# **METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRIES**

## ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES

### June 14-20, 2014 Lesson: Christ’s Church and the Law

#### Is there evidence that God’s law, the Ten Commandments, were kept before the time of Moses?

We can see from the above question that these are God’s Ten Commandments. What else do we know about them?

“In setting aside the law of God, men know not what they are doing. God's law is the transcript of His character. It embodies the principles of His kingdom. He who refuses to accept these principles is placing himself outside the channel where God's blessings flow.” COL 305

The law is a transcript of God’s altogether beautiful moral character.

#### Let us ask another question, Has God’s character been the same from eternity?

“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.” James 1:17

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6

If God has not changed and the law is a transcript of His character, then His law has not changed. If our changeless God has been from eternity, then His changeless law has been from eternity. Would you agree?

**And what is God’s character like?** “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” Those closest to the throne of God declare that God is “holy.”

How long has God required His people to be holy? Speaking to Israel of old, God said, “Ye shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.” Leviticus 19:2

The same requirement was expressed to Peter, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15, 16.

How is the law described? “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” Romans 7:12

God is holy, His people have always been called to be holiness, and His law is holy. Therefore, God has always desired to write His law upon the heart of His people.

**God calls His people to holiness and what else**? God said to Abraham, “I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.” Genesis 17:1. Speaking of Noah, the Bible says, “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation, and Noah walked with God.” Genesis 6:9.

It was said to all of ancient Israel, “Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.” Deuteronomy 18:13

Jesus says to all of us, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

Paul says to the church, “Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind.” 2 Corinthians 13:11

All these passages must refer to the same perfection, the same standard of holiness, that same walking with God, the same mind, after all, “can two walk together, except they agree?”

What do we know about the law? “As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.” Psalm 18:30

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7

God’s way is perfect and His law is perfect, after all, the law is a transcript of God’s perfect character. All of God’s people, from Adam to the last generation have been called to this same way, this same walk, this same standard, namely, this same perfect Ten Commandments.

Speaking of God’s last day church, the Bible says, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. And amongst these commandment-keeping saints are the 144,000 who “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” Revelation 14:4, 5

From another point of view, we can see that the Ten Commandments existed before Moses simply by the fact that they were all transgressed by those who lived before Moses.

Note them in order: First Commandment: Joshua 24:2; Second Commandment: Genesis 31:30, 34; Third Commandment: Genesis 35:2, 4; Fourth Commandment: Exodus 16:4, 25-28; Fifth Commandment: Genesis 9:21-25; Sixth Commandment: Exodus 1:16, 17; 2:14; Seventh Commandment: Genesis 39:7-9; Eighth Commandment: Genesis 31:32; Ninth Commandment: Genesis 31:30; Tenth Commandment: Genesis 3:6; 6:2.

Also consider this fact, if the thoughts of the antediluvians was evil continuously, then it seems that they must have been transgressing all of God’s commandments.

Not only were all of God’s commandments transgressed before the time of Moses, but they were also kept before the time of Moses. God said of Abraham, “the father of all them that believe,” “Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Genesis 26:5. See also Genesis 18:19.

Also consider that the Bible says, “Sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4. And what are the wages of sin? “The wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23. Therefore, wherever there is death, there is sin; and wherever there is sin, there is the law.

Now note this, “And so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12

If all men have sinned, then all men have broken God’s law. Therefore, the law has existed as long as man has existed. Surely these few points prove that God’s law has existed from the beginning of time, not simply from the time of Moses.

Compiled by Pastor Jeff Wehr