most importantly how his values and morals do not change with the times .

Most of the conditions of Israel code of law will most likely be re-established in God's Kingdom among the mortals

Our challenge is that our modern world has moved so far away from divine principle that we may fail to remember that God does not change his values and his morals because man does..

PP Remember the reason for the Law See 1 Tim 8-10 ESV (clearer)

*Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,*

The national code of law had to cut off and restrain all the excesses that are native to our fallen human nature , It had therefore to define what are crimes , and prescribe punishments for violations-as any national legal code has to do.

- But the Law (esp Deuteronomy) did things that our laws fail to do.
- This law also **encouraged people** to act on a higher motivations-responding in gratitude to the love of God . It gave excellent reasons for obedience and for showing thoughtfulness to others
- So why do people say Jesus gave a totally different law for NT disciples ? Its because they are comparing two totally different things.

- There are major differences because the law of Christ was chiefly concerned with the **development of individual character in his converted followers**
- **Christ's law was not given for the governance of nations**, and it was never expected whole nations would adopt the principles of Jesus –can you see non resistance to evil- prayers for those who hurt and abuse us --non involvement in politics ever happening in an unspiritual nation.
- Just because at present we are not a national ecclesia, with power to administer punishments or to stone offenders ..or just because this is the age where God is developing personal character in us -does not mean that God has altered his view of sin..we must still protest against it especially in the ecclesia.
- Have no fellowship with the unprofitable works or darkness..but rather reprove them

PP IT IS A MODERN FALLACY TO IMAGINE YAHWEH HAS GONE SOFT and kinder

Or that THE LAW OF MOSES WAS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE.. Look at what the New Testament says.. 1Cor 6v9-10

- *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*
- *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

GODS CONSISTENT MORALITY PP the same today as under the law

**GOD'S CONSISTENT MORALITY**

- No idolatry or witchcraft
- No homosexuality, or other deviations
- Marriage only in the one faith
- No lying, stealing, bribery, cheating or bearing false witness
- No adultery or fornication
- No hatred and murder
- No drunkenness
- No blasphemy

- Separation from the idolatrous religions of the world ..especially those that practice immorality and idolatry
- No toleration of alternate lifestyles , or sexual deviations
- Marriage only in the faith of the Hope of Israel
- Honesty in all our dealings –no lying, stealing, or false witness .
- No adultery or fornication, No hatred and murder No drunkenness

SO :LETS LOOK AT THIS NATIONAL CODE OF LAW

- The Law contained specific commandments banning many things, crimes of many kinds are detailed as sins , with a death penalty for some more serious crimes
- Sometimes God was merely regulating things that He knew would happen in the nation **PP**
- The fact that he regulated bad behaviour does not necessarily mean that He approved or wanted these things to happen.
- For example eg..some things like divorce were strictly limited to one particular circumstance ..which was carefully regulated
- God knew that men would demonstrate hardness of hearts
- Taking captives in war was also specifically controlled...because in those times captives (especially women ) were usually treated abominably by the victors

THE CONTRAST TO OUR LEGAL SYSTEM **PP**

- There is also a whole raft of case law (ways to investigate and judge crimes , and what penalties should be applied)

Case law examples **PP**

- These examples are given as legal precedents – procedures and penalties that can be applied in similar cases.

ABOVE ALL GOD'S LAW WAS JUST AND EQUALLY APPLIED PP

THE LAW CONTAINED A REMARKABLE CODE OF JUSTICE –PP

NOTE – how far away our legislators have come from the divine way of justice. ..how different are God's morals and how different his penalties.

- Strict Laws existed against bribery, injustice and usury

- Judges had to be completely beyond corruption or showing favouritism (Samuels sons brought disgrace on him)
- Strict control of commerce and dishonesty was set in place (no false weights or deceitful balances allowed )
- Priests and judges had to dispense righteous judgement absolutely without favour to rich or poor.
- Equal justice for rich or poor alike ..too often our society excuses the rich(with their expensive QC's) and sometimes lets the poor and uneducated off from the set punishments for a crime ..Because they are deemed to be victims (of some failing of society)
- Under Gods Law – a crime was a crime -a very few mitigating circumstances were allowed
- SUPERIOR PRINCIPLES UNDER GOD'S HOLY LAW **PP**

DECISIONS HAD TO BE CONSISTENT AND BE RESPECTED **PP**

## SERIOUS CRIMES ATTRACTED THE DEATH PENALTY PP

- LEV 24v17-22 Lists the serious crimes , some that incurred the death penalty.
- V17 Deliberate Murder – no way for sentence to be reduced- yet unintended manslaughter could escape a death penalty . The whole concept of cities of refuge was built on this premise
- Even foreigners in Israel suffered the same penalties . v22
- Mutilation of another person was harshly punished v19

IT WAS OFTEN THE DELIBERATENESS OR DEFIANCE INVOLVED  
PP Br Islip Collyer Conviction and conduct p227

1. In other words – in some cases what looked like a minor breach to men was still regarded as Defiance of God
2. Premeditated acts of **open defiance** always had fatal consequences. (Sabbath breaker (even the man gathering sticks on the Sabbath was stoned), blasphemers, idolators ..unrepentant sinners ,defiance to godly parents – all died in their sin
3. Note- one such case of blasphemy in Lev 24v10

