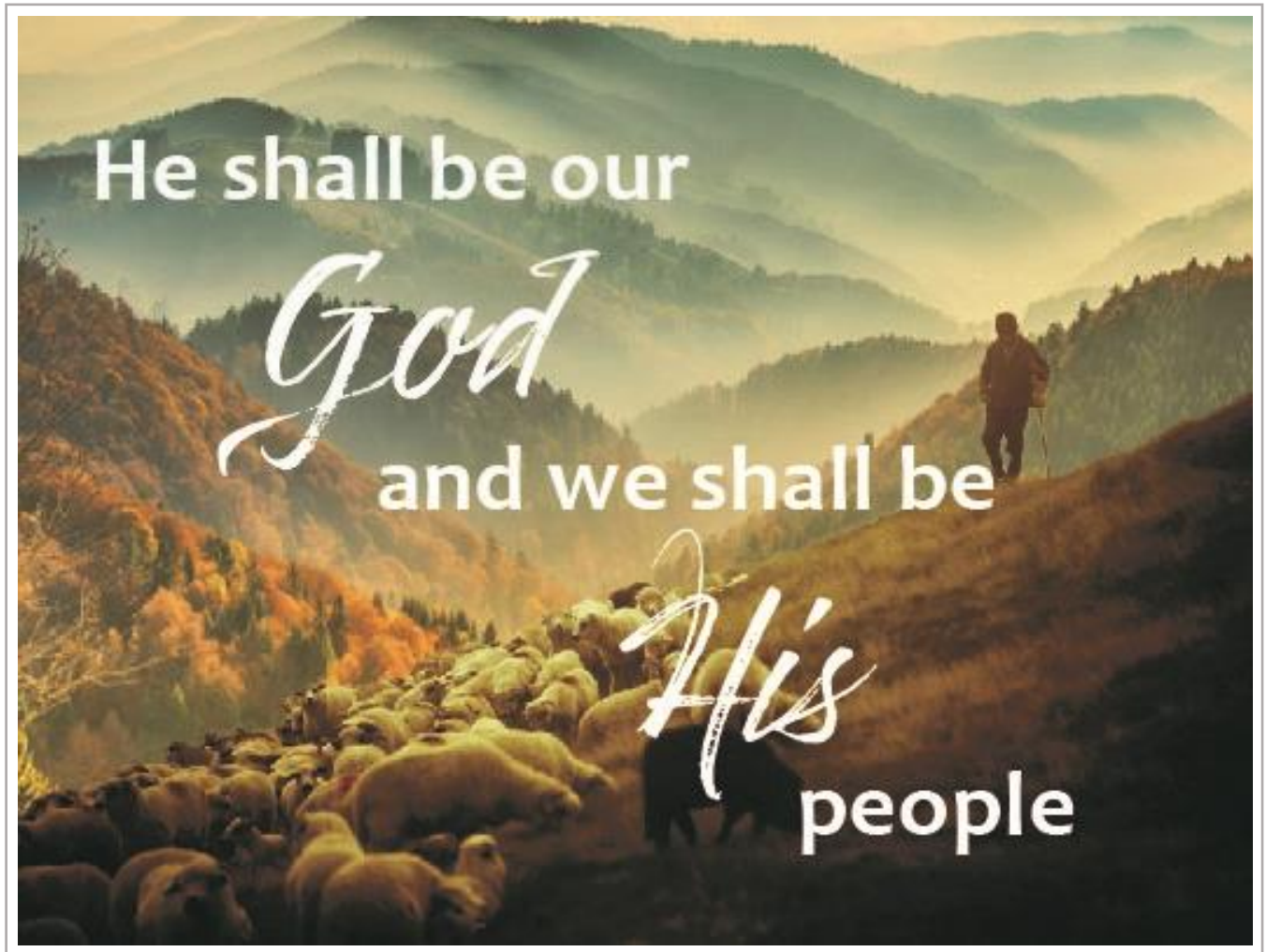


OUR JUST GOD

Knowing God through His Laws



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INTRODUCTION

He shall be our God and we shall be His people! The Law of Moses is the covenant that bound the people to God and God to the people. It is what set them apart as a holy nation, a royal priesthood. It was a guide for their lives. The distinction between secular and religious did not exist in Israel. Their whole life belonged to God and His word guided every minute of every day.

