

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WORKING WITH GOD

RLJ-1252

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PART 4: DISCERNING THE LAWS OF GOD

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LAWS

There is a huge difference between *knowing* and *understanding* the Laws of God. A three year old child can turn a television on and off but doesn't understand how the set was manufactured or what laws are making it possible to produce one.

If you read the twentieth chapter of Exodus, you will know what the Ten Commandments are and you will have a choice to obey or rebel against them. But you need to read the Bible in order to understand why God gave the Ten Commandments in the first place *and* rightly discern the meaning of what you are reading. Let's use the following verse for a training session:

"Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it."
(Deuteronomy 25:19)

To understand this verse we need to identify and understand who Amalek was.

Amalek was the first nation to be formed but it perished and forever ceased to exist. **Numbers 24:20**

The nation of Amalek (Amalekites) attacked the Israelites who had rebelled against God and defeated them. **Numbers 14:40-45**

Amalek was a grandson to Esau. His father was Eliphaz and Amalek was born by Eliphaz's concubine. **Genesis 36:4; 11-12**

Amalek was cursed twice; first, by his father's curse (**Genesis 27:30-41; Hebrews 12:16-17**) and secondly that he was born a bastard. **Deuteronomy 23:2**

The descendants of Amalek survived Moses and Joshua and lived in the territory of Ephraim. **Judges 12:15**

King Saul was given the order to destroy Amalek. **1 Samuel 15:1-3; 7-8**

King Hezekiah finally dealt the death blow to the Amalekites and finished what was left of this nation and this was the last time Amalek and his descendants are mentioned in the Bible. **1 Chronicles 4:41-43**

The Amalekites were known for idolatry and rebellion against God. Thus we need to read the verses prior to verse 19 which tell us the grievances God had against this nation. **Deuteronomy 25:17-18**



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We are now ready to interpret verse 19:

- ❖ God is giving a prophetic statement that Israel will have defeated all its enemies around them some day in the future.
- ❖ Israel will be at rest at that time.
- ❖ God wants the Israelites to blot out the memories of this nation; He does not want Israel to remember how they lived.
- ❖ Don't forget to blot out the memory of the Amalekites.

This leads us to study the meaning of the word "blot."

1. Step one: Turn to a concordance and look up the word "blot." Find the Hebrew word and the Greek word. Hebrew is for the Old Testament and Greek is for the New Testament. In this case the Hebrew word used in Deuteronomy 25:19 means to "rub or wipe off."
2. Step two: Find out how this word has been used in the Old Testament to get a full understanding of the word if you do not speak or read Hebrew. You will find that this word is used 15 times in the Old Testament, and every time it is used outside Deut. 25:19, it is used in conjunction of erasing a name from a book or for God to erase the sins of a person.
3. Step three: Find out how this word has been used in the New Testament to get a full understanding of the word if you do not speak or read Greek. The word "blot" is used three times and refers to erasing sins, erasing the handwriting of the law and erasing a name from the Book of Life.

THE WORD BLOT IS NEVER USED IN THE FORM THAT MEANS TO KILL!

God gave general timeless laws to the nation of Israel. He also gave temporary laws that were for a specified time and for Israel only. You will be in confusion if you don't understand that and only by reading the entire Bible and doing a correct study of verses and words can you come to a clear understanding.

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS IN STUDYING THE BIBLE!

Remember, do not mix the Old Testament laws with the Jewish Talmud which contains more than 600 laws. These customs were not given by God but devised by men. Jesus refers to the Talmud as the "Traditions of the Elders." **Matthew 15:1-2**

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LAWS

We have established that the Law of God was divided into three parts:

1. Moral Law
2. Practical Law
3. Sacrificial Law

The Moral Law is timeless whereas the Practical Law is comprised of two elements, one of which is timeless and one that was given to the Israelites during the time that Israel was a theocracy and ended with the King Zedekiah of Judah. **2 Kings 25:1-7**

The Sacrificial Law was a temporary law that existed until the Messiah had been sacrificed and the sin of man paid in full. **Hebrews 9:14-17**

The practical law addressed two issues:

1. The first set of timeless laws governed hygiene, activities related to sex, food, sanitation and prevention of diseases.
2. The second set was given to govern Israel and had a time limit as long as it remained a theocracy.

Let us look at these examples:

- ❖ The people were told to destroy all occult altars and places of idol worship. **Deuteronomy 12:1-3**
- ❖ God wanted to prevent that the land of Canaan from ending up in the hands of a few rich people so He instituted the law of Jubilee. Every 50th year the land sold would be given back to the original family. **Leviticus 25:1-55**
- ❖ God set up a financial system for the Levites. **Numbers 35:1-8**
- ❖ God told Moses to set up cities of refuge for men who had killed someone by accident. **Numbers 35:9-15**
- ❖ Slavery is not from God, but since humanity at the time of Moses consisted of free men and slaves, God set up a regulation for Hebrew slaves. God does not condone slavery but He gave Moses a temporary law that would make life easier for a Hebrew slave. **Deuteronomy 15:12-18**

Many people use the Practical Laws given only to Israel as an excuse to do away with the rest. If you are going to be true to the Bible, you must determine what was a timeless and what was a temporary law for Israel under a theocracy. Carrying out a death sentence was not given to individuals but to the state.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?