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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is "[The Laws of the Bible](#)." Let me present some background how this article came to be. It must have been in the middle 1990s when I was visiting a friend's house in Los Angeles. I noticed a book of Bible helps, and asked if I could look at it. I paged through it and came across an interesting 5-page outline like a chart titled "The Laws of the Bible." I found the content so interesting that I asked my host if he could make a photocopy for me. About 8 months ago, I came across the photocopy in my files. I still liked it and thought, how would I set up this text so it is larger and even more interesting for ASK readers?

I searched the internet for the title of the outline-chart "The Laws of the Bible" thinking I would not find the author or publisher. In fact, I found reprints of the outline-chart on several websites. I finally found one that gave the origin of the compiled verses of the Laws of God.

As far as I can determine, the original publisher was Thomas Nelson, a Bible and Christian publisher, now a subsidiary of HarperCollins.¹ I contacted them for permission to reprint the information and they approved my request without conditions. They mentioned that the compilation of the Laws originated in a 1983 study Bible, the Thomas Nelson, *The Open Bible Expanded Edition*, New King James Version. They did not mention who the actual author/writer was; perhaps it was a collaborative effort. I was surprised because I thought the original was far older than 1983. I received the reprint permission in November 2019.

You are now able to read the result of the reprinted and annotated text of this interesting compilation of God's civil, criminal, and moral laws that He gave to Israel. The laws of God begin in Genesis, and then expand with Moses at Mount Sinai where they were given for the use of the community of the several thousand members of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Laws continued to develop throughout the Old Testament period, explained and commented on by prophets of YHWH and administrators like Nehemiah. Final understandings of those laws were further expressed by Jesus and the New Testament authors, although the Jews do not accept the Christian authority of Christ or His disciples.

What to Do With This Information?

To some people the information in "The Laws of the Bible" may seem tedious, but I find the details to be very interesting. After all, God Himself gave these laws to His chosen people Israel. But most of us are not Israelites, so what use are they to us? The apostle Paul was asked something similar and his answer should be our answer regarding the Laws of God in this month's article:

"What advantage then has the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

• ***Romans 3:1-2***

What did Paul mean by "**the oracles of God**"? He meant that they heard God's voice. "Oracles" is an oral term that was spoken. The Israelites listened to a voice speak the Ten Commandments to them (Exodus 20:1-17). The booming terrifying voice spoke words that expressed the thoughts of YHWH.²

¹ HarperCollins, a Christian publisher, was subsequently purchased and is now a subsidiary of News Corp, the parent corporation of Fox News.

² The voice speaking to Israel was that of an angel of the Lord; the words were those of YHWH, as Paul tells us in the earlier

When Paul referred to **“the Jew”** he meant “the Israelite.” He knew his audience would understand. By the 1st century AD, the term “Jew” referred to a generic Israelite from any of the tribes, not just the tribe of Judah. When Paul wrote Romans 1:16, “Jew” referred to any Israelite, just as “Greek” referred to any Gentile. It is an example of a term for a small group used to represent a larger group of the same kind:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

• *Romans 1:16*

In Romans chapter 2, the term “Jew” meant an “Israelite” and “Gentile” meant a non-Israelite:

“Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.”

• *Romans 2:9–10*

The oracles of God in Romans 3:2 included all the civil, criminal, administrative and religious laws that organized Israelite society. Dr. Ernest Martin wrote in his introduction to [“The Ten Commandments”](#):

“Before I begin I would like to say one thing about the Ten Commandments. They are, without doubt, the most beautiful body of laws that God or anybody could give to mankind. They are what we would call ‘the basics’ of the Old Covenant, and form in many ways the basis to the New Covenant, and in many ways they form the basis of our understanding of what we call the Mystery, the final teachings of God.”

This month’s article “The Laws of God” shows the skeleton of the laws given to the people of Israel.

Thank You

We at ASK have the task of providing clarity concerning the information God gives to all of us through His written Word. Our aim is to make the Word of God come alive in your mind so that you are spiritually fed meat (even when telling you about the basic laws of God) so you will do follow-up study, turn to the Word of God, and have it become part of your life. Many of us were religious hobbyists at one time. Go beyond that, please, otherwise you might not be mobilized to work so you can reap the rewards God has freed you to be able to do with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. He wants for you to build spiritual character.

We have all been given a remarkable gift that we should use. Take note of what we have been given:

“... he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

• *1 Corinthians 2:15-16*

We at ASK have been given marvelous gifts from God our Father and Christ our Savior to openly share with you. We thank you for the honor of presenting and helping you understand those gifts. Enjoy (and try to study) “The Laws of God.” You are no longer children, no longer infants. Thank you again for the opportunity to present this information to you.

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example of Acts 7:30–32:

“... there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him, Saying, ‘I am the God of your fathers ...’”