

## THE LAW OF MOSES

Well known is the story of baby Moses. He was hidden by his parents until about 3 months old. Then his cry could no longer be concealed from Pharaoh's men who were commissioned to throw the babies in the river. Placed in the water in a basket sealed with pitch, God had a plan for the baby. Pharaoh's daughter spotted the baby in the bulrush. Moses' sister standing by offered to go get a Hebrew nurse to tend to the baby should she desire to take it home with her. The nurse turned out to be Moses' mother.

Moses lived 39 years and nine months in the favor of Pharaoh. One day, conflict arose between Moses and the Egyptians. At 40 years old Moses fled to the backside of the wilderness to train to be a leader in God's army. God was preparing him to be "the deliverer" for the nation Israel. Israel was in bondage in Egypt. They were afflicted with all manner of hard work and cruelty. Yes, even their babies were being thrown into the river. By the shedding of the blood of the Passover lamb, which was placed over the door and on the side posts, Israel was set free. Israel roamed in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses.

Man was created in the Garden of Eden in a state of innocence. Adam and Eve did not know sin. Then one day, they were beguiled by the serpent. They ate of the forbidden fruit of the garden. At that moment they began to be governed by their conscience. We know that when God came to visit Adam just after he ate the fruit, Adam hid. Why? Because his conscience for the first time let him know that he had sinned against God. He knew he was naked. Suddenly, Adam and Eve had a conscience. Their innocence had vanished.

For hundreds of years man lived by conscience. A time came when God saw fit to give man a law. The man chosen by God to deliver the law to mankind was Moses, the baby found in the bulrush. John 1:17 reads "*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*" One day as Moses was leading the children of Israel in the wilderness, God spoke to him in Exodus chapter 19. God called unto Moses from the mountains. In Exodus 19:5-6 the scripture reads "*now therefore, if you will obey my voice*

*indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*” God revealed to Moses on that occasion that He desired to give Israel a law to guide their life. God was tired of man living by conscience having no law.

Exodus 19:5 clearly states the purpose for the giving of the law. God said I will give you the law and if you heed it, *“ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.”* Why then was the law of Moses given? It was given to Israel so they could know, in writing, what God expected of them. Man could no longer live by conscience and do what ever he felt was best in his own mind! God was replacing that system with a written system of law.

Consider this simple example. One state, the state of Montana, has no speed limit on some portions of the highways. There are signs posted which simply say “speed limit safe and reasonable speed.” One man, then, may think 100 mph is okay. Another man may think 80 mph is okay. You see, there is no defined speed limit. Each individual does as he thinks is best in his own mind. This was the case of man in the day of Moses before God gave the law. Each person was doing whatever he deemed right in his own mind. This did not please God. He wanted man to be more like Him and be more holy. The way to do this was for God to give Israel written commandments. In other words, God posted a speed limit. Then, every man alike new what God expected. This is the purpose in the giving of the law. God simply wanted Israel to be more like God.

It is important to understand that the law of Moses was never given to Gentiles. The law of Moses was given to the nation Israel, Hebrew people. Inexplicably, there are Gentile people today seeking to abide by the law of Moses. Gentiles have no part of the law of Moses.

Please note as well that the law was never kept by one man. Every person failed the law in someway. James 2:10 says *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”* However, Christ did fulfill the law. We read in Matthew 5:17 *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”* Moses’ law was fulfilled on Calvary. Christ satisfied every demand of Jehovah God. He kept

every portion of the law. Every feast and every sacrifice and every ordinance Christ obeyed. Only the sinless Lamb of God could do this. Until the law of Moses had been fulfilled, man owed God a great debt. Israel did not keep the law, so, Christ stepped in to keep it. Thank God for Jesus who satisfied the demand of Jehovah God in the fulfilling of the law of Moses.

What value is the law today? We no longer bring sacrifices to God as demanded by the law. Jesus was the ultimate and final sacrifice when his blood was shed on the cross of Calvary, and He cried it is finished. We no longer have an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. We live under the divine grace and mercy of God, which teaches us not to avenge those who mistreat us, but to forgive them and let God take care of vengeance. So, what portion of the law is applicable today? The Commandments are applicable. The basis of civilized government is the law of Moses. The world would be 6 billion barbarians if not for the law of Moses. The law of Moses says “thou shalt not steal” so you had better not steal. The law of Moses says “thou shall not commit adultery” and you had better not commit adultery. If you do, God will come looking for you.

It is appalling in this day that there is a movement to remove the Ten Commandments from public property. Specifically, man does not want the 10 Commandments on the courthouse wall. Again, this is appalling. Why? Those Commandments hanging in the hallway of the courthouse are the foundation of the law being practiced inside the courtroom. Open the door into the courtroom and the court is in session practicing what those commandments require. For example, the Commandments say thou shalt not steal. Around the wall in the courtroom a man is being tried for stealing. Amazing! The world has become totally anti-God, and when men become anti-God, they become irrational.