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STRAIGHT TALK

"... I also made you (the priests) contemptible and abased to all the people because you do not keep my ways, but are presumptuous with the law." – Malachi 2:9

STUMBLING AT THE LAW

TEACHING LIES

Many Christians today are stumbling at the law. They stumble because confusion has been planted in their minds by the churches. Churches have been teaching theologies that do not fit the Holy Scriptures. They've tried to force their ugly theologies into the writings of the Bible but they just don't fit ... reminiscent of Cinderella's ugly step sisters who tried to force their big ugly feet into the petite glass slipper meant for Cinderella's foot.

So, does the Bible contradict itself? Jesus said: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."* (Mtt. 5:17-18).

But then Paul said: *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law"* (Gal. 3:13). Contradiction? Not really. *"The curse of the law"* was the verdict of guilt for sin. Jesus took away the curse (the sentence of death) ... not the law.

Churches and preachers (even well-meaning ones) have handled these verses, and other similar verses, very poorly ... not discerning what was actually being taught. The main reason they haven't handled them properly is because the church world is a mixed-up mess of foreign theology – a conglomeration of idolatries and myths from Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Mithraism, Witchcraft, Sorcery, and a pinch of Bible thrown in here and there.

The resultant confusion has made it difficult for churchgoers to make sense of the Bible ... particularly on the subject of law. So, let's see if we can wade through some theological lies to show why the ugly, un-biblical foot of the church doesn't fit into the elegant glass slipper of God's Holy Word.

Church leaders are contemptible frauds pretending to understand what they teach ... when in fact they are only repeating lies they've heard from other lying preachers. They don't know what they are saying ... but they let their listeners assume that they do. They are conmen.

It is the way things work in a culture of myth and superstition. Americans look back at ancient Rome and

Greece and laugh at their strange theologies of gods and goddesses. Admittedly, it is laughable. But remember, in that day Rome and Greece were at the cutting edge of knowledge and advanced society. They weren't dummies by any stretch of the imagination. Nonetheless, religion and superstition were making fools of them. It just goes to show that smart people can get caught up in goofy theologies.

When they do, it always leads to the downfall of their culture. When that downfall begins, the people usually start blaming their leaders. They look with contempt upon the ones in whom they had gullibly placed their faith.

1. *And now, O you priests, this commandment is for you.*

2. *If you will not hear, and if you will not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, says Yahweh of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay it to heart.*

7. *For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and the people should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts.*

8. *But you (priests) are departed out of the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law; ...*

9. *Therefore have I also made you contemptible and abased before all the people because you do not keep my ways, but are presumptuous with the law.*

– Malachi 2

Malachi spoke of a time when the priests in Jerusalem were presumptuously twisting the law, teaching lies and confusing the people ... *"teaching for doctrines the edicts of men"* (Mark 7:7). This fits the scenario that Jesus faced in first-century Jerusalem. The Sanhedrin and the whole Jewish system was contemptible. They were presumptuously teaching false, twisted law.

But how did "the law" get twisted? Didn't they have the Word of God? How did they get it so wrong? Modern

churches try to tell us that the Pharisees had “the law of Moses.” And didn’t God give that law to Israel? Thus, according to the churches God gave Israel bad law.

Would God give bad law to Israel? To assume that God’s law was, or is, bad is tantamount to assuming that God Himself is bad. That’s absurd! God would not have given bad law to Israel. Nonetheless, when Jesus showed up in first-century Jerusalem the Jewish law system was bad. Churches tell us that the problem was law itself.

How can this be? God told Israel that if they would honor his law they would be blessed and prosperous (Dt. 30:15-20). However, by the time Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, some 2400 years later, the Jewish law system was not a blessing. It was contemptible.

What was going on? Did God make a mistake?

The churches tell us that Jesus condemned law and lawkeeping. Is it possible that Jesus came to fix a problem that his Father caused? As crazy as this sounds, it is approximately what most churches teach.

Well, obviously something is missing in that picture ... and it is nonsense to try and put the blame on God. Confusion is not from God. It is from man. So if we can discover where man went off course we can eliminate the confusion.

False teachers cause people to “stumble at the law.”

