Chapter 2: Laws

His laws are represented by the wall of the courtyard. They separate the narrow way from everything else. Jesus is the door, the way to understanding laws.

Intro: Laws of the LORD

When we think of laws, the first thing that comes to mind are the dos and don’ts of moral tenants. Then such things as traffic laws and whatever regulations exist for our work places. Actually, God has many laws that regulate the science of the universe. Here are a few we rarely think about. A flood covered the earth, then the scriptures tell what happened next. The Bible needs to be used to explain itself.

Psalm 104:5-9 (KJV)

5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Genesis 9:12-17 (KJV)

12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.
Parables need to be considered as a possibility in all stories and laws given by the LORD. When “nature” seems to be un-natural it frightens us. We should also be disturbed when scripture is used out of context. Always check the premise given as part of the context. Does it harmonize with the character of God as stated or is the enemy misusing the intent or object of the writing? See how the devil uses Scripture to tempt Jesus and this is how Jesus answers him.

Matthew 3:15-16 (KJV)
15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 4:3-11 (KJV)
3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

You can see how perfectly good texts could be used to deceive.
Deceived by Misused Scripture

The first sign of the end times is deception. We see people being lied about in the news. Satan has been lying about the Creator for a long time and it keeps getting worse and worse. How do we know when spiritual lies are being perpetrated? Lying witnesses are being used by corrupt character judges. Scriptures are twisted and used out of context. The Spirit of Truth must be with us constantly to sort things out, study without that would be suicidal.

The Holy Spirit will never disagree scripture He inspired.

John 15:25-27 (KJV)
25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.
26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:13 (KJV)
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Psalm 18:29-31 (KJV)
29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.
30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the L ORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.
31 For who is God save the L ORD? or who is a rock save our God?

Ephesians 1:12-13 (KJV)
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
Laws 2: Does God Change from OT to NT?

Many believe this twist on the character of God. We can find the truth only in scripture, remembering that the Scriptures that Jesus used was the Old Testament and other books like the book of Enoch. God has always loved Israel and he has always loved the strangers who joined themselves to Israel. However, after Jesus died, it needed to be re-emphasized that the Gentiles would be part of spiritual Israel.

Keep in mind that “law keeping” has never been a means of salvation. That has always been by faith alone. “Works” are done by the Father and Jesus’ spirit living in us. Our good works are beneficial, but never as a means of salvation.

Luke 4:4 (KJV)
And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Malachi 3:6 (KJV)
For I am the L ORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Hosea 10:12-13 (KJV)
12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the L ORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.
13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

James 1:17 (KJV)
Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Psalm 136:5 (KJV)
To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth forever.

Psalm 145:20 (KJV)
The L ORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV)
The L ORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

John 3:16 (KJV)
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Deuteronomy 23:5 (KJV)
Nevertheless, the L ORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the L ORD thy God turned the curse to a blessing unto thee, because the L ORD thy God loved thee.
Everlasting Love

We see God does not change with time. His promises are consistent. The difference comes in the point of view. Those who love God view him with changed eyes. The reason for problems in the Old Testament was lack of faith, which resulted in the use of works to save. This technique originated with the rebel and is used in paganism and heathenism of our world.

Genesis 3:15 (KJV)

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Galatians 3:16-18 (KJV)

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Luke 24:44 (KJV)

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Hosea 8:12 (NLT)

Even though I gave them all my laws, they act as if those laws don’t apply to them.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 Amplified Bible

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him.

15 For we are the sweet fragrance of Christ [which ascends] to God, [discernible both] among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

16 to the latter one an aroma from death to death [a fatal, offensive odor], but to the other an aroma from life to life [a vital fragrance, living and fresh]. And who is adequate and sufficiently qualified for these things?

Jude 1: 24-25 (KJV)

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Laws 3: When God Does Not Hear

God always hears his people, but sometimes waits to answer. Hezekiah is an example of this. It was not because God did not understand what was in Hezekiah’s heart that He withdrew His Spirit. It was because Hezekiah did not understand what was in his own heart. Job and Daniel are other examples of delayed response. Like Hezekiah, God heard but he didn’t answer right away. God is concerned but needs of others require attention, too, but we have a need to help others and learn to be patient and have faith.

