



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

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This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF introduces the book *Laying Down the Law*.

Preamble

Practically since the time I published the original book bearing the name *Laying Down the Law*, it has been upon my heart to add to it. That was in 2002. I have participated in many conversations and lengthy correspondences on the subject of Yahweh's intended purpose and role for the Law since then. I have encountered a vast array of arguments whose intent was to justify the continuance of the

Law's authority and rule over the life of the believer in Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah.

I have tested every argument, and sought the counsel of Yahweh, inviting Him often and with fervor to guide me into all truth. He has been very willing to answer my sincere and trusting pleas. As James (Jacob) wrote to the body of Christ:

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to

all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

There have been so many arguments that would turn the intended meaning of the apostles instructions concerning the Law on their head, and so much more revelation the Father has graciously opened to me on this topic, that I find it expedient to not merely add to the former writing, but to do a thorough rewrite. None of the conclusions set forth previously have been changed. Neverthe-

Food for Thought

"Men qualify for freedom in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains on their own appetites. Society cannot exist unless a controlling power is put somewhere on will and appetite, and the less of it there is within, the more their must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."

Edmund Burke

Scripture Memory

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

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Laying Down the Law

less, I believe it would be of benefit to address this subject with a new approach, laying a solid foundation and building upon it.

The Difficulty of This Work

There are a number of things that make the writing of this book a difficult task. Foremost in my mind are the attitudes, words, and emotions of those who staunchly advocate the continuance of the Law's authority over the saints. I have found

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through much bitter experience that the discussion of this topic elicits from many a vitriolic response. I have had brothers and sisters revile me. Even some who are normally meek and temperate have become very in-

temperate in their remarks as I have invited them to look to the Scriptures and discourse with me on this subject. Much heat and frequent violations of the love of the brethren have come forth from those I have invited to patiently examine this matter with me.

If one properly understands the Scripture's testimony, they will know that such a response has a long and tragic history. One can find the enmity that exists between those whose focus is upon works of the flesh, and those who approach Yahweh in faith, as far back as the Chapter four of the book of Genesis. Cain brought to Yahweh a magnificent offering of the fruit of the ground. Man's flesh was formed of the dust of the earth, and Cain's offering represented the very best that the flesh can produce. Yahweh had no regard to this offering.

Cain's brother Abel brought forth of the lambs of the flock. He presented an offering of faith looking to that day when Yahweh would send His Son as a sacrificial lamb to atone for all the sins of mankind. Yahweh had regard to the faith of Abel, and Cain envied his brother's favor and slew him.

The persecution of the sons of faith by the sons of works found expression once more in the offspring of Abraham. His first son is a type and shadow of Yahweh's first people (Israel). His second son, Isaac, is a type of those who are the seed of Christ and a people of faith. Paul expounds upon this in his letter to the body of Christ in Galatia.

Galatians 4:21-30

Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking: for these women are two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear; Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor; For more are the children of the desolate than of the one who has a husband." And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. ***But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.***

Observe carefully what Paul states here. Hagar is compared to Mount Sinai, the place where Moses received the Law from Yahweh. Her son represents those who are under the Law. Hagar is Jerusalem. She is Judaism with its focus upon regulations and ordinances and commands that define the person who is righteous and the person who is unrighteous. Ishmael was born before Isaac, the son of faith, and he persecuted Isaac. Note the particular form of this persecution.

Genesis 21:8-9

And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyp-

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tian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking.

Ishmael was **mocking** Isaac. Words are often employed as a form of persecution. It was this event the apostle Paul referred to when he stated that “he who was born according to the flesh **persecuted** him who was born according to the Spirit.” I have also been the frequent recipient of verbal persecution from my brothers and sisters who have embraced the Law. A barrage of insults and slander have come my way when I have pointed those under the Law to a “more excellent way” (Hebrews 8:6).

The fullest depiction of the enmity between those who are of the Law, and those who are of the Spirit, was revealed when the Jewish leaders crucified the Lord of Glory. I know from experience, and from the testimony of Scripture that in addressing this issue once more there will be those whose passions are inflamed against me and who will decry the message. Indeed, if my focus were upon those who argue for the Law’s continuance, it would be with the greatest difficulty that I could bring myself to pick up this subject once more.