This has never been more true than it is today with church leaders (false teachers) teaching doctrines they don’t understand. The Pharisees in the first century also taught lies about law. Not much has changed. No wonder the churches call their theology “Judeo-Christian.”

Any Bible teacher that is worth his salt will take time to read what the Bible actually says. See Matthew 5:

17. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18. For verily I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Jesus didn’t seem to think the law was bad or obsolete. Now look at Romans 7:

12. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Apparently, Paul didn’t think the law was bad. And neither did John. See I John 2:

3. And hereby we verify that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4. He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Obviously, John didn’t think the law was done away.

“THE LAW”

Jesus said:

19. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingship of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingship of heaven.

Mtt. 5:19

Jesus and his apostles, on one hand, taught that God’s commandments and law were just and good and holy. On the other hand, they spoke harshly against the ugly laws and traditions of the Scribes and the Pharisees.

7. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the edicts of men.

8. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things you do.

9. And He said to them, Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own (Babylonian) tradition.

Mark 7:7-9

20. For I say to you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingship of heaven.

Mtt. 5:20

Churches today, like the Jews of the first century, still teach lies and ignore the clear teachings of Jesus.

One of the biggest lies is that the word “law” always means the same thing (i.e., the law of God). Furthermore, the churches have equated “the law of God” with the doctrines of the Pharisees. This is significant since everyone knows that Jesus condemned the Pharisees. Thus, churches imply that Jesus condemned God’s law.

Thus, in one fell swoop the churches have dismissed the whole Old Testament along with God’s law. But it doesn’t stop there. Churchgoers today place no value in God’s law ... but isn’t it strange that they honor man’s law? Man’s law is the Beast System (government, congress, police, courts, etc.). Churches dismiss God’s laws and embrace man’s laws. Go figure.

This has caused untold confusion among churchgoers. Most of them can’t analyze it well enough to realize exactly what they have done wrong.

“COVENANTS”

To add to the confusion, the churches don’t differentiate between covenants and laws. The Bible tells of covenants between God and Israel. A covenant is a contract. It is agreed to by two or more parties. Unlike God’s law that is timeless, covenants can be created, and they can be terminated. Covenants should not be confused with law.

For instance, God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai. This covenant was made through Moses. It was called “The

Old Covenant.” It is true that the Old Sinai Covenant was terminated some 1400 years after it was created. It was terminated because Israel broke it and abandoned it. Thus that covenant came, and it went. That’s not to say that God’s law came and went. Neither did the Old Scriptures become obsolete ... for the Old Covenant is only a small part of the Old Scriptures.

The Old Covenant at Sinai was the marriage contract between Yahweh and Israel. It was made at Sinai through Moses (Ex. 19:7-8). Years later this covenant/marriage was broken and abandoned by Israel. In other words, Israel became unfaithful to her Husband and took up with strange lovers (other law systems). This caused God to “put her away” (i.e., divorce her) (Jer. 3:8 & 14; Mal. 2:11). But God promised to make a New Covenant with Israel at a later date (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:8).

Thus, we see that a new marriage and a New Covenant was later made between King Jesus and his virgin bride New Jerusalem (Rev. 21: 2 & 9). This occurred when Jesus ascended the Throne, ratified the New Covenant, and became King (Mtt. 28:18-20).

The Old Covenant marriage between Yahweh and Israel ended when Israel abandoned Him ... and He put her away. Historically, this ill-fated relationship began failing at the end of the age of the judges ... as recorded in I Samuel 8. The covenant’s final end was marked when God allowed his former wife to be taken away into bondage under Assyria in the 6th century BC (2Kings 15: 27-29; 17:6 - 18:11 & 13), and under Babylon in the 5th century BC (2Kings 25:1-21).

Thus, the Old Covenant came through Moses, and it died when Israel abandoned her husband Yahweh and took up with other husbands: other systems.

So the churches are not wrong to teach that the Old Covenant is gone. They are wrong, however, to say that God’s laws are gone. The doing away with the Old Covenant did not do away with God’s laws. His laws predated Sinai, and they continued after the covenant died.