We shall be holy as God is holy! The Law of Moses set the people apart from their neighbors. They would not live, act, work, sacrifice, worship, war, or have relationships like those around them. The Law would help them be more like their God – holy!

One major misconception of the Law of Moses is that it is just a bunch of random laws without rhyme or reason. And while the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy sometimes appear random, there is some organization to them. But there is more to it than that. God did not just randomly choose this thing to be lawful and that thing to be unlawful. These laws are in accordance with His character and His holiness. What is right is right because it aligns with God. What is wrong is wrong because it is at odds with God.

This class will begin with a discussion of God and authority. The second lesson will consider life in the garden with the first law and we will work our way toward the Law of Moses revealed in Leviticus-Deuteronomy. Though our study will be deeply dependent on the text, we will progress in topical fashion. I pray the selection of topics will do justice to the whole of the Law and that they proceed in a logical manner.

One thing to keep in mind is that the Law of Moses is not just a list of laws and statutes – i.e. code IV.3.B.xi. The law is given in narrative format. It is intertwined with the story of Israel and God, specifically at Mount Sinai, the wilderness, and on the edge of Jordan. This context will be important as we consider the various laws and their organization.

I plead with you! There is more to Old Testament Law than “Aren’t you glad we aren’t under the old law anymore!” We get an inside peek into who God is and with what He is concerned. Furthermore, Paul says that the Law was given as a tutor until Christ came. There was benefit for the Israelites and there is benefit for us!

Jonathan Caldwell

OUR JUST GOD

Knowing God through His Laws

Date	Topic
Sunday, April 2	1. God, Authority, and Law
Wednesday, April 5	2. Law in the Garden
Sunday, April 9	3. Lawlessness and the Flood
Wednesday, April 12	4. The Law of Circumcision
Sunday, April 16	5. What Did God Expect of the Nations?
Wednesday, April 19	6. An Introduction to the Law of Moses
Sunday, April 23	7. The 10 Commandments (1)
Wednesday, April 26	8. The 10 Commandments (2)
Sunday, April 30	9. The Book of the Covenant
Wednesday, May 3	10. The Tabernacle
Sunday, May 7	~Workshop with Tim Stevens~
Wednesday, May 10	11. The Sacrifices (1)
Sunday, May 14	12. The Sacrifices (2)
Wednesday, May 17	13. The Priests
Sunday, May 21	14. The Calendar (1)
Wednesday, May 24	15. The Calendar (2)
Sunday, May 28	16. The Day of Atonement
Wednesday, May 31	17. Food Laws
Sunday, June 4	18. Leprosy and Purification
Wednesday, June 7	19. Sexuality
Sunday, June 11	20. Social Justice and Mercy
Wednesday, June 14	21. Lex Talionis
Sunday, June 18	22. Neighbors, Enemies, and Slaves
Wednesday, June 21	23. Vows
Sunday, June 25	24. Blessings and Curses
Wednesday, June 28	25. God's Self Revelation in the Law

Lesson 1

God, Authority, and Law

1. What are laws?
2. What is authority?
3. What gives God the authority to dictate law?
4. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me." Peter calls Jesus "Lord and Christ." What does the term "Lord" imply? (Note that this is not the Old Testament LORD which stands for the name of God or YHWH).
5. Why do we have trouble with the concept of a monarchy?
6. List some common laws in our society and their purpose (i.e. speed limits to keep us safe).
7. List some Biblical laws and their purpose (i.e. you shall not murder because God is the author of life).

