

LAYERS OF THE LAW

Part One

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In this lesson, I want to deal with a subject that is of utmost importance, misunderstood by many, marginalized by many, unbalanced by many, and yet such an important subject. None other than the Law of God. Now it would be foolhardy of me to think that for one moment I could unravel the great mysteries of the law of God in this series of lessons. But I've been putting together, in much prayer and in much study, what I believe to be a balanced approach to understanding the law of God.

For several months we've been preparing this series. We're going to entitle it *The Layers of the Law*. The subject is very important. The title is very important. Because contained within the title is perhaps the missing ingredient to a balanced understanding. Now if you're watching me right now, nine times out of ten, you have an opinion about the law of God. Rightly so. We've all been trained to believe certain things about the law of God.

Many of you, like myself, were trained to believe that the law of God was done away with, replaced by the man Christ Jesus, or in Hebrew, Yahshua. Some of you believe that we're saved by keeping the Old Testament law, the Torah. The Jews believe that they can keep the law and then have no need for Christ the Messiah.

No matter which camp you fall into you must reevaluate the law with me in this set of lessons. Would you do that? Would you get your Bible right now. I want you to make a commitment that you're going to stick with me through these series of lessons...I'm not sure, at least four parts to these lessons. This is the introductory video. Get your Bible and let's go into one of the most beautiful studies that I've ever examined.

I want to start this lesson today from the book of Jeremiah chapter 9. But before we read Jeremiah, anytime you deal with the subject of the law, it is a foregone conclusion that you're going to deal with a myriad of questions. If you believe in the law, you're going to be faced with the question, well, what about stoning our children, and mixing wool and cotton and all of this various minutia of the Torah, the 613 parts of the Torah. And you're going to be bombarded with those questions if you ever begin to tell people that you're going to keep the law of God. So you've just got to be prepared for that—it comes with the territory.

On the other hand, if you believe in Christ the Messiah and salvation by faith and what-have-you, then you're going to be bombarded with those who believe in keeping the law to the tee. You've just got to be prepared for all of it. But where does this pendulum swing...where does it balance...where is the plumb line. Do you know what a plumb line is? It gives you that perfect balance right down the line. Where is the balance? On this beautiful day around me I want you to just stop what you're doing and help yourself by getting to the foundation of the layers of the law. And share this message with others, won't you?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 is a scripture that has changed my understanding about the law of God on so many levels. And I believe this scripture, if you would get it in your mind and in your spirit, might cause you to approach God in a different way.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts, boast about this, that he understands and knows me, that I am Yahweh who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for in these I delight, declares Yahweh.

This verse says so many things to me. And it is this verse that I find the balance of the law of God. Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom and don't let the strong man boast of his strength. But if you want real bragging rights—if you really want something to brag about, here it is. I want you to brag about the fact that *you understand me*. That's what God says to you. Do you understand?

You know, if anybody ever tells you that God is too hard to understand, his ways are past finding out, that is not the truth. He says he wants you to understand him and to know him. The purpose of this ministry is for it all to make sense to you, to help you understand your God. It calls on me to understand several things about God.

Now we already know that God is all-powerful, that God is all-knowing—that he's intelligent. We get it. We know all of that. But in Jeremiah, it's almost as if God is reminding us of something else besides his elephantine strength, besides his power. He says I want you to understand a few more things about me.

Number one, I want you to understand that I have a name...Yahweh. He said I don't want you to know me as the God of the galaxies in some distant place that you've never been. But I want you to become acquainted with my person...my name which is Yahweh. I want you to understand that I'm your heavenly Father, not just Creator God. Satan doesn't mind you knowing this God as Creator. But

he does not want you to know your God as Heavenly Father—one-on-one—intimacy with his creation.

So Yahweh says here, I want you to know my name Yahweh. All of my Christian life I never knew his name. I thought it was Jehovah which is not the original. I prefer Yahweh which is the original as close as we understand it. And then he says, after you realize I have a name, I want you to understand my character...my persona...who I am as a person. Yes, God is a person. He has a character, he has qualities that you need to get acquainted with.

What are those qualities? Number one: lovingkindness. I find it ironic that the first quality he wants you to know about him is that he is *loving* and *kind*. Now why is this important? As we get into the study of the law, the layers of the law, I want this scripture to be the primordial bedrock from which your understanding of the law is built upon. As we build this house, layer by layer—the house of the law—we’re going to build a house called the house of the law. We’re going to build it and we’re going to build it layer by layer by layer. But the foundation of this house must be the character of God is first displayed with loving and kind.