## LOOK AT A SHORT LIST OF CAPITAL OFFENCES PP

## OTHER CRIMES THAT INCURRED DEATH INCLUDED THESE PP

- **False accusations** were also ruthlessly punished ..look what God says should happen to false witnesses SEE Deut 19v18-20 (the penalty of the wrongly accused person was laid on the accuser) worth noting that this is the context of eye for an eye...etc
- **This eye for eye concept is one most criticised about Moses Law. Many Jews used it to demand revenge ..Jesus changed that wrong focus completely around Matt 5v38-39**
- *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:*
- *But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*
- IN FACT the “eye for an eye “ principle was not what the law encouraged – we will see later a situation where mercy was encouraged – But it was always there as a deterrent to wicked or careless crimes.. especially of physical harm to others
- LOOK AT THEIR 3 CONTEXTS PP

- God **never justified the individual** seeking personal retaliation...nor vengeance -but he certainly hates liars and especially false witnesses . Think of those put up to testify against Christ.
- Reputations were protected by God Deut 22v17-18 Very public redemption of a woman falsely accused of pre-marital unchastity/same with the water of testing when a woman accused if infidelity was wrongly accused (law of jealousy in Numbers 5 )
- God says in Deut 25v1 ..Then shall they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked

THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE HERE FOR US to note

- Sometimes people are falsely accused or maliciously accused (it will happen more in our world that loves victims)
- In the spirit of Christ even the falsely accused should not seek to defend themselves.
- But others should step up ..and ensure their good name is in not smeared for ever by the innuendo of malicious accusations
- Mud sticks .. too easily sinful minds assume “where there is smoke – there must be fire” ..sometimes that assumption is totally wrong, and very valuable people are sidelined .needlessly
- **Principle ..Prov 18v5 ESV. PP**
- ***It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice.***
- **Also Prov 17v15**
- We must all defend our brethren and sisters against false accusations

**THERE SOME VERY GOOD PRINCIPLES IN THE LAW PP**

- No getting off on technicalities – God intervened often
- There were no prisons.. punishments were immediate, weighed according to the crime, and fines imposed that had to be paid or worked off,
- Offenders must pay fines or work in it off in labor and service
- Look how different this one law is .....cp to today’s legal system
- Exod 22v3 .. a thief is killed because he had terrified someone by breaking in at night ..this did not occur any penalty for the victim
- (In Adelaide we had an 85 year old ..who after repeated breakins and bashings by a crazy drugged repeat offender –finally armed himself and shot the guy-and he was then charged with murder)

- No doubt this sort of law dissuaded many potential thieves
- Ex 23 v4 There was always reparations paid to victims with specific extra penalties applied for property losses, - how different to our days ..blatant thieves get a good behaviour bond and a packet of lollies....the victims lose all that was stolen..or at least have to pay an insurance excess. (somebody torches your car...he never has to pay it off- so we have those who have torched scores of cars STILL DOING IT .over and over )

### ANOTHER FACET WAS MERCIFUL JUSTICE Deut 25 PP

- Justice was strict and sometimes stripes were laid as a penalty.
- Much more effective deterrent than a jail term where some just learn to be worst criminals (SINGAPORE STILL USES THE CANE)
- Very public..very painful and immediate RETRIBUTION
- But limited to Forty stripes v3 ..must not get carried away
- Sometimes ecclesial discipline is necessary ..but always remember to realise we also have faults and could fail too.

### **Chapter 25 is another example –even in the administration of justice ..had to think of others**

- The 40 stripes punishment was limited ..why...?
- Note v3 ..No matter how serious his crime (and these were for minor offences) you must not despise him...we all fail and deserve punishment at times..
- One of the hardest things in life is learning to see an issue from the perspective of others .
- What may be nothing to you can be vitally important to someone else ..some people have one task they love to do well..it matters to them ..dont ignore their input
- Sometimes you only get that perception when you have walked in their shoes, or taken the time to listen to their story.
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### INCREDIBLY THERE WERE SOUND OHS LAWS SO LONG AGO PP

- Negligence was also a criminal offence
- Safety laws established -Absolutely unique in its time. Building sites kept safe and houses with battlements/proper care and secure control required for dangerous animals..

- Cities of refuge were provided for tragic cases where genuine accidents happened- but having to stay inside for years was a great burden..and made you very careful about the safety of others
- SO WE STAND HERE THIS DAY – We worship the same all powerful God..the same God who brought the Flood , the God who obliterated Sodom, The same God who wanted the Canaanites exterminated..
- A God the post modern world now accuses of genocide and racism.

#### GOD DOES NOT CHANGE ..

- God does not move with the times ..or follow the crazy legal mess our society experiences
- He is a God who will soon judge and destroy the corrupt and wicked of this age. Will we agree with Him..?
- **PP(Psa 58:10-11)**
- *The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.*
- *So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.*
- *Thou shalt consider the place of the wicked..and it shall not be. (Psa 37v10)*
- **(Prov 2:22)** *But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.*

THE HOLY , JUST AND GOOD LAW WILL COME INTO FORCE

#### AGAIN IN THE KINGDOM **PP**

*Isa 26v9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*

- All we read about the way mortals live align with the way God intended the Jews to live ..Feasts kept, sacrifices, and a very just moral and civil code.....
- Let us not be deceived by our current world's wisdom or morals .
- Let us not imagine we can change what God is .. nor assume as some do...that He is not involved any more.(deism)
- God is the great Potter –we are the clay...He determines right from wrong...not the humanistic thinking of man

THE END