Lesson 2

Law in the Garden

1. What gives God the right to tell mankind what he can and cannot do?
2. What are the commandments given to Adam and Eve?
3. How does Eve change the commandment?
4. How does Satan change the commandment?
5. What causes Eve to "give in"?
6. Who takes responsibility for their actions?
7. What is man's punishment? What is NOT man's punishment?

Lesson 3

Lawlessness and the Flood

1. According to Genesis 6, what had gone wrong in the world?
2. While mankind did not have a codified law, what does Genesis 6:5 imply?
3. How did God remedy this problem?
4. There is a pattern of authority that God reestablishes with Noah. God speaks and Noah obeys. List the commands given to Noah.
5. Deny or defend this statement: We sin when we do not obey God's word.
6. Notice Genesis 8:14-16. On whom did Noah wait to leave the ark?
7. What is the implication of Genesis 9:3.
8. Be prepared to discuss Genesis 9:5-6 and the practice of capital punishment.

Lesson 4

The Law of Circumcision

1. With whom did Circumcision begin?
2. What is circumcision and what did it symbolize?
3. Who was supposed to be circumcised and when?
4. What was the difference between a “God-fearer” and a proselyte?
5. Were Jews the only nationality to practice circumcision?
6. What passages talk about circumcision of the heart? What does that mean?
7. What passage(s) talks about circumcised ears? What does that mean?
8. Why is circumcision such a big deal in Acts, Romans, and Galatians?
9. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised but did not have Titus circumcised?

Lesson 5

What Did God Expect of the Nations?

1. Why is it important to remember that the Law of Moses was intended for the Israelites only?
2. List some Gentiles who were pleasing to God and explain why.
3. Why was Egypt condemned?
4. Why are the nations of Amos 1-2 condemned?
5. Why did Jonah preach a message of condemnation to the Ninevites?
6. What does Psalm 19 say about “natural revelation”?
7. What are some things even the gentiles should understand about God (according to Paul in Romans 1:18-32)?
8. Further consider Romans 2:12-16.
9. Is subjection to “natural law” and acknowledging God’s invisible attributes enough to save someone?

Lesson 6

An Introduction to the Law of Moses

1. What does the term *torah* mean?
2. Does the Law of Moses make distinctions between “spiritual” and “secular”?
3. What is a “motive clause” and what are some that we find in the Law of Moses?
4. Do an internet search of the Laws of Hammurabi.
5. The Law of Moses is not just a law; it is a covenant. Is this covenant unilateral or bilateral? (compare with God’s covenant with Abraham and David)
6. Generally speaking, what does God want from this people? Consider Exodus 19:5-6.
7. What does Jesus say about the Law?
8. According to Paul in Galatians, salvation is due to the promise. What does the Law bring?
9. Summarize the statements made in Hebrews about the Law of Moses.

Lesson 7

The Ten Commandments (1)

Text: Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5

1. What is a natural division of the 10 commandments?
2. What are the first two commandments and how are they different?
3. What does it mean to “take” or “bear” the name of God in vain?
4. How did the Israelites mistakenly respond to this commandment?
5. Notice the narrative grounding of the fourth command. Why were the people to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy?
6. According to scripture when was the first commandment first broken?
7. According to scripture when was the second commandment first broken?
8. According to scripture when was the third commandment first broken?
9. According to scripture when was the fourth commandment first broken?

Lesson 8

The 10 Commandments (2)

Text: Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5

1. What was the punishment for abusing or cursing your parents?
2. What is the difference between killing and murder?
3. While the Bible condemns various forms of sexual immorality, what, specifically, is adultery?
4. Many cultures executed thieves. What was the typical punishment for theft in the Law of Moses?
5. Though lying is a sin, how is the ninth commandment more than lying?
6. In your opinion, why does God provide a multitude of examples of that which one might covet?
7. What is the purpose of the 10 commandments? What are they in comparison to the rest of the Law?
8. Provide a Biblical example of someone who dishonors their parents, someone who murders, someone who commits adultery, steals, bears false witness, and covets.