Please, before you misunderstand me, I believe 1,000% in the law of God. But when you find people that are becoming hard about the law, you have to see if they are lining up with the character of the *Lawgiver*. And the first character is... he said, I want you to know my name. And now I want you to know my character. I’m *loving* and I’m *kind*. Just say it—Yahweh is kind. This is the bedrock of understanding his law.

The next one after lovingkindness, he said—justice. Now this is where the law comes into play. I’m kind, but don’t get it mixed up—I’m also *just*. You see, the law has to have justice to keep it balanced between kindness and cruelty. We need justice.

And the next character trait is righteousness. I am righteous. Now, the personal God that we serve gave us the law. So, the truth is, if you’re watching this video to understand the law better, you’ve got to understand the *Lawgiver* better. And then when you understand the Lawgiver, you will understand the law that he gives.

The personal God declares that the pursuit of understanding him is an admirable pursuit. As a matter of fact, read in Hebrews 11:6.

Hebrews 11:6

For he that comes to God must believe that he is, and he rewards them that diligently seek after him.

Your heavenly Father wants you to chase, to seek after him. And he promises you something. He says that if you will diligently seek after him, he will reward you. And that day is coming when those rewards will be given.

Now we're going to proceed on through this study and we're going to start with the third character trait of Yahweh that he reveals in Jeremiah. And that is the character trait of righteousness. We live in an evil world. Evil is the dichotomy of righteous. The word righteousness comes from a Hebrew word—tsedaqah. Tzedaqah simply means “to be right or to do right”. That's what righteousness means. Real simple—to be right and to do right. That's righteousness. Yahweh says that he does right. So anything that is contrariwise to Yahweh, would be the opposite of righteous. It would be evil.

Your job as the believer in the God of Israel is to find out what God has to say on every matter. And when you figure out what he has to say, then you will do right because you will do what God said to do. And when you understand that, he is right and everything else is wrong. Keep that in mind. In your whole life, anything other than what God said, is the wrong way, the opposite of righteousness.

If you're taking notes, would you write down that GOD, YAHWEH, IS RIGHT. Everything else is wrong. Once you have established that fact in your mind by faith, now you're on the right pathway to understanding the law of God. Because if God gives a law, it's the right way. It's the right thing. Anything other than that is wrong. So once you've established that, now you have to ask this question... what is right—what is wrong?

Psalm 119:172

May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are right.

Remember the question we just asked... what is right? Have you ever heard somebody say, “my truth” ... this is my truth. I hear it over and over and over and I just want to scream because there's no such thing as ‘my truth’. There's *God's Truth*. Anything other than what he says is a lie.

Here, the psalmist David said that the word of God and the commandments of God are righteous. They're TSEDAQAH. They will cause you to do the right thing. It is thus the law of God. I want you to remember that. The law of God that defines right and wrong. If there's a right, there's got to be a wrong. Something has to define the right and the wrong. And let me tell you what it cannot be. It cannot be your mind.

You know, I have many friends that are living in abominable lifestyles. They're living in open rebellion to the law of God. And do you know what they will say to me? They will say to me... I know what's right and what's wrong...it feels right. You see, that's the problem. You are not the arbiter of what's right and what's wrong. Yahweh's word, because it comes from the source of right, that word is what's right. Everything else is wrong.

Now, as human beings, we tend to think of law (and here's our problem when it comes to the law of God)... we think of laws as regulatory. And we think of them as absolute because that is the way that the laws of this world work. They are to bring regulation...to tell us what we can and what we cannot do.

Now the thing about it is...man's law (when Congress passes a law), in a few years if that law's not working right, they will change the law making their laws arbitrary. Arbitrary means changing, fluid. For example...at one time the law of speed limit was 55 mph, now it's 75 mph. So was that law? That wasn't a law. That was an arbitrary, manmade ordinance that changes, and therefore, when we think of the law of God, we think of his law like man's law, that it changes with the times.

But that's simply not the case. Not at all. And if that's how you think, that's why you believe the law was done away with as if something like that could ever happen. So, it's only natural for you and I to think as humans that God's law is like man's law—arbitrary and regulatory...there to regulate our behavior and it could change...ya know, for example, several years ago it was against the law for two men to get married. Now it's not. You see, arbitrary law, fluid law. So we think of God's law in the same manner.

You know, we think of God as the arbitrary God. Now I call this the Arbitrary God Theory. Remember that...write that down. The Arbitrary God Theory. We have that theory about God and you know we say that in our minds God was sitting up there one day and said "let's just consider what laws we can hand down to man and control their lives with" ... and then so he gave Moses a set of laws and said 'there you go'. That is how we believe.