The Audience

This book is **not** written for those without the patience to hear a matter, examine it closely, test it against the Scriptures, and invite the Spirit of Christ to guide them into truth. The book has a specific audience in mind.

The word audience literally means *hearers*. It comes from the same root as the word *audible*. It is not my desire to wrangle with those whose minds are closed. Such ones may read, but they do not perceive. They may listen, but they do not hear. Many are found among the household of God who are in this condition.

Isaiah 42:19-20

Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of Yahweh? You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; your ears are open, but none hears.

There are legions of those among the body of Christ today who fit the description set down by the apostle Paul.

I Timothy 1:6-7

For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

This writing is offered for those who have hearing ears. I will not offer my opinion in this book and ask any to receive it. Everything will be predicated upon Scriptures. I entreat those who are desirous of truth to examine everything. Test the Scriptures. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal both truth and error.

This is an exceedingly important subject. Many are running in vain. When they stand before Yahweh on the day of judgment and present to Him the fruit of their lives they will find that their offering is despised as was Cain’s. Do not make this tragic error. Receive instruction now.

*He who was born according to the flesh **persecuted** him who was born according to the Spirit*

To those who find anger in their hearts toward this brother for writing on this subject I would say, “Beware, sin is crouching at the door and it would devour you.”

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If you will attend with patience to this teaching, I am confident that you will be well rewarded.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is speaking!

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Joseph Herrin

A Wider View

This is the second book in which I have included a chapter titled “A Wider View.” I have found that certain kingdom truths are difficult to comprehend

Certain kingdom truths are difficult to comprehend...

unless we first envision the grand panoramic scope of Yahweh’s works and plans. When we focus narrowly on a subject, apart from discerning the ultimate intent of

the Ruler and Creator of the Universe, we are hindered from apprehending truth and arriving at the mind of Christ. This is certainly true when one begins to explore the purpose and limits of the Law which was delivered to Moses at Mount Sinai.

The following story is presented to illustrate the role of the Law, and how two different peoples can see its purpose and role in vastly different ways.

The Parable

There was a great man of immense wealth, power and vision. He conceived a plan to build a city wherein he could place his name. This city would be the center of his empire, and the greatest work he would ever accomplish. The man begins to form his master plan. The city is to be built perfect and entire when it is begun. There will be nothing un-

sightly in the city. The power lines will all be run underground. Sewer and waste collection will likewise be accomplished through means that will make it possible that nothing unclean, malodorous, or obnoxious to the senses will ever pass before the eyes of the inhabitants.

The city will be one of beauty, purity, and peace. Vast gardens are designed, and quiet spaces for contemplation. A transportation system is envisioned that will run totally on solar power, with efficient quietness and zero emissions. There will never be an automobile, or other device to fill the air with noise, or pollution, or add congestion to the streets. The thought going into this city’s design is immense. No aspect is left unconsidered. No expense is considered too great.

The location of the city is chosen. It will sit on a parcel of barren wasteland. The land is to be transformed into a paradisaical condition. The site has been chosen with care. It will receive adequate light from the Sun, and is free from nearby environmental pollutants. The site chosen has no inhabitants. No one regards it, for it is in its appearance a dry and weary land with nothing to attract the soul of man.

This great visionary knows that it will be many generations before the city construction can begin. Vast amounts of money and material must first be stored up for it is a colossal work to be undertaken. It is important to preserve the land in its natural condition until the time arrives for the city to be built. Anything that would defile the land and make it unsuitable for development must be guarded against until the time for the city to arise from the desert.

The man therefore hires a people to build a wall all around the property. He gives them charge of the wall, instructing them to keep out all intruders. He warns them to be vigilant that nothing should enter that would alter the condition of the land until the time should come that he is ready to build his city. He then goes away to prepare for his great work.

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Generations pass. The vision of the city is passed to the man's son, and then to that man's son. With a single focus they continue to lay up wealth, to develop technology, and to store up material for the construction of the city.