The Old Covenant (made at Sinai) was a separate package unto itself. It came, and it went. It came at Sinai, and it went when Israel was divorced. It was “**the added law**” Paul spoke of (Galatians 3:19). It was “ADDED.” What does it mean to be “added”? It means that something was already there to which it was added. The laws and promises of God were already there. They predated the Old Covenant. So, when the Old Covenant was added, and when it was taken away, the laws and promises that predated it were not changed or taken away.

Whenever the word “law” appears in the Bible you must ask “which law?” There are many laws in the Bible, and you cannot assume the word “law” always means the same thing. Each time a law is mentioned it must be identified by the context in which it is used. “Law” is a generic word.

God gave Adam law ... to not partake of the forbidden tree (Gen. 2:16).

When Cain murdered Able he broke the law, and he was punished.

The sabbath law was in force in Exodus 16:23. These laws were mentioned and in force well before Sinai and the

Old Covenant. It has always been against God’s law to steal, worship other gods, murder, lie, dishonor your parents, commit adultery, etc.. The writing of these laws on stone tablets at Sinai was not their beginning. It was merely their codification.

The laws of God are forever. They don’t come and go. They are the working plans and instructions for his creation.

The Old Covenant from Sinai, on the other hand, was a temporary package that lasted only for a particular duration. That package was ADDED ... and it was later taken away ... without affecting the timeless laws of God.

The Old Covenant package was a specially-designed set of lessons to introduce Israel to simple concepts. It was a kindergarten used to point her to higher spiritual values ... values that appeared later in the Reign of Jesus. Israel was being schooled as children to prepare them for what was coming. Paul called the “added law” package a “*pedagogue (child tutor) to bring us to Christ*” ... and to New Jerusalem life and the New Covenant (Gal. 3:24).

The Old Covenant had rudimentary elements of sacrifices and rituals for a rudimentary and young nation of Israelites. It was fitting for the purposes God deemed necessary for that time. However, the Old Scriptures (usually called “The Old Testament”) as compiled for our education today contain much, much more than just the Old Sinai Covenant. They not only give us history, they also give us valuable and timeless laws, statutes and guidelines.

For instance, through Moses God also codified a national calendar with a systematic plan for Israel’s national order and economy (see Moses The Economist). These taught Israel how she should function with her designated borders and properties, and her regularly scheduled debt releases, systematic land apportionments and tribal inheritances. The descriptions and punishments of crimes, and the rules of cleanliness of body and of diet were delineated and written down for posterity. Rules of war and rules of peacetime were spelled out. Some of these laws, statutes and judgments applied to the Old Covenant as well as to the laws of God. It is up to us to discern which is which.

Obviously we can’t look to the Jews (neither contemporary Jews nor those of the first century) to answer these questions because the Jewish religion is of Babylon. Those Babylonian laws were mixed with bits and pieces of God’s laws ... creating an abomination: a system that was abhorrent then as it is now; a system that was so monstrous that its leaders tortured and murdered God’s own Son. And I dare say that if Jesus were to appear in the flesh again today this system of church and state would attempt to murder Him again ... since this system (church & state) is the modern version of old Jerusalem and Babylon.

JEWS, JUDEANS & JUDAHITES

Part of the confusion in the churches is the deceptive translation of the Scriptures along with false history.

For instance, the churches equate Judaism (Pharisaism) with the teachings of the Old Testament. Nothing could be further from the truth. Furthermore, the KJV translators replaced both “Judahite” and “Judean” universally with the

English word “Jew.” They just called them all “Jews.” This is a flagrant deception.

“Judahite” actually refers to a member of the tribe of Judah. It is a racial term ... like “Semitic.” The term “Judahite” appears in the Old Testament text.

In contrast, the term “Judean” meant a resident of the province of Judea. It was not a racial term but rather a national/cultural term ... like “American.” The term “Judean” appears in the New Testament text. Under Rome’s rule the land of Canaan was renamed Judea, and anyone who resided there or subscribed to its culture was called a “Judean.”

But the KJV translators just lumped them together and called them all “Jews” in both Old and New Testaments.