Lesson 9

The Book of the Covenant

Text: Exodus 20-24

1. Read and explain what is said in Exodus 24:3-8. What has Moses written down?
2. How long is a slave to serve his master? When does he go free?
3. List the capital crimes mentioned in this text.
4. What are the laws surrounding the goring ox?
5. What are the laws of restitution in cases of negligence or theft?
6. We have future lessons on Social Justice and Neighbors and Enemies. Who all is the law concerned with in 22:16 – 23:9?
7. For which feasts were the men supposed to appear before God?
8. What will God do if the people obey?

Lesson 10

The Tabernacle

Text: Exodus 25-27; 30:1 – 31:11; 35-38; 40; Leviticus 24:1-9

Draw a diagram of the tabernacle with its dimensions and furnishings.

Lesson 11

The Sacrifices (1)

Text: Leviticus 1-3, 7

1. What was the purpose of the Burnt Offering?
2. What are the options for a burnt offering and their requirements?
3. What was the purpose of the Grain Offering?
4. What are the options for a grain offering and their requirements?
5. What was the purpose of the Peace Offering?
6. What are the options for a peace offering and their requirements?
7. According to Leviticus 7, what are the different kinds of peace offerings?

Lesson 12

The Sacrifices (2)

Text: Leviticus 4:1 – 6:7; 7

1. What was the purpose of the Sin (or Purification) Offering?
2. On what are the requirements of a peace offering based?
3. What are the requirements of a peace offering?
4. What was the purpose of the Guilt (or Trespass) Offering?
5. What are the requirements of a guilt offering?
6. Why does the text emphasize the word “unintentionally”?
7. Discussion: If the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin and there is a reminder of sin year after year, were the sins of the people in the Old Testament forgiven?

Lesson 13

The Priests

Text: Exodus 28-29; 39; Leviticus 8-10; 21:1 – 22:16; Deuteronomy 18:1-8

1. List the items of the priestly garments.
2. What was the process of the priests' consecration?
3. Consider this statement: the priestly garments are the tabernacle coverings inside out.
4. While reading Leviticus 8-9 note the number of times the text says "as the Lord commanded Moses." What changes in Leviticus 10?
5. For whom could a priest make himself unclean?
6. Who was a priest allowed to take as a wife?
7. Who was allowed to eat of the "holy things"?

Lesson 14

The Calendar (1)

Text: Exodus 23:10-19; Leviticus 23; 25:1-22; Numbers 28-29; Deuteronomy 15-16

1. What was the Sabbath, its purpose, and its obligations?
2. What was the Sabbath year, its purpose, and its obligations?
3. What was the Year of Jubilee, its purpose, and its obligations?
4. What was the Passover, its purpose, and its obligations? What is its relation to the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

Lesson 15

The Calendar (2)

Text: Exodus 23:10-19; Leviticus 23; 25:1-22; Numbers 28-29; Deuteronomy 15-16

1. What was the Feast of Firstfruits, its purpose, and its obligations?
2. What was the Feast of Weeks, its purpose, and its obligations?
3. What was the Feast of Trumpets, its purpose, and its obligations?
4. What was the Feast of Booths, its purpose, and its obligations?

Lesson 17

Food Laws

Text: Leviticus 11

1. What was the law for distinguishing clean and unclean animals?
2. What was the law for distinguishing clean and unclean fish?
3. What was the law for distinguishing clean and unclean birds?
4. What was the law for distinguishing clean and unclean insects?
5. What are the rules concerning contamination from unclean creatures?
6. What is the motive for these rules?
7. What is the purpose of these rules?
8. What two stories in the Gospels and Acts seem to remove these regulations?

