



OUR UNCHANGING GOD

DIVINE LAW

"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (ECCLESIASTES 1:9).

Introduction

The single most important tool for understanding the will of God is the **DIVINE LAW** of **IMMUTABILITY** (definition: *unchanging over time or unable to be changed, unchangeable*).

This **DIVINE LAW** is essential to the comprehension of the whole Bible, particularly the more far-reaching truths which it contains. Without this basic key to the knowledge of God, one cannot help but stumble blindly about in the Scriptures, spasmodically achieving a limited knowledge of dispensational truth. With the understanding of the **DIVINE LAW** of immutability (changeless), however, one has the stability to undertake a progressive, systematic search of the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation and thereby arrive at eternal, unchangeable truth.

It should be noted initially that **DIVINE LAW** is not the Ten Commandments, the Law of Moses, the Law of the Spirit of life, or any other law that relates to the affairs of man. The term **DIVINE LAW** means *the governing element of that which pertains to or proceeds from the nature of God.* **DIVINE LAW** is the one law which Yahweh, the Eternal God, established to govern His Own actions. It is the nucleus and governing factor for any action of God.

1. WHAT IS DIVINE LAW?

A. **DIVINE LAW** is that principle of God which is perpetual (never ending) and immutable (unchangeable) regardless of time, people, or circumstance.

1. This is explained in **ECCLESIASTES 3:14,15**,

[14] *"I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.*

[15] *That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past."*

2. This scripture states that **GOD IS NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. He does not change because **HE CANNOT CHANGE**.

3. Though His fundamental and basic plan for the ages may be altered for the purpose of bringing forth perfection to the human situation, **THAT PLAN IS NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE SENSE OF ITS REVOCATION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ANOTHER TOTALLY DIFFERENT ONE.**

2. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE.

A. Even the name which God chose for His Own identity is a revelation of the fact that He never changes.

1. The name *Yahweh* is translated to mean, "**I AM THAT I AM.**"
 - **EXODUS 3:14**, "*And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.*"
2. This name, while it is a statement of its Bearer's underived existence (He causes Himself to be), also reveals His characteristic of immutability (unchanging) in contrast to the changeable ways of the gods of the heathens. Since God dwells in the eternal present (I AM), there is no past to forget and no future for Him to look to; therefore, there is no chance of His changing.

3. EVEN NATURE SHOWS FORTH GOD'S IMMUTABILITY.

A. The fact that the invisible principles of God from the foundation of the world are clearly understood by the things that are made provides means of confirming the **DIVINE LAW** of immutability (unchanging).

1. **ROMANS 1:20**, "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.*"
2. The order and constancy of the laws that govern the material creation (nature) are testimony to the unchangeableness of its Creator.
 - Life and orderly existence would be impossible without the controlling factor of Newton's Laws of Gravity: What goes up must come down, and for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.
 - The fact that these laws are constant and unchangeable makes it possible for life to exist on the earth.
3. We do not need to wake up and wonder if the sun will shine, or whether or not the earth will spin out of control.
 - **GOD'S IMMUTABLE (UNCHANGING) LAWS GOVERN THE UNIVERSE.**

B. Another marvel of science, electricity, can be beneficial to mankind because of the unchangeable laws that govern its conduct.

1. Electricity has been harnessed to bless mankind because Ohm's Law of Resistance charts an unchangeable course of action for the flow of electrical current.
2. Even the very interaction of the masses of the universe, from the tiniest hydrogen atom to the black holes, is regulated by inalterable laws of nature which literally hold the universe together.

4. THE EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

A. Another of the great visible testimonies to the immutability of God is the continuing existence of the Jewish people and the restoration of the nation of Israel in the Twentieth Century.

1. Though countless attempts have been made to obliterate the Jewish people from the face of the earth, the immutability of God has kept the remnant of them in the earth, maintained their identity in spite of all the social norms for assimilation of conquered peoples, and established them again in their own land.
2. **MALACHI 3:6** declares that this is testimony to the immutability (unchanging) of God: "*For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*"



5. JESUS CHRIST – THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER!

A. When the Son of God came into the world, it was only natural that this same principle of **DIVINE LAW** be applied to Him.

