

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session IX

November 7, 2010

### The Fifth Dispensation: “Mosaic Law”!

Review: The First Four Dispensations.

#### I. “Innocence”:

- A. **“Revelation”**: Genesis 1:28 – 3:6.
  - Time period = From the “creation” of mankind to the “fall” of man.
- B. **“Responsibility”**: To maintain “innocence” by obeying God!
  - “Rule of Li fe” = “Innocence”; a “positive holiness”; “fellowship” with God;
  - Mankind was responsible to maintain this “sinless” standing;
  - God’s command: *“Do not eat!” (Gen. 3:1).*
- C. **“Failure”**: Mankind failed the test!
  - *“They ate!”*
  - They chose to trust themselves rather than God!
- D. **“Judgment”**: Spiritual and Physical **“Death”**!
  - Adam and Eve were permanently removed from the garden!
  - A “Curse” on all mankind and all creation!
- E. **“Grace”**: God’s provision for man’s need in the person and work of Christ!
  - God’s promise of a Redeemer through the “seed” of the woman, Gen. 3:15.

#### II. “Conscience”:

- A. **“Revelation”**: Genesis 4:1 – 8:14.
  - Time period = From the “fall” of mankind to the universal “Flood”.
- B. **“Responsibility”**:
  - To do what is right by “human conscience”, Gen. 4:9.
  - To be governed by the “restraint” of the Holy Spirit, Gen. 6:3.
  - To approach God by “blood sacrifice”, Gen. 4:2-5.
- C. **“Failure”**: Mankind failed the test!
  - Universal “Wickedness”!
    - “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Gen. 6:5*
- D. **“Judgment”**: The Worldwide **“Flood”** in the day of Noah!
  - *All mankind was destroyed except for the eight members of Noah’s family.*
- E. **“Grace”**: God’s provision for man’s need in the person and work of Christ!
  - God’s provision of deliverance through the “Ark” of safety!
    - “But Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the LORD . . .” (Gen. 6:8)*

### III. “Human Government”:

- A. “Revelation”: **Genesis 8:15 – 11:9.**  
→ Time period = From the worldwide “Flood” to the call of “Abraham”.
- B. “Responsibility”:  
→ To do what is right by “human conscience”;  
→ To be governed by the “restraint” of the Holy Spirit;  
→ To approach God by “blood sacrifice”;  
→ To “scatter” and “multiply” throughout earth, Gen. 9:7;  
→ A **New** “Rule of Life” = To live by submission to “human government”;  
To control violence by human “authority” – capital punishment, Gen. 9:6.
- C. “Failure”: **Mankind failed the test!**  
*“The people, instead of obeying God’s command to scatter and fill the earth, conceived the idea of staying together and building the ‘Tower of Babel’ to help achieve their aim. Fellowship with man replaced fellowship with God.” --C. Ryrie*
- D. “Judgment”: The “scattering” of mankind by the “confusion” of human language, Gen. 11:5-9.
- E. “Grace”: God’s provision for man’s need in the person and work of Christ!  
*“... God graciously intervened in that he did not utterly destroy the nations but chose to deal graciously with Abraham and his descendants.” --Charles Ryrie*

### IV. “Promise”:

- A. “Revelation”: **Genesis 11:10 – Exodus 18:27.**  
→ Time period = From the call of “Abraham” to the giving of the Law to Moses.
- B. “Responsibility”:  
→ To do what is right by “human conscience”;  
→ To be governed by the “restraint” of the Holy Spirit;  
→ To approach God by “blood sacrifice”;  
→ To control human behavior by the authority of “human government”;  
→ A new “**Rule of Life**”: To be governed by **faith** in the “**Promises**” of God!
- C. “Failure”:  
*“Abraham and his descendants **failed** the test of the fourth dispensation. On several occasions they disobeyed God as the result of lapses of faith concerning the fulfillment of His promises.” --Renald Showers*
- D. “Judgment”:  
→ “Slavery” in Egypt.
- E. “Grace”: God’s provision for man’s need in the person and work of Christ!  
→ God sent a “**Deliverer**” → “**Moses**” to deliver out of slavery! (Ex. 3:1-10)

