

“The Rule of Law”

Exodus 19:1-8; Romans 10:1-3; Galatians 3:19-25

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Our founding fathers established the “Rule of Law” in our country.
- Failure of Abraham and his descendants to live according to the POWER OF THE PROMISE

The Rule of Law

A. Establishment of the Law

- Exodus 19:1-6-- *“In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the wilderness of Sinai. For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.’”*
1. **Based on God’s faithfulness to His promise to Abraham**
 - Genesis 15:13-14 -- *“Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”*
 2. **Response of the people : PRIDE**
 - Exodus 19:7-8 -- *“So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’”*
 3. **Specific Characteristics of the Law**
 - a. 613 total commandments: 248 positive 365 negative
 - b. Law as a unified whole.
 - James 2:10-- *“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

B. Evaluation of Living under the Law

1. **A few partially SUCCEEDED.**
 - a. **They properly understood the essence of the law.**
 - Mark 12:23-- *“love God with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*
 - b. **They approached the law with the right heart attitude.**
 - Psalm 51:16-17-- *“desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.”*
 - c. **They trusted God for a righteousness apart from the law.**

- d. **They actually LOVED the Law.**
- Psalms 1:2 -- *"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law, he meditates day and night."*
 - Psalms 19:7-10-- *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."*
 - Psalms 119:97-- *"Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation night and day!"*
 - Psalm 19:11-- *"Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward."*
- e. **But they were unable to fully keep the Law**

2. **Many FAILED miserably!!**

- a. **Some refused to live by God's rules and sought to make their own.**
- Romans 10:1-3 -- *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For by being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."*
- 1) Creation of the Talmud with the sixty three Tractates
 - 2) Substitution of external compliance for internal conversion.
- b. **Many rebelled against God's standards and did the opposite.**
- Romans 7:7 -- *"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'."*
 - Romans 7:8 -- *"But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire."*
- c. **God's judgment came in the form of DEPORTATIONS of Israel**

3. **Only JESUS CHRIST perfectly lived according to RULE OF LAW.**

C. **The Rule of the Mosaic Law Today?**

- Galatians 3:19-25 -- *"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against he promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scriptures have confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."*
1. **The Law was added "because of transgressions"**
 - a. **The Law defined sin**
 - Romans 7:7-- *"would have not known covetousness unless the law has said, 'You shall not covet.'"*
 - Romans 3:20— *"By the law is the knowledge of sin"*
 - b. **The Law transformed sin into a punishable offense.**
 - Romans 5:13 -- *"For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law."*
 - Romans 4:15 -- *"because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression."*
 - Romans 5:20 -- *"Moreover, the law entered that the offense might abound."*
 - c. **The Law condemns all**

2. **The Law was a “tutor” to bring us to Christ to be justified by faith**
 - a. **The Law unmasked the sinfulness of man and their need of a savior.**
 - 1 Timothy 1:8-11 -- *“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for the righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”*
 - b. **The Law accentuates our hopelessness without Christ.**
3. **The Law was a temporary measure until “the seed should come to whom the promise was made.”**
 - a. **Jesus Christ ushers in a new era, the era of GRACE.**
 - John 1:17 -- *“the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*
 - b. **Jesus Christ by His life and death fulfilled all of the Law.**
 - Matthew 5:17-18 -- *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”*
 - c. **Jesus Christ established the New Covenant, making the old one obsolete.**
 - Hebrews 9:11-15 -- *“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, springing the unclean, sacrifices for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”*
4. **We are now under the Law of Christ, or the Law of “Love”.**
 - Galatians 3:24-25-- *“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”*
 - Galatians 6:2-- *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfilled the law of Christ.”*
 - Galatians 5:13-14 -- *“For you brethren have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*
 - 1 John 3:23 -- *“And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as He gave us commandment.”*
 - 1 John 4:9-11-- *“In this, the love of God was manifested toward us that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another!”*