At the same time, the people charged with guarding the wall continue their task. As one generation passes into another, the people guarding the wall forget the purpose envisioned for the land. All that matters to them is that they have a duty, and a charge to keep. They are to protect the land, and keep out all intruders. They are to prevent the land from being altered in any way.

These people are proud of their calling. They begin to think of the land and the wall as their own. It was given to them as their own sacred charge. Though all is barren within, they believe that no place on earth is more valuable. The immense wall around the property gives evidence to its value. Indeed, the wall becomes immensely valuable to them as they focus more on it and the purpose it serves, than the land within which it guards.

More generations pass, and the time is at hand for the visionary's descendant to build the city. All is in readiness. An immense procession of workers accompany the owner of the land to the property. They arrive at the wall with equipment, engineers, blueprints, and every necessary thing to build this paradise in the wilderness. It is an hour of momentous importance. The hour to transform the barren wilderness into a paradise is at hand. The work envisioned generations before, which has been the desire and passion of the land owner and his descendants is to be brought to glorious fruition.

At the wall the land owner and his laborers are confronted by the people who were given charge to guard the land. These guardians have forgotten the reason the land was purchased. They have been so focused on the wall, and their part in maintaining it, that they have lost completely the larger vision. They do not understand that the wall was constructed for a season, and a specific role. To them

the wall has become all important. Their role as guardians is all that they perceive.

Being a prideful people, the guardians of the wall are unwilling to relinquish the work that gave them distinctiveness and purpose. Though they are invited to enter into this far surpassing enterprise, and are assured of key roles in the construction of the city and homes when it is complete, they are unmoved. They refuse to cooperate with the land owner.

How blind are these people! They do not see that all inside their walls is barren wilderness. They could be possessors of paradise. Familiarity and the pride of their unique role holds a greater attraction than seeing the glorious vision of the land-owner fulfilled.

The wall has stood for centuries. It has become an idol to the people who guard it, a thing to be worshiped. In the owner's eyes, it is merely ancient stone and mortar. It has served its purpose. It fulfilled the intent for which it was constructed by his forebears. Though the wall is impressive, it is a mere shadow of that which is to replace it. The hour has arrived for the wall to give way to far better things. The wall must be brought down for the paradisaical city to rise.

How blind are these people!

The Explanation

The great man of vision is God. He has developed a master plan of immense glory. He will transform the barren and lifeless heart of man into a garden of glory and abundant life. Yahweh appoints a time for a Son to arise who will fulfill His vision. The time is yet far off when the plan is established. The heart of man must be safeguarded until the work is to be accomplished. The Law is therefore given, and a people assigned as ministers of the Law, until

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the time of **reformation**, when the heart of man will be **re-formed**.

If the ministers of the Law ever perceived the true plan of Yahweh for transforming barren souls into oases of life and beauty, they have lost the understanding. The Law has become all important to them. Indeed, it is a thing they have come to worship. When the time arrived for the Son to accomplish the vision of the Father, the guardians of the Law resisted Him. In their actions they revealed that they cared more for their position than for the vision of the God who had chosen them as ministers.

The Law has become all important to them.

People of God, because spiritual vision is at ebb tide in this late hour, there are few who perceive the greater scope of the Father's plan. It is not taught in the churches of this hour. Consequently, Christians today, like the Jews before them, do not perceive that the Law was given for a specific time and purpose. Its divine role was only one part of a larger plan. The Law was truly divinely inspired; its function very important, but it must give way to greater things.

The Limits of the Law

It is revealed through numerous Scriptures that the Law has a role of limited duration. It was not intended to hold sway over man forever. Those who look too narrowly at God's work are hindered from perceiving the end of the Law. They are unable to perceive it in the larger scope of Yahweh's master plan. Many Christians are returning to an observance of feast days, new moons, sabbath days, and dietary regulations. They are seeking to become more "Jewish" believing that this constitutes a return to authentic Christianity. Concomitant with adopting Jewish culture is a return to the rule of the Law. This does not lead to authentic Christianity, but rather away from Christ.