Be aware, if we continue to cherish known sin, God will stop answering. This was the case with King Saul of Israel.

2 Chronicles 32:31 (KJV)

31 Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

Daniel 10:13-14 (KJV)

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Job 35:12-16 (NLT) Elihu speaks.

12 There they cry, but none giveth answer, because of the pride of evil men.

13 But it is wrong to say God doesn’t listen, to say the Almighty isn’t concerned. 14 You say you can’t see him, but he will bring justice if you will only wait.

15 You say he does not respond to sinners with anger and is not greatly concerned about wickedness. But you are talking nonsense, Job. You have spoken like a fool.”

1 Samuel 15:10 (KJV)

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the L ORD all night.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (KJV)

22 And Samuel said, Hath the L ORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the L ORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the L ORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
Why God will not Hear

Grace is kind, but that does not mean that God’s laws are not kind. They are meant to protect us from evil, not in evil! Ask the Father, in Jesus name, to send the Holy Spirit to us. He will keep our minds centered in truth and, with our permission, He will change the way we think. He needs our permission before he can do this work.

How will I know if God will hear when I pray? The Holy Spirit will help you pray with groanings that cannot be uttered. He cares intensely.

Isaiah 1:15 (KJV)
And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Proverbs 28:9 (KJV)
9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Zechariah 7:11-13 (KJV)
11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.
12 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.
13 Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

Proverbs 15:29 (KJV)
29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

When He Hears!

Psalm 17:5-6 (KJV)
5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.
6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thyne ear unto me, and hear my speech.

Romans 8:25-27 (KJV)
25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.
26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Revelation 14:12 (KJV)
12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
There is a link between obedience and rest. Can we worship in our own way and still please God? We have been given certain guidelines to fit the parables that explain the nature and character of our Creator. If we deviate from His pattern, we will tell lies about Him. His words are precise so we must listen carefully. The life of Christ illustrates his character of love that has no tolerance for sin because lawbreaking hurts us and others. He could say, “Neither do I condemn you,” to the accused woman because He had already taken her condemnation on Himself.

Isaiah 28:12-13 (KJV)
12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Hebrews 4:10-13 (KJV)
10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Malachi 4:4 (KJV)
4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Exodus 20:8-12 (KJV)
8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD
blessed the sabbath day, and
hallowed it.

Covenant Promises

There seems to be a progression in the works of the LORD. Each day of creation provides for the needs of the next day’s production. This seems to work with the covenants also. The everlasting covenant is a promise to put his fear (awe, respect and honor) in our hearts. The Sabbath covenant gives a mechanism to show how he will sanctify us. The New Covenant ups the power of how He will accomplish sanctification by writing His laws on our hearts.

Isaiah 24:5 (KJV)
The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Jeremiah 32:40 (KJV)
And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Hebrews 13:20 (KJV)
Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant

Isaiah 56:6 (KJV)
Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

Exodus 31:13 (KJV)
13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Ezekiel 20:11-13 (KJV)
11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.
12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.
13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Galatians 5:14 (KJV)
For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:10 (KJV)
Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
No one organization has the exclusive claim to this twist. The Spirit of antichrist can trap any group or person. The misunderstanding stems from various ideas about the nature of God, as a whole, and of his power.

We will be learning of this throughout eternity so do not expect it all on a page or so! We can look at what John says of the enemy.

1 John 2:18 (KJV)
Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1 John 2:22 (KJV)
Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

2 John 1:7 (KJV)
For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

1 John 4:3 (KJV)
And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

If the power of God is doubted, we will doubt that the immortal Lord could become human and die the second death in our place. Then, there is an enemy that wants to plant ideas in our minds that are intended to discredit the words of God. Scripture is to be trusted but human or satanic wisdom is not dependable.

