

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXIX

February 24, 2019

No. 8

The Law of Moses

(Michael Baker)

Last month, while looking through an old folder, I found an old instruction manual for a board game called “Hungry Hungry Hippos.” Since I no longer have the game, I could easily assume it to be of no value. It would not be able to be used as rules for any other game. However, these instructions serve as a detailed reminder of how the game was played. The same illustrates our relationship to the old law today. While we still have the Old Law available, it is no longer binding.

There are many who even take the stance that the Old Testament offers nothing for us today. We no longer offer animal sacrifices, nor must we have dedicated priests to offer sacrifices on our behalf. Men today are not required to take annual trips to Jerusalem. So, since we are no longer subject to the requirements within the Old Law, why must we study it? Just because something may be “old” or “outdated” does not mean it has nothing to offer.

All Scripture has been preserved over the past centuries according to God’s plan. All the preserved Scriptures are essential to make us whole. Just because

we do not live in the same way the people of old did does not exclude the importance of the Law. In Romans 15:4, the text reveals that the Old law has been preserved for our learning. Events recorded under the Old Law serve as examples for us as 1 Corinthians 10:4-11 states. Every Scripture has been preserved by God’s providence and offers a countless amount of lessons for our profit.

The Law of Moses serves another important purpose. Paul writes in Galatians 3:24 that “*the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ.*” The Law pointed toward the hope that Christ brings. In verse 23 Paul tells how the law kept us under guard. The Law itself, had control over us by its power to show us our sin. However, it could never take away our sin. It did serve the purpose of keeping us looking for a Savior provided in Jesus’ covenant.

When Paul says the Law was our tutor, he means that it was the instrument preparing us for Christ. A tutor back then was a servant who lived in the house and had the responsibility of training young children in basic understandings of life, so they could attend school at a proper age.

The Law is also beneficial as it manifests the true character of God over hundreds of years. Romans 7:12 tells us that “*the law is holy.*” If the Law is holy, the One who put it in place has to be holy as well. The text also states that the commandment is “*holy and just and good.*” These descriptions of the Law accurately reflect God’s character which is seen throughout the Old Testament.

But, there is a fine line we tread. While the Old Law is important, it is no longer binding upon us. Paul reveals this fact in Colossians 2:14-16 where he says we’re not to be judged by the Law, because it was nailed to the cross. But, it is important for different reasons as well. Hebrews 7 refers to the New Law as a better covenant. We know this to be true because only the New Law can make those who approach God perfect, forgiven of their sins before Him. Regardless of what some men say today, we realize the importance of the Old Law. The Old Law aids us in identifying our sin’s damage to our relationship to Almighty God, and our true need of a Savior. The Law of Moses served its intended purpose of preparing man to obey the New Law given by Jesus Christ.