1. And so the scriptures declare, "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (**HEBREWS 13:8**). This passage of scripture cites the continuity and unchangeable nature of Jesus as an example for believers.

6. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE.

A. God does not and indeed cannot abandon His counsel or will for one day to adopt a totally new and different plan for another time.

1. **JAMES 1:17** declares: "*Every best gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change, nor shadow of alteration.*" (Douay Rheims Bible)
2. Even the very giving of the gifts of the new covenant—the gift of eternal life, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the ministry—was done according to His eternal, unchangeable will.
3. Since there is neither变ability nor shadow of turning with God, the gifts and callings of God are without repentance.

■ **ROMANS 11:29**, "*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*"

7. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

A. Since what God does is forever and the laws by which He operates are not subject to repeal or abrogation, it is logical to look for the duplication of fundamental principles in the work of God in succeeding dispensations. While time, people, material, and circumstance may vary, **THE UNDERLYING CONCEPT REMAINS CONSTANT.**

1. It is by this principle of immutability (unchanging) that a common denominator of the actions of God may be found in every era.
2. This principle is stated in a well-known saying, "History repeats itself." World history is filled with examples of the repetition of circumstances and events governed by the same laws in different eras.
3. The birth, rise, decline, and fall of empires in succeeding generations have followed a strikingly similar pattern, revealing the fact that a given set of circumstances applied to the frailties of human nature will bring forth the same results regardless as to the time.



B. History repeats itself not only in the secular realm but also in the spiritual world.

1. It is the most basic of divine principles that prompted Bildad to rationalize in **JOB 8:8-10 NLT**: "*Just ask the previous generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors. 9 For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow. 10 But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you the wisdom of old.*"
2. According to this principle of immutability (unchanging), if God's people want to learn something of the will of God for their day or for the future, **THEY NEED ONLY SEARCH THE PAST.**
3. In this way they arrive at the understanding of the will of God *by learning the principles by which He operated in a previous dispensation.* The fact that the immutability and faithfulness of God are revealed in the events of the past is confirmed in the statement of Balaam to Balak: "*God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*" (**NUMBERS 23:19**).

8. THE PROPHETIC WITNESS OF JESUS.

A. It is from the principle of immutability (changeless) that the life and ministry of Jesus found prophetic witness in the events and people of the Old Testament.

1. Consider Adam: *"And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit"* (1 CORINTHIANS 15:45).
 - The "last Adam" is none other than Jesus Christ, Himself. Whereas Adam introduced sin and thus death to mankind, Jesus came and rescued mankind and gave him life instead of death.
2. Consider Isaac: *"Nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called"* (ROMANS 9:7).
 - Isaac was a type/example of Jesus Christ—the Promised Deliverer/Messiah/Sacrificed Lamb.
3. Consider Moses: *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God...I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him"* (DEUTERONOMY 18:15-18).
 - Moses was a type/example of Jesus Christ because he delivered the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage/captivity. Jesus delivers us from the bondage of—and slavery to—sin.
4. *"...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"* (REVELATION 19:10b).
 - Everything Jesus did was governed by prophecy. Jesus didn't change anything—He fulfilled all of the prophecies relevant to His coming as a servant 2,000 years ago.



B. The immutability (unchanging) of God is the underlying principle of Bible typology, which through types, shadows, allegories, analogies, and other principles enables one to understand the workings of God in one dispensation through what He has done in previous dispensations.

9. WE CAN LEARN FROM THE PAST.

A. It is from the application of the principle of **DIVINE LAW** that searching the Holy Scriptures is helpful to the believer.

1. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11, *"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."*
2. ROMANS 15:4, *"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."*
3. HEBREWS 10:1b, *"For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come..."*

B. It is also on this most fundamental of divine principles that the Lord Jesus could assert: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill"* (MATTHEW 5:17).

1. It is on the authority of **DIVINE LAW** that it may be established that if Judaism were ever God's system of praise, worship, and service—it must remain so in some form today!
2. God's people can know what pleases God today. They can do so because **DIVINE LAW** requires that God never change. What pleased Him in the past must—in some form or in some manifestation—please Him today.
3. Though the manifestation may change, the underlying principles that govern the conduct of God never change.
4. This is **DIVINE LAW – THE MOST BASIC OF ALL KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE WILL OF GOD.**