Lesson 18

Leprosy and Purification

Text: Leviticus 12-15

1. Make a list of items, conditions, and activities that made one unclean?
2. Speculation: why did childbirth – a natural process and gift from God – make a woman unclean? And why was she unclean longer with a daughter?
3. What are the various conditions that are categorized as leprosy?
4. What is analogous to leprosy in clothing or a house for us?
5. What was the process for the ritual cleansing of a healed leper?
6. Speculation: why is so much space given to the issue of leprosy?
7. What types of discharge required sacrifice? What types of discharge required simple bathing?
8. How are some of these laws consistent with what we know of germs, bacteria, and modern practices of sanitation?

Lesson 19

Sexuality

Text: Leviticus 18; 20:10-27; Deuteronomy 22:13-30; 24:1-5

1. Is there a general rule that guides these prohibited relationships?
2. What is the euphemism for sexual relations in these texts?
3. Of what were the Canaanites guilty?
4. What is the punishment for such sexual immorality?
5. What were the consequences of falsely charging a new bride of sexual immorality before marriage? What if she was guilty?
6. How does location matter on questions of sexual abuse?
7. After divorce and remarriage, can a man take back his first wife? Why not?
8. How long is a newlywed exempt from military and civil duty?

Lesson 20

Social Justice and Mercy

Skim Exodus-Deuteronomy and group passages which talk about the poor, orphan, widow, and sojourner.

Lesson 21

Lex Talionis

Exodus 21:22-24, 33-36; 22:1-15; Deuteronomy 19:15-21

1. Make a list of the various punishments we read about in the Law of Moses.
2. How does the “eye for an eye; tooth for a tooth” principle guide legal response to crime and justice?
3. What was the typical punishment for theft?
4. What was the typical punishment for sexual sins?
5. Is this concept intended for civil justice or personal vengeance?
6. What did Jesus have to say about an “eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth”?
7. Do we see anything comparable to this in our justice system today?

Lesson 22

Neighbors, Enemies, and Slaves

Skim Exodus-Deuteronomy and group passages which talk about the neighbors, enemies, and slaves.

Lesson 23

Vows

Text: Leviticus 7:16-18; 22:21-25; 27; Numbers 6; 15:1-21; Numbers 30

1. What general type of offering was a vow offering?
2. We will talk more in class about a “special vow to the Lord involving the valuation of persons...” List the demographics by value.
3. What is the rule regarding redemption from a vow?
4. What are the guidelines for someone who has taken the Nazarite vow?
5. What Biblical characters were Nazarites?
6. Who is able to revoke the vow of a woman and under what circumstances?
7. Consider the teaching of Jesus – what is “corban”? How had vows come to be abused?
8. What does Ecclesiastes teach about vows?

Lesson 24

Blessings and Curses

Text: Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 27-28

1. In general terms, the blessings and curses could be grouped into what kind of categories?
2. What was happening at Mt Gerizim and Mt Ebal? Which mountain is associated with the curses and which with the blessings?
3. List the things for which they would be cursed in Deuteronomy 27.
4. What does it mean to say that the curses are just the blessings in reverse?
5. How would you list the curses in worsening order?
6. Compare these with Amos 5 (and other prophetic passages). With what are the prophets threatening the people?

Lesson 25

God's Self Revelation in the Law

These are all thought questions that may involve some speculation, but let's really think about how the Law of Moses reveals God to us.

1. What do God's interactions with Adam and Eve, Noah, and Gentiles teach us about God?
2. What do the 10 commandments teach us about God?
3. What does the tabernacle teach us about God?
4. What do the sacrificial guidelines teach us about God?
5. What do the rules and regulations about the priests teach us about God?
6. What can we learn about God from the feasts and fasts?
7. What do the laws concerning leprosy, purification, and uncleanness teach us about God?
8. What do the laws about vows teach us about God?
9. What do the laws about neighbors, enemies, widow, orphans, and sojourners teach us about God?
10. What do the instructions regarding civil justice teach us about God?
11. What do the laws concerning sexuality teach us about God?
12. What do the blessings and curses of the law teach us about God?