

June 2016 Newsletter

Update from Eleutheros Books

For several years efforts were made to get Eleutheros Books into African countries. Obviously, a printer was needed. It was also clear that a distribution system was required.

At times it seemed that God was closing the door, but in recent days a missionary/printer and a fine Christian business lady in Kenya have agreed to work together to print and distribute *The Ramifications of Our Salvation* in Kenya and surrounding countries.

Even better, a godly dentist/pastor has agreed to market and distribute Eleutheros Books in Uganda.

God is good, and to Him be all the glory!

We will share more about the "African Book Project" in future newsletters.

The Role of the Law

For the Law, having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect ([Hebrews 10:1](#)).

Man has made law codes for thousands of years. Probably the earliest example is the famous code of Hammurabi from the 18th century B.C. God gave the Law to Moses in the 15th century B.C.

The purpose of all these laws is to create order in society and to discipline those who break the rules. Sometimes man's laws become oppressive; sometimes they are lax.

In the case of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments), God made the rules, not man. Moses simply wrote in the Bible what God inspired him to write.

This gives the Old Testament Law considerable significance, especially when it comes to matters of morality.

Today most serious students of the Old Testament Law believe it has three aspects: ceremonial, civil, and moral. A brief overview of these three aspects will be given here:

Ceremonial. This aspect of the Law covers such things as offerings ([Leviticus 1-7](#)), the priesthood ([Leviticus 8-10](#)), and purity ([Leviticus 11-15](#)). These regulations were in force for an amount of time specified by God.

Civil. This aspect of the Law covers such things as crimes against society, property rights, military policy, and treatment of animals. These regulations can be found all throughout the books of Exodus-Numbers and were in force for an amount of time specified by God.

Moral. This aspect of the Law is given in the Ten Commandments ([Exodus 20:3-17](#)); [Deuteronomy 5:7-21](#)). All of these commandments are repeated again in the New Testament (either directly or in principle) with the exception of the Sabbath.

Questions come up concerning the similarities and differences between the Old and New Testaments.

In these times that which was symbolized by the Passover and circumcision came to be represented by the Lord's Supper and baptism. Concerning the sacrifice, Old Testament saints looked forward to the ultimate sacrifice to come when they observed the Passover; New Testament saints look back at the ultimate sacrifice that Christ offered on the cross when they observe the Lord's Supper.

Regarding circumcision and baptism, there are similarities and differences. In both cases God commanded that they be done as a matter of obedience. In both cases it was clear that they did not give salvation to the people who observed them. Differences? Circumcision was to be done on the eighth day (Philippians 3:5); baptism is to be observed after receiving Christ as Savior ([Acts 16:30-33](#)).

The cross replaced the brazen altar. The "prayers of the saints" ([Revelation 5:8](#)) replaced the altar of incense. Total surrender self sacrifices offered by believers today (resulting in Spirit filled living) have replaced the golden candlestick. Christ is now the propitiation; in Old testament times it was a mercy seat.

The Old Testament regulations were quite cumbersome. Believers in those days had to approach a priest who would then offer an animal as a sacrifice. There was also the disadvantage of having to wait (look forward) to the deliverance that would come.

Some today seem to believe that God's standards under the Law were stricter than they are under grace today, but that surely is not true:

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire ([Matthew 5:21-22](#)).

So what is the role of the Law for believers today? Is it old words that have lost their significance? We will examine this question in next month's newsletter.

Once for All

Philip. P. Bliss

*Free from the Law,
O happy condition,
Jesus has bled,
And there is remission;
Cursed by the Law
And bruised by the fall,
Christ has redeemed us
Once for all!*

*Once for all,
O sinner, receive it!
Once for all,
O brother believe it!
Cling to the cross,
The burden will fall,
Christ has redeemed us
Once for all!*