The so-called “Jews” of the New Testament were mostly non-Israelite Judeans. They were (and still are) a mixture of Edomites, Canaanites, Persians, a smattering of Israelites and whoever else happened to reside in Judea or subscribe to Judean culture. Then about 740 AD the whole nation of Khazaria in eastern Europe joined the throng, converted to Judaism and began calling themselves “Ashkenazi Jews.” Thus “Jews” are truly a mixed multitude.

Back at the time Jesus showed up in Jerusalem there were a few Israelites remaining ... descendants of those who returned from the Persian captivity some 400 years earlier. Of the millions of Israelites that had been forcefully relocated away from their land, approximately fifty thousand were permitted to return under Cyrus the Zoroastrian king of Persia (see Ezra 1 & 2). These who returned brought with them the Persian (Babylonian) religion of Zoroaster ... along with myths and legends of old Israel and Moses.

The rest of the millions of Israelites taken into the captivity were meanwhile migrating westward and northward toward Europe. These were the “lost sheep” to whom Jesus sent his missionaries Paul and Peter to deliver to them the Good News of His Kingship.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem He called his remnant sheep out of Jerusalem’s Babylonian/Zoroastrian system. These began exiting the Judean system to follow Christ. Also they were being driven out by severe persecution from the Zoroastrian/Babylonian Jews ... especially after the murder of Jesus, James, Stephen and other followers of Jesus. Many of Jesus’ followers moved north to Antioch, Syria. Others moved even further and joined their Israel brethren on their migrations toward Europe. These migrant Israelites were not “Jews” for they had no ties to Judea.

Jerusalem was later sacked by the Roman general Titus in 70 AD. Those Judeans were the same Zoroastrian Jews who, at the trial of Jesus, exclaimed “*Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate said to them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar*” (Jn. 19:15). Also they cried out:

22: ... *Let him be crucified.*

23 *And the governor (Pilate) said, Why, what evil has he done? But they (the chief priests) cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.*

24. *When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: you see to it.*

25. *Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. – Matt. 27:22-25*

These were the Pharisees; the Zoroastrian Jews who murdered Jesus, Stephen, James, and eventually Paul. They were following “the traditions of the elders” (i.e., Zoroastrianism mixed with Talmudism).

Modern churches tell us these Pharisees were Israelites and were following the “laws of Moses.” But they weren’t. The laws of Moses had been dropped centuries before ... and that had led to their demise and eventual captivity. The Pharisees were following the Babylonian Talmud and falsely calling it “the law of Moses” ... much like churches today falsely claim to follow the Bible when in fact they follow Mithraism, Zoroastrianism and Judaism.

THE “ADDED” LAWS

Now to unravel the confusion concerning “covenants.”

God created laws to govern his creation. These laws are timeless: as timeless as his creation. As long as his creation continues his laws will continue to govern it. They can be ignored, but they cannot be done away ... any more than laws of physics (like gravity) can be done away.

Covenants, on the other hand, can be added, or done away. Covenant laws remain viable as long as that covenant itself remains viable. When the covenant ends, the laws that governed it are no longer applicable.

When the Old Covenant was established at Sinai, it was a package of rituals and sacrifices with laws to govern them. Paul called this package “the added law” (Gal. 3:19). It was “added” to the laws of God that already existed. When that Old Covenant package of rituals and sacrifices ended, its laws ended with it ... centuries before Christ.

Nonetheless, Babylonian Jews, as well as some Israelites, continued twisting God’s Word for centuries, using it for their own ends. This became the abominable system in Jerusalem. The rituals and sacrifices had been imported from Persia. They were not “the laws of Moses.”

Jesus came to expose those bad laws and the Zoroastrian Jews who used them to rule over the Judeans. It was the church (synagogue) system of its day.

Our Lord called Jerusalem “*Sodom and Egypt*” (Rev. 11:8). By that He meant that Jerusalem was corrupt like Sodom and Egypt. It still is. When church leaders today refer to Jerusalem as “the holy city” they don’t know what they are saying. Jerusalem today, and the Zionist Judaism it arrogantly flaunts, is no more Biblical than Sodom, Egypt and Babylon. It’s just one of the many witnesses to the confusion and corruption of modern-day churches.

Much more could be said and sorted out on this subject, but this should point you in the right direction.

May God guide your studies.

Ben Williams