Galatians 5:4

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

The following Scriptures proclaim the Father's the Law's limited duration.

Galatians 3:19

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until** the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.

This is the truth that many will not receive in this hour. The Law was given to fulfill a purpose UNTIL the Seed should come. Yahshua is the Seed of the Father. He has come. The Law has fulfilled its role of judge. It is no longer the arbiter of righteous and unrighteous behavior for those who have been born of the Spirit. This is a subject for a later chapter. Following are more Scriptures announcing the limited duration of the Law.

Romans 7:1-4

Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man. Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law** through the body of Christ, **that you might be joined to another**, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

Over and over the apostles declare that the Law's duration was limited. Its intent and purpose is

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complete when a man or woman is born of the seed of Christ and they become a partaker of a better covenant.

Galatians 4:1-5

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers **until** the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who **were under (past tense) the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Hebrews 9:9-10

Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body **imposed until a time of reformation.**

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

The truth of the Law's limited purpose in the plan of Yahweh is stated repeatedly, yet men who have not grasped the larger view of Yahweh's divine plan are reluctant to accept this fact. The Law has become all important to some. It has become an idol, standing in the place of relationship with God through Christ.

In subsequent chapters I will set forth the scope of Yahweh's plan for mankind. I will labor to show the Law in its proper place in this plan. It is my earnest desire that those who love truth will be helped in arriving at the knowledge of the same.

The Father's Plan

What is the Father's ultimate thought in regard to mankind? We must answer this question if we are to perceive the Law's role in the greater scheme of things. We can find the Father's mind concerning man in the first chapter of the Bible.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

It was Yahweh's vision to create a being that was His own image and likeness. This creature would be so conformed to His own character and being that He would call him "son," and the creature would call Yahweh "Father." Man was to be the exact likeness of the God who created him. We find this truth declared in the following passages of Scripture.

What is the Father's ultimate thought in regard to mankind?

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...**

Romans 8:29-30

For **those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the first-**

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born among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Combining the testimony of the above two passages of Scripture we receive the following revelation. Yahshua, the firstborn Son of God, is the exact representation of Yahweh's nature. Yahshua declared this openly when

These sons are predestined to be perfect...

He told Thomas, "How is it that you can say, 'Show me the Father'? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." Furthermore, the Son of God

stated, "I and the Father are One."

The next passage of Scripture reveals that it is the Father's plan that mankind be conformed to the image of His Son. When this is accomplished, Yahshua will then stand as the firstborn among many brethren. This is the purpose of man's creation and the whole thought of Yahweh regarding man. He desired sons in His own image and likeness. These sons are predestined to be perfect in their resemblance to His own holy and righteous character. They will one day share in His glory, the glory that is now the portion of Christ.

I John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

It seems too fantastic to the minds of carnal men to embrace the truth of Yahweh's plan for mankind. If Yahweh is the Holy God, then His seed must also be holy, and His seed must produce gods. Some would cry forth "blasphemy." The religious did so when Christ made a similar statement, for Satan has worked tirelessly to steal from man the understanding of who God created him to be. Consider the following exchange between Yahshua and the

Jewish religious leaders.

John 10:31-36

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Yahshua answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." Yahshua answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"?' If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

One of the great difficulties in perceiving the purpose of Yahweh in creating man is that "it has not appeared as yet, what we will be." Yahweh's plan is one that is fulfilled over time. He has been carrying forth His master plan for the past 6,000 years since He first formed Adam in the Garden. God is at work in man to conform us to His own image, that same image observed in His Son. When His work is complete, there will stand with Christ many sons who are also the exact image and likeness of the Holy Creator God.

(For more on this subject I recommend the book *Christ in You - The Hope of Glory*.

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id660.htm>)

The apostle Paul understood that this work of man coming into the full image and likeness of Christ, who is the exact representation of Yahweh, is a progressive work.

Galatians 4:19

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...

How much of Christ does the Father desire to be

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formed in mankind? Does He want us to resemble Christ only a little? Absolutely not!