John 10:34-38 (KJV)
34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.
John 14:9 (KJV)
Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

He Can Live in Us

God in Christ came in the flesh to Bethlehem and he can also live in us by his Spirit. Is it not amazing that One who has always been, can live within us? His Spirit communicates with our Spirit, with all spirits that ever existed and with all of creation. There have been some, like Satan, that have chosen self-destruction rather than to obey. They left Him and it grieves Him that they have put themselves beyond help.

Philippians 2:5-11 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)
5 Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,
6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.
7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form,
8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—
even to death on a cross.
9 For this reason God highly exalted Him
and gave Him the name that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—
of those who are in heaven and on earth
and under the earth—
11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

John 17:22-24 (KJV)
22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:
23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.
24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Revelation 1:8 (KJV)
8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Colossians 1:27 (KJV)
To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Romans 8:16 (KJV)
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
Laws 6: I Can Do It Myself

Since Eve, this has been the cry of Humanity. Cain tried to worship God in his own way, and, but because of the purpose of this particular offering was one which pointed to the death of Christ, God could not accept garden produce in place of a lamb. (Gen. 4)

Jeroboam, for political reasons, tried to change the feasts of the LORD. That destroyed his family and ten tribes of Israel. Constantine tried to change festival laws and sabbath to Sunday, also for political reasons, and caused the blood bath of the dark ages and accelerated paganizing the Christian church.

Genesis 4:6-7 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? 7 If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

1 Kings 12:26-33 (KJV)

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin:...

31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

1 Kings 14:16 (KJV)

16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.
Disobedience Kills

No matter what the position of the disobedient, they will be punished by the sin they were involved in. It isn’t that God wants to punish people. He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. If sin could have been excused, Jesus would not have had to die.

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Numbers 26:61 (NLT)
61 But Nadab and Abihu died when they burned before the LORD the wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded.

Numbers 27:12-14 (KJV)
12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel.
13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered.
14 For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

Zephaniah 1:8-9 (NLT)
8 “On that day of judgment,” says the LORD, “I will punish the leaders and princes of Judah and all those following pagan customs.
9 Yes, I will punish those who participate in pagan worship ceremonies, and those who fill their masters’ houses with violence and deceit.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 (KJV)
30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Deuteronomy 30:19 (KJV)
I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
This is true but there is also a truth that gives us hope. Jesus has stepped up to the plate and He has hit a home run for us. He has also rounded all the bases and made it safely home. When we claim his victory, do we feel like we should do something? We do feel that way, but this feeling is flawed. **Christ, in us, is the one that wins the victory.** Are we marring that victory by trying to get rid of the laws of the LORD - by changing the rules of the game? **Give the Father glory** for working out belief in our hearts! Jesus makes the difference. He is able, by His indwelling Spirit, to fit us for the glory of his character. This freedom is ours for the asking.

**John 6:29** (KJV)
Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

**Jeremiah 13:22-24** (NLT)
22 You may ask yourself, “Why is all this happening to me?” It is because of your many sins! That is why you have been stripped and raped by invading armies. 
23 Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard take away its spots? Neither can you start doing good, for you have always done evil.
24 “I will scatter you like chaff that is blown away by the desert winds.

**Jeremiah 13:27** (KJV)
27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?

**Jeremiah 14:10** (KJV)
10 Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

**Luke 13:34** (KJV)
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! 35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: …

**Luke 17:27** (KJV)
26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.
Sin is Followed by Destruction

The Jerusalem Jesus saw was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans, just as the Jerusalem of old was destroyed by Babylon. The cycle of sin followed by destruction also worked out at the time of the flood and the time of Sodom.

**Luke 17:28-30** KJV

> Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;
>
> But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.
>
> Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed

**2 Peter 2:1-3** (NLT)

> But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.
>
> Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.
>
> In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

There is a way of escape!

Revelation 14:6-8

> And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
>
> Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
>
> And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

**Revelation 18:3-6** (NIV)

> For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”
>
> Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
>
> for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. ... Pour her a double portion from her own cup.
Conclusion Chapter 2

We are not condemned, but neither is sin condoned. We are commanded to sin no more. The New and Sabbath covenants give us the promise that God is the One working, in us, for our salvation. Invite Him in.