## The Dispensation of the “MOSAIC LAW”

*“Under God’s classification, there are only three major divisions of the human family -- ‘the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church of God.’ Wherever they are mentioned in any portion of the Bible they are recognized as distinctly separate peoples, and it is important to follow the divine record concerning each from its beginning to its end.*

*--The Jew, or Israel, began with Abraham, was favored in relationship to God above all the nations of the earth for 1500 years in the Promised Land, is the object of all Jehovah’s purposes and covenants in the earth, is now as free from the Law and is effectually shut up to the Gospel of the grace of God as are the Gentiles, and will yet inherit the limitless blessings of all the Kingdom covenants in the earth.*

*--The Gentile began with Adam, received no direct instruction or covenant from Jehovah in all the ages past since Abraham, is now the object of appeal, with the Jew, in the Gospel of grace, and will share in the glory of the Kingdom to come, when the divine blessing will be poured out on all the Gentiles (Acts 15:17).*

*--The Church began with the death of Christ and the descent of the Spirit, is the divine objective in this age, is a heavenly people taken from both Jew and Gentiles, and will reign with the King as his Bride, in the ages to come.*

*Since there is so wide a difference in the character of these ages – of Law, of Grace, and of the Church – as they stand related to God throughout the ages, it is to be expected that there will be a variation in the divine government according to the essential character of the several ages.”*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*

### **A. Revelation: Exodus 19:1 – The Gospels or Acts 1:26.**

→ Time Period = From the giving of the Mosaic Law at Mount Sinai to the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross at Mount Calvary.

*“To the children of Israel through Moses was given the great code that we call the Mosaic Law. It consisted of 613 commandments covering all phases of life and activity. It revealed in specific detail God’s will in that economy.”*

*--Charles Ryrie*

### **B. Responsibility:**

- To do what is right by “human conscience”;
- To be governed by the “restraint” of the Holy Spirit;
- To approach God by “blood sacrifice”;
- To control human behavior by the authority of “human government”;
- To live by personal faith in the Covenant “Promises” of God!

→ The “New Rule of Life”: To “Keep” all the Law of Moses!

*“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he becomes guilty of all.”*

*James 2:10*

*"The Mosaic economy, which is a complete system in itself requiring no additions to the end that it might set forth the entire will of God for an individual Israelite or for the whole nation, is composed of three parts, namely,*

- 1) The Commandments, which regulated moral issues (Ex. 20:1-17);*
- 2) The Judgments, which regulated civic issues (Ex. 21:1-24:11); and*
- 3) The Ordinances, which regulated religious issues (Ex. 24:12-31:18)."*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*

*"This 'rule of life' was revealed from God and accepted by Israel at Sinai and was at no time addressed to the nations of the world. It was a peculiar form of government for a peculiar people and accomplished a peculiar purpose in condemning the failure of man and leading him to Christ."*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*

*"The pertinent question – 'Wherefore then serveth the law?' – is both propounded and answered in the Scriptures (Gal. 3:19). . . . the law 'was added because of transgressions.' That is, it was 'added' to give to sin the augmented character of transgression. Sin has always been evil in itself and in the sight of God; but it became disobedience after the holy commandments were disclosed. The fact of the sin nature is not changed by the introduction of the law; it was the character of personal wrongdoing which was changed. It was changed from sin which is not imputed where there is no law, to sin which is rebellion against the command of of God, and which must reap all the punishment attendant upon broken law."*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*

*"The law was never given as a means of salvation or justification: 'Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin' (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:11, 24). Though given as a rule of conduct for Israel in the land, it, because of the universal failure in its observance, became a curse (Gal. 3:10), condemnation (II Cor. 3:9), and death (Rom. 7:10-11). The law was effective only as it drove the transgressor to Christ. It became a means of turning people to God for His mercy as that mercy is provided in Christ. The law was a "schoolmaster" (paidagogos, Gal. 3:24), or child-trainer, to bring the offender to Christ. This was immediately accomplished in his turning to the sin offerings which were provided, and which were the type of Christ in His death."*