Ephesians 4:11-14

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come** to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...**

It is in failing to comprehend the truth of Yahweh's plans for man to come forth as a perfect image and likeness of His own self that has caused such confusion regarding the Law. Yahweh does not need a Law to restrain Him. The Law is merely a reflection of His own innate holiness, justice and goodness. The Law was given to a chosen people who did not yet have His divine nature formed in them. None of those men, women and children who stood at the foot of Mount Sinai when the Law was given had yet been born of the Holy Spirit. They were living souls, but were not yet spiritual men and women. They were of the earth, earthy. They were not yet heavenly creatures in their innermost nature.

I Corinthians 15:45-49

So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Paul acknowledges in these words once more that this conformity to the full stature of Christ is a progressive work. We become partakers of the divine nature when we are born of the Spirit, but we are not yet fully formed at that time.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right **to become children** of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Notice that John writes that when we receive Christ we are given the right "to become" children of God. The work is not complete when we receive the seed of Christ into our being. It is a work begun. A great transformation has occurred. Those who were formerly living souls have become spiritual beings. Those who were dead spiritually have been made alive. Those who were formerly slaves to the flesh and its sinful nature, were set free into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

From the moment of our spiritual birth we are to embark upon a transformation process. We are still as the caterpillar which is outwardly clothed in a fleshly body. There is a new nature inside, even that of the butterfly, yearning to be free and to be revealed as a heavenly being. Metamorphosis begins for the people of God at the moment they have implanted in them this new nature that must arise and come forth as a spiritual being.

We are to embark upon a transformation process.

II Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Consider now what the Scriptures testify concerning the role and purpose of the Law. When Yahweh chose for Himself a peculiar people from the earth to be His own, He had already determined that another 2,000 years would pass before this people would be given His Spirit to indwell them. As this

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people began to multiply and increase, He determined that something must be done in the interim. Until a Son should be sent who would impart His divine seed to mankind they needed a guardian and tutor to watch over them.

Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...

Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...

Galatians 4:1-2

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Until the time appointed for man to become a partaker of the divine nature through the Spirit birth, God gave them the Law.

Yahweh foresaw the day when He would place His Spirit in man.

Because man did not have the divine nature internally to produce in him the desire and the power to fulfill the Father's desires, he needed something external to guide and restrain him.

Proverbs 29:18

When people do not accept divine guidance, they cast off **restraint**. But whoever obeys the **law** is joyful.

Yahweh foresaw the day when He would place His Spirit in man. This Spirit would radically alter the very character of all who received Him. Those who were formerly slaves to the flesh with its passions and desires, would receive a new, holy, and more

powerful part of their nature as the Spirit of Christ took up residence within them.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

In placing His Spirit in man, those so transformed would find that a new life was now resident within them. It was a divine life. This life is produced by the holy, incorruptible seed of God. It is growing up into the full image and likeness of the Father.

This divine life resident in man would produce in Him the desire (to will) and the power (to do) the Father's good and perfect pleasure. Such a man is truly a new creation. He has no need of an outward Law to restrain him, for the Spirit within ever yearns to do the will and pleasure of the Father.

It was necessary, until the Spirit was given, for those men who were devoid of spiritual life to be kept under the guardian of the Law. It would be chaos if such men were left unrestrained, for the sin nature would lead them to all manner of abominations. Therefore, Yahweh gave to Moses His Law.

The Law was given not only as a restraint upon men who lacked an inner conformity to Yahweh, it was given to expose this lack. The history of Israel under the Law reveals clearly that those ordinances delivered to Moses were incapable of transforming the nature of the men to whom they were given.

Galatians 3:21

If a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

The best among the people fell woefully short of the righteousness of God. David was a man after God's heart, but he committed adultery and mur-

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der. The Law presented a standard of righteousness that fallen man could not attain to. Paul testified to this aspect of the Law.

Romans 7:5-14

For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Paul writes here in the past tense. He is writing of his former experience before receiving the Spirit of Christ. This is evident by his describing himself as "carnal" and introducing the passage with the words "when we were in the flesh..." Those who are born of the Spirit are no longer carnal (flesh dominated) men, they are spiritual. God gave the law to unrighteous, carnal men, to reveal to them their inward condition. He wanted His people to understand that they lacked the inner image and likeness of God. They may desire to do well, but the power to perform it was not in them.