We see God as the lawgiver to try to control us. Why? Because man's law tries to control our behavior. The reason we have a law against polygamy. We're trying to control the sexual nature of man ... but I promise you it will just a be a year or two from now when polygamy will be legal now. You see? Changing laws — the reason I'm staying on this right here...you've got to understand that God, Yahweh, is not a man. Oh, no, no, no... he said "I'm not the son of man that I can lie". He also said that there's not one shadow of turning within me.

You've got to get rid of the arbitrary God theory. You've got to get rid of it! So if you have this arbitrary God theory, then it follows, just like the day follows the night, it follows that you could accept the fact that the law of the Old Testament, the law of God, was done away with in Christ. You could accept the fact that it might not have been necessary to begin with. Because after all, laws come, laws go. But the problem is, you're dealing with man's law. They come, they go. But God, Yahweh...his laws? Not one jot or one tittle will ever pass away from them. Never, never, never.

When man changes a law, 9 times out of 10, it's because he made a mistake. The law was a mistake. And, therefore, we think...we tend to think that God, Almighty Yahweh, is guilty of the same crime. Creating a law to see if it'll work, and then realizing he made a mistake. So, we're going to do away with that law and create a *New Testament* law. Do you see where I'm going with this? I hope so.

I want to show you where the Christian church goes to with their Arbitrary God Theory. My brethren and my friends always go to the book of Hebrews chapter 8 to prove to us that we are bound under the law that indeed God made a mistake. He created a law that nobody could live by and he realized that he made a fault. No, no... don't laugh...that's what the Christian church believes. And here's the scripture they use to back it up.

Hebrews 8:7-8

For if the first law (covenant) had been without fault, then should no place have been sought for the second law (covenant).

Brothers and sisters, that is the verse that the Christian church uses to say, with straight faces, that the first law, or the first covenant, had problems. It had fault. And since the Congress changes laws because they're at fault, then it's okay for God to do that. Aww, not the God that has no shadow of turning it's not.

But here's the problem dear brothers and sisters ... you fail to read the next verse. Imagine that. You're going to find in the next verse that the law of God, given to Israel, had no fault whatsoever. Read the next verse—the very first line.

(verse 8) For finding fault with them (the children of Israel), he said...

Hold on! God did not find fault with his law. He found fault with those to whom he gave the law. That's who he found fault with. Not with his law. To say otherwise is mighty close to calling God a liar who cannot change. He said in his word he found fault with *them*, the children of Israel, because they did not keep the law of God.

I want you to never forget this. The law of God is not like man's law. Number one, it's not regulatory. The law of God is *revelatory*. Remember that. It's not regulatory, it's not to regulate you, but rather it's revelatory — it's to reveal righteousness to you. It's a revelation of the way things are in the mind of God your Creator. If you have no desire to know the law, then you have no desire to know the lawgiver.

The law does not create right and wrong. Keep that in mind. But rather it reveals what was always right and what was always wrong. The law was not given to create right and wrong, but rather it was given to reveal what always was—right and wrong. Do you see that?

So the law of God was not given to regulate you, but rather to rev-elate unto you. For example, the law of God says... thou shalt not steal. Did stealing become wrong when the law said it was? No. Stealing was wrong from the first time that it ever happened. When Satan stole God's creation in the garden of Eden, thou shalt not steal was in force even back then. So when you hear people talking about the law and they're saying it's an Old Testament law, and then they try to tell you that it was created in the law of Moses — listen, a law is not a law when it is codified. It simply becomes a statute or an ordinance once it's been codified (or written down). But it was always a law ... because the law of gravity existed before the law of gravity existed. Do you understand that? Before Isaac Newton discovered this law, it was a law. And then it was discovered, and it was transcribed for us. But the law always existed. It has never not existed.

There's never been a time when the law of God never existed. We know this in our Bibles because 450 years before the law was ever given to Moses, God told Abraham — because you have kept my laws and my statutes — you see, there's always been the law of God.

To understand the law of God more perfectly, be very careful. Don't be linear in your thinking - straightforward in your thinking...here's why. The law of God is like a diamond...it's multifaceted, it sparkles from different angles. When you come to this subject with one way of looking — for example, the law was done away with, or as the Torah folks say, you've got to obey every one of them. When you come at it with this straight-line thinking, it bounces right back and you can find problems all the way around that. You must understand that you've got to look at that from all the different angles. In this video and this series of lessons, we're going to try to look at this law from so many different angles to see if we can find the beauty hidden in the layers of the law.

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