*--Lewis Sperry Chafer*

*"It may be concluded, then, that the law which was given by Moses was a covenant of works, that it was 'added' after centuries of human history, that its reign was terminated by the death of Christ, that it was given to Israel only, and that, since it was never given to the Gentiles, the only relation that Gentiles can sustain to it is, without any divine authority, to impose it upon themselves."*

*--Lewis S. Chafer*

### C. Failure:

*"The people of Israel **failed** the test of the fifth dispensation. The Jews broke the Mosaic Law repeatedly (Jer. 31:32; Ezek. 16). God was forced to tell them that they had **a heart of stone**, (Ezek. 36:26; Zech. 7:12). This was His way of saying that their inner control center was **inflexible**. It refused to bend, to conform to the Mosaic Law as an expression of God's rule over them. Also, during this dispensation Israel **rejected** its Messiah and had Him crucified."* --Renald Showers

### D. Judgment:

*"The people were responsible to keep all the Law (James 2:10), but they **failed** (Rom. 10:1-3). As a result, there were many **judgments** throughout this long period.*

*--The **ten tribes** were carried away into Assyrian captivity;*

*--The **two tribes** were carried into Babylonian captivity;*

*--And later, because of the rejection of Jesus of Nazareth, the **people were dispersed** into all the world (Matt. 23:37-39)." --Charles C. Ryrie*

*"This **failure** brought God's judgment upon Israel. The nation suffered many **judgments** during the fifth dispensation. Among the worst were the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and Israel's temporary removal from its place of blessing (Rom. 11) and worldwide dispersion as the result of its rejection of Christ."* --Renald Showers

### E. Grace:

*"All during their many periods of declension and backsliding, God dealt with them **graciously** from the very first **apostasy** with the golden calf, when the Law was being delivered to Moses, to the **gracious promises** of their final **regathering and restoration** in the Millennial Age to come. These promises of a glorious future are guaranteed secure by the Abrahamic promises, which the Law in no way abrogated (Gal. 3:3-25).* --Charles C. Ryrie

*"As a standard of **holy living**, the **Law** presented the precise quality of life which was becoming a people who were chosen of God and redeemed out of the bondage of Egypt. At the **cross**, a new and perfect redemption from sin was accomplished for Jew and Gentile alike. As the redemption from Egypt created a demand for a corresponding holy life, so the redemption from sin creates a demand for a correspondingly heavenly walk with God. One is adapted to the limitations of the **natural man**; the other is adapted to the infinite resources of the **spiritual man**. One is the teaching of **LAW**; the other is the teaching of **GRACE**."* --Lewis S. Chafer

## Why Is This Important Today?

**1. Many Christians assume that the Law of Moses was \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_!**

→ The Law of Moses was given to \_\_\_\_\_!

**2. Many Christians assume that the Law of Moses was \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel as a means of \_\_\_\_\_!**

→ False thinking: By earnest and disciplined \_\_\_\_\_ man/woman can gain \_\_\_\_\_!

→ Correct thinking: The Law of Moses was given to bring the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin!

→ The “\_\_\_\_\_” of mankind to “\_\_\_\_\_” the Law produces the \_\_\_\_\_ of a Savior – it “\_\_\_\_\_” sinners to \_\_\_\_\_!

**3. Because many Christians do not \_\_\_\_\_ between “Israel” and the “Church”, they assume that what God \_\_\_\_\_ to “Israel”, He also \_\_\_\_\_ to the “Church”.**

→ Their logic: Since the N.T. Christian has taken the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel in the plan and purpose of God, the “Christian” must be \_\_\_\_\_ the Law!

a. For \_\_\_\_\_;

b. For \_\_\_\_\_!

**4. Most Christians do not know that the Law of Moses \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ at the \_\_\_\_\_!**

→ Any use of the Law of Moses is “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_”!

→ It amounts to a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!

**5. Any use of the Law of Moses by a N.T. Christian is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!**

→ See: Romans 8:1-4.

→ Compare: John 3 (Nicodemus’ self-righteousness “\_\_\_\_\_”)  
and John 4 (Samaritan woman’s hopelessness “\_\_\_\_\_”)