Yahweh wanted His people to understand that if

they were to be judged according to their words and actions, they all stood condemned. They must all die.

Romans 3:9-12

For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

The wages of sin is death, for the word of God states "the soul that sins must die." All men sin. If we say we have no sin we lie and the truth is not in us. All are therefore under the sentence of death. Yahweh wanted men to perceive this truth. Man desperately needed a Savior.

The church today focuses almost exclusively on one aspect of the work of the Savior; atonement. The church loves to speak of how sins have been forgiven through the sacrificial offering of Yahshua on the cross. Forgiveness and atonement are truly awesome works of grace, but they do not complete the work of salvation. Christ did not come merely to provide forgiveness for man's sin. He came to set man free from the bondage of sin.

Those who are born of the Spirit are no longer carnal ...

John 8:34-36

Yahshua answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

What the Scriptures testify is that the Law was given until the time appointed for man to receive

Laying Down the Law

the indwelling Spirit of Christ. Those who have received the Holy Spirit are new creations. They are born of righteous seed. The Law was not made for such as these.

I Timothy 1:8-9

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane...

Do the words *lawless, insubordinate, ungodly, sinners, unholy and profane* describe Christ and His seed? No. The apostle states elsewhere:

I Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived... And such **were** some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua and by the Spirit of our God.

The Law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person. Those who would place Christians under the dominion of the Law are employing the Law in an unlawful manner. They have failed to comprehend that truly radical transformation Yahshua has wrought in them.

The Law is good if one uses it lawfully...

They still see themselves as carnal men who need a law to restrain them. They are not reckoning on the fact of their being a new creation in Christ.

A focus upon an external Law will lead men away from the discovery of Christ in them. Those who perceive Christ in them, those who are focused upon the divine life in their members which is producing the will and power to do the pleasure of the

Father, need no external law. These are ruled by the Spirit, and gladly so. Such ones are not anti-nomian. They are not lawless. They are submitted freely to the rule of God through the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

A New Spirit

I will continue to lay a foundation of understanding, before proceeding to address specific arguments that advocate the continuance of the Law. Rightly dividing the word of God will be much easier for those who first have gained an understanding of the role of the Law in Yahweh's plan of the ages.

Proverbs 14:6

Knowledge comes easily to those with understanding.

It has been Yahweh's desire from the beginning of man's creation to bring forth beings in His image and likeness. Yahweh desires to have mature sons who are partakers of the divine nature.

II Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

It was never the Father's vision to perpetually restrain carnal, sinful men with an external Law. Even as the Biblical day begins in darkness and progresses to light, so too it has been the Father's will for men, who were born in a spiritually darkened condition, to experience the dawning of His own divine nature within them.

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Ephesians 5:8

For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

Christians, not understanding or reckoning on the radical changes that occur in a life when the Spirit of Christ causes a man or woman to be born again, often continue on as if they are still sinful creatures that must be restrained by Law. They are like a bankrupt pauper who is suddenly given a vast fortune. Not really believing he can draw on the wealth now held in bank accounts in his name, he continues to live in poverty. His life continues on as if nothing substantial has occurred.

In a similar way, many Christians do not reckon on the truth that Christ working in them has set them free from the power of sin. They continue to see themselves as slaves to sin. The focus in a great many churches today is upon Christ's atoning work. Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed with near exclusivity. That Christ has gone far beyond this and set men free from their slavery to sin, and has given them a new spirit and a new heart, is seldom proclaimed, or understood.

What God has done for man through Christ is revealed in type through the experiences of Israel under Moses. For centuries the descendants of Abraham had been slaves in Egypt. This stands as a type and shadow of mankind being slaves to sin while living in this world. The Israelites had over them cruel taskmasters. Similarly, sin is a cruel taskmaster. It drives men to actions that they would not otherwise do. Men who were created to be the image and likeness of God find themselves compelled to do the very things their conscience condemns.

