



SESSION 3 - THE TORAH (Part 2)



Why do Christians 'pick and choose' which Biblical laws they obey?

The main reason why Christians 'pick and choose' is because _____ itself teaches us _____ and _____ to do so.

THE THREEFOLD DIVISION OF THE LAW

In Chapter 19 of both the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and the Second London Baptist Confession (1689 SLBC) contain sections on the Law of God which show us these 3 categories of law:

1. _____ Law
2. _____ Law
3. _____ Law



1. MORAL LAW

1689 SLBC Chapter 19.2 (paraphrased)

The same law that was first written in the heart of man continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the Fall, and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in the Ten Commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six, our duty to man. (cf. Rom. 2:14, 15; Deut. 10:4)



2. CEREMONIAL LAW

A. These laws served to protect against the danger of the Jews
_____ **into surrounding pagan cultures.**

It set them apart from the other nations. They also contained signs that pointed to the coming Messiah - Sabbath, circumcision, Passover and the redemption of the firstborn. (cf. Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:14-17; 1 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 2:14, 16)

B. Christ does not 'break the law' - rather he _____ **what its original purpose was.**
Since its purpose is now completed in Christ, these ceremonial laws are no longer needed to be observed by us. However, they do still teach us principles about worship of God (e.g. don't approach God haphazardly) and

Christian living (such as avoiding things that cause others to stumble - see 1 Cor. 8:9-13, 1 Thes. 5:22 & 2 Cor. 8:20-21).



3. CIVIL LAW

A. Israel's civil laws are no longer in effect today because unlike the OT, God's people are no longer defined by _____ or _____ boundaries.

Rather, Christ has called to himself people from every tribe, language and nation. So, the laws pertaining to OT Israel's civil governance no longer are in effect - because God's people are those who have faith in His Son.

B. God's people are no longer a _____ nation, but rather the _____ - a people of common faith in Christ.

Christ is the True Israel, and we are *in* Christ - grafted in to God's people (see Eph. 2:19; 3:6; Rom. 4:16; 8:14-16; 9:8; 11:17-24; Gal 3:29; 4:28; 6:16). These laws are abrogated because of Christ's fulfillment of them. However, these laws do have some value in shaping how we think about civil laws today and what values are useful in forming a just society and fair expectations of recompense for work (e.g. 1 Cor. 9:8-10).

Why the Moral law still stands

The Moral law is forever binding on all people - Christians and non-Christians. The moral law is never abrogated because its origin is in the character and nature of God Himself - who never changes. Christ himself affirms and clarifies the moral law to us (cf. Rom. 13:8-10; Jam. 2:8-12; Matt. 5:17-19; Rom. 3:31).



NUMBERS: REBELLION & WANDERING

In Numbers, we notice 3 major patterns in the narrative:

1. Pattern of _____

The organization of the arrangement of Israel's camp and formation when they were traveling symbolized that God's presence was to be at the centre of their lives as His people and He was to guide them as they followed His lead. However, in Numbers, we see that this pattern of organization is disrupted by the people's constant and repeated rebellion.

2. Pattern of _____

The people's relentless complaining and rebellion is a pattern we're meant to see in the narrative.

A. Each rebellion involves the death and/or threat of death on a portion of the _____ generation.

B. The laws in between the rebellion stories provide clarification about laws they may have transgressed, or put measures in place to prevent future transgression, and prepare them for when they enter the land. It shows that God is still going to be faithful to His promise despite the people's failures and rebellion.

3. Pattern of God's _____

A. The _____ - Numbers 20:10-13

Christ was the Rock that was struck - he takes the hit of our sinful rebellion and becomes the fountain of living water to us. Paul says that this story in Numbers is given as an example to us - not to be rebellious and stubborn as the Israelites were. (see 1 Cor. 10:1-6)

B. The _____ - Numbers 21:4-9

The Israelites are judged with poisonous serpents that bite them. They repent and call out for Moses to save them. God tells him to put a bronze serpent on a pole and tell the people to look to it.

C. The Conquering _____ - Numbers 24:17

From the lips of a pagan prophet (Balaam) hired to curse Israel by their enemy, he says that he sees a kingly figure who will crush the enemy of God's people (cf. Num 24:17). This is directly connected to Jacob's blessing of Judah in Genesis 49, that the scepter shall never depart from Judah.



DEUTERONOMY: LISTEN & LOVE

The tone of Deuteronomy was more hortatory than legal - that is, it is more _____ than _____.

Contrasting Israel's law to the rest of the ANE

| PENTATEUCH | ANCIENT NEAR EAST |
|---|--|
| Self-revelation of God | Self-glorification of the king |
| Describes a vision of the right exercise of what it means to be God's holy nation | Describes a vision of the right exercise of justice to legitimize the king |
| Portrays the ideal covenant keeper | Portrays the ideal human king |
| Prime purpose is the people's sanctification | Prime purpose is showing the king's justice |
| Showed the perfect standard of justice by the Holy King of Israel | Many examples of partiality and ignorance by fallible human kings |

In the ANE, the gods were far off - not personally invested in the law of the people. They had to be appeased. Even the king had to prove himself to the gods to legitimize his rule. We take it for granted today that 'God is near'. Not so in the ANE: the gods were far off and didn't care personally for people other than when it is related to their own selfish concerns. It is in this context that Israel's God and His law stands apart.

A. Israel's God is intimately _____ with His people: Instead of being oppressive - they are the expression of a loving God who is their caring King telling them how He designed them to flourish and live.

B. These laws were to produce a type of nation that would make the pagan nations _____ of them because of their beautiful perfection and justice. (see Deut. 4:6-8)

However, as we know, Israel failed at this. But this was none-the-less one of the purposes of the law God gave them.

DEUTERONOMY: 7 TAKEAWAYS

1. Israel is about to possess the Land

God, in His love, is about to fulfill the oath He made with Abraham so many generations ago!

2. It shows us what discipleship of the next generation looks like

Moses is re-telling the new generation of God's gracious covenant relationship with His people. The emphasis is God's gracious love to His people and their reasonable response of loving obedience.

3. Be killing sin or sin will be killing you...

The commands to completely destroy the places of pagan worship and people is so that Israel would not compromise with paganism and not be a blessing to the nations.

4. God gives graciously to Israel

He likewise gives lavish grace and blessings to us though we are often stubborn, undeserving and rebellious.

5. Deuteronomy foreshadows of Christ

It speaks of a day when God would raise up a prophet like Moses (see Deut. 8:14-22) who does signs and wonders like Moses (cf. Deut. 34:11-12 & John 6:14).

6. Deuteronomy gives Israel the *Shema*

(Deut. 6:4) the central confession of Israel's faith which says that the Lord, the God of Israel is one. Jesus claims to be one with the Father (cf. John 10:30; 17:21-23).

7. Israel was chosen as the least of all the nations as God's treasured possession

(see Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18) So too the church is chosen from the weak, foolish and lowly (1 Cor. 1:26-30) and are the 'new Israel' - His treasured possession (Eph. 1:14; Tit. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9).

ASSIGNMENTS FOR SESSION 4

READ

- Nehemiah 9

WATCH

- [The Prophets](#)
- [How would you describe Wisdom in relation to Law and Gospel?](#) (Optional)
- [How were Old Testament saints saved?](#) (Optional)

ASK

- Read Nehemiah 9 and circle/highlight every reference to the law, commandments or disobedience. Do these references keep coming up? If so, why do you think these references keep coming up