Romans 7:15-24

For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do... For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now

if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me... I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into **captivity** to the law of sin which is in my members.

Sin is a cruel taskmaster. Like Pharaoh, it enslaves men, refusing to let them go. As often as an Adamic man may tell sin to relinquish its hold and let him depart to go worship God, it will refuse. Sin's power cannot be broken by any human effort (Consider Moses' failure to deliver his people at the age of forty). This leaves all men in that state of misery described of those Israelites who were in bondage in Egypt. They were groaning and crying out due to their harsh servitude. Similarly, the apostle Paul exclaims:

Sin's power cannot be broken by any human effort...

Romans 7:24

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

The answer comes in his very next words.

Romans 7:25

I thank God - (He has) - through Yahshua Christ our Lord!

This deliverance from sin's slavery is signified in the historical account of Israel's departure from Egypt. On the night they departed and gained their freedom, every household of Israel took the blood of a lamb and put it on the doorposts and lintel of their home. When the death angel came that night he "passed over" every home upon which the blood of the lamb was found. In every home in Egypt where the blood was not applied, the firstborn son died.

Laying Down the Law

Sin's power had been broken by the blood of the lamb. Pharaoh arose in the night, found his son and every other firstborn of Egypt dead, and gave permission to the children of Israel to depart at once. Christ has set man free. This freedom is difficult to comprehend by

*Christ has set man
free.*

those who have only known slavery to sin all their lives. This too is patterned in the experience of Israel.

Departing from Egypt, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness until they came to the Red Sea. Pharaoh arose with all his army and pursued Israel, intending to take them back into captivity. Behold what occurred.

Exodus 14:13-14, 19-20

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **Yahweh will fight for you**, and you shall hold your peace..." And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

Hallelujah! Yahweh would not grant Pharaoh authority to take those set free by the blood of the lamb back into slavery. "He whom the Son sets free shall be free indeed!" (John 8:36).

Observe, however, the reaction of God's people. They have not perceived, or fully embraced, the grace and power of Yahweh working on their behalf. They doubt the goodness of the One who delivered them, believing that they are powerless to

resist a return to their former life.

Exodus 14:10-12

And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to Yahweh. Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

This same struggle is faced by all those who have been set free from sin's bondage through the blood of the Lamb. Having known only unrelenting slavery to sin, having been cruelly treated by this dominant taskmaster, it is difficult to comprehend that sin no longer has any power over the child of God. By faith we must enter into the freedom that has been purchased for us. We must reckon those things true that God has declared accomplished through the blood of Christ.

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Yahshua our Lord.

There is yet more to what God does in accomplishing for us this great salvation. Understanding the types and shadows of what the Israelites experienced will help us to perceive that which Christ has accomplished for us. The experience of Israel was given as a type of us, the saints of God in Christ.

I Corinthians 10:11

And all these things as types did happen to those persons, and they were written for our admonition, to whom the end of the ages did come...

[Young's Literal Translation]

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Consider the threefold manner in which salvation is revealed through the experience of Israel.

First comes faith. Only those who believed the testimony of Moses, that the blood of a lamb would deliver them from the power of death, were obedient to put the blood on their doorways. Similarly, we must believe that the blood of Christ will deliver us from the sentence of death incurred through sin. We must take His shed blood unto ourselves, believing that it has made atonement for our sin.

Secondly, the Israelites experienced baptism into Moses in the Red Sea.

I Corinthians 10:1-2

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ***all were baptized into Moses*** in the cloud and in the sea...

Moses in this instance is a type of Christ.

Acts 7:37

“This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'Yahweh your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'”

The prophet like unto Moses referenced here is Christ. Moses instructed the people to place the blood of the lamb on their doorways. Similarly, Yahshua gives us His blood that we might be passed over by death. The people were baptized into Moses, the Law-giver, in the Red Sea. Similarly, we are to be baptized upon confessing faith in Christ to symbolize our union with the Son of God. Consider the richness of the following words of the apostle Paul and what they mean for those who are baptized into Christ.

Romans 6:3-11

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Yahshua were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Yahshua our Lord.

When Moses led the children of Israel through the waters of the Red Sea, Yahweh was signifying that their old life of slavery had come to an end. The same waters that provided a path of escape to the people of God brought an end to Pharaoh and his armies. So too, when we are baptized into Christ, we have a path of escape from a life of bondage to sin opened up to us. At the same time, the power of sin to hold us captive is cut off.

There is yet a third part to this work of salvation.

However, we must not stop there. There is yet a third part to this work of salvation. We are delivered from the rule and authority of sin over our lives when we are united to Christ, but we must take Another to be our ruler and authority. We have been freed from one master who offered us only death in payment for our labors. We must be joined to another Master who will pay us with eternal life. If we stop short of coming under the rule of Yahweh after having been freed from sin, we are lawless.

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This then is the third aspect of salvation that is signified in the life of Moses. Moses brought the people of God under the rule of Yahweh by establishing between the two parties the covenant of Law. We have a Savior today, a prophet like unto Moses, who also brings us under the rule of Yahweh. He does not accomplish this through a covenant of Law. He does it by the far surpassing means of joining us to the Father by the Spirit. Yahshua makes the rule of God in our lives an inner work.

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Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

People of God, do not make the mistake of thinking that Yahshua fulfilled this prophecy of Ezekiel by inscribing the Laws delivered to Moses upon the heart of man. Many are teaching such a conclusion, from these words of Ezekiel, or similar ones found in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:33

"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares Yahweh, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

What is spoken here employs the shadow of the Law to reference that much fuller work accomplished in Christ. Every type and shadow we find in Moses has a much fuller, richer, more substantial fulfillment in Christ.

Yahshua does not bring us under the rule of Yahweh by taking a copy of the Law of Moses and plac-

ing it in our hearts. He does something profoundly greater. He takes the very heart and mind of the Father and reproduces them inside of those born of the Spirit. That new spirit part of our being that is received at the new birth yearns always, and only, to know the will of the Father and to do it. The mind and thoughts of God are communicated to us by means of the Spirit of God discoursing with the spirit birthed in us.

I Corinthians 2:11-16

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Law contains only a shadow of the good things to come. The fulfillment, the substance to which the Law points, is vastly fuller.

Hebrews 10:1

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things...

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day - things which are a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

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It is a great mistake to believe that the substance realized in Christ is merely a copy of the shadow. When I stand outside in the sunlight, my body casts a shadow. Suppose I was to capture that shadow and give it to someone. They would be able to tell some things about me, but their knowledge of me would be incomplete.

Suppose then I was able to give the person my very own being. Imagine even that I was able to take my heart (passions, motives and desires) and my thoughts, and place them inside the individual. This is what Yahshua accomplished when He sent forth His Spirit to indwell man. Yahshua made it possible for mankind to be partakers of the divine nature, to know the thoughts of God, and to experience His heart.

The Law presented to man a shadow of God's thoughts and heart. It could not disclose Him intimately. To truly know Yahweh we must become partakers of the same Spirit.

People of God, the shadow was given until the substance realized in Christ should come. The Law still holds benefit, for much wisdom can be gained by studying its shadows. However, it no longer functions in its role as guide and restrainer to those in Christ. The saints have received something far superior, even the living and abiding Spirit of Christ dwelling in their members.

*The shadow was given
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PARABLES PRECEPT— Is That in the Bible?



Many people refer to the fruit that Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden as an apple. The Bible does not describe the forbidden fruit as appearing like an apple.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree de-

sirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

Apples are pleasant to the eyes, and good to eat, so they have been used by many to represent the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

You will also notice the image of the serpent in the picture with the apple. There is some error in its depiction as well. When the serpent appeared to Eve he had not yet been cursed to go forth on his belly. The curse came later, and the serpent came under this curse.

Genesis 3:14

"Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life."

Due to this description, some have imagined the serpent before the curse as having legs, perhaps like a large centipede. Others have imagined him as having wings, for we find him in the tree.

The image of a winged serpent also fits well with the description of Satan as a dragon.

Revelation 20:2

He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan...