
SESSION# 6

The Jews and the Law of Moses

The Bible not only documents the Plan of God for mankind and this earth, but it also follows the history of a special people, the Jews. It outlines their birth as a people and nation and follows their development and the establishment of the Kingdom under David and Solomon. It records the steady decline and turning away from God, resulting in their exile from the land, and it records the beautiful prophecies about their re-gathering to the land and their future reconciliation with God at the coming of Christ.

WHO ARE THE JEWS?

1. The People - Descendants of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

- Abram is called by God - Genesis 12:1
- He is promised a seed and to inherit the land - Genesis 12:1-7;
- Genesis 13:14-17;
- Covenant is made by God with Abraham - Genesis 15:1-18
- Promises repeated to Isaac and Jacob - Genesis 26:1-5;
- Genesis 28:13
- Jacob's name changed to ISRAEL - "Prince of God" -
- Genesis 32:24-32

2. The Nation - Established by God

- God delivers the people from Egypt under Moses - Exodus 1-14
- God chose the nation - Deuteronomy 7:6, 7-8; Exodus 19:3-6

WHAT IS THE LAW OF MOSES?

The Law of Moses consists of the commandments and laws given by God to the nation of Israel while encamped at Mt. Sinai. It consisted of not only the Ten Commandments, but many other instructions for the people.

It established:

1. An Order of Worship
Levites and the Tabernacle

2. A Means of Government

Theocracy - God is King

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

The Bible records the failings of the nation of Israel. It documents their course through:

- Wilderness wanderings
- Period of Judges
- Glory and Decline - Period of the Kings
- Christ - Crucifixion of the Messiah
- A.D. 70 - Exiled, until the "times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24)

WHAT IS TO HAPPEN TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes concerning the Jews, "Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. " (Romans 11:1).

He goes on to write that "they are beloved for the sakes of their forefathers. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Roman 11:28-29 RSV)

Paul also described his hope, that which was found through Christ, as the "hope of Israel. " (Acts 28:20)

Passages for consideration:

Zechariah 8 and 12

Jeremiah 31:31-34

ISRAEL – GOD’S PEOPLE – GOD’S LAND

Terminology (Part 2)

CIRCUMCISION - cutting off the fold of skin (foreskin) of all Jewish males.

"And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. " (Genesis 17:11)

PHARISEE -The Pharisees were a religious party or school among the Jews at the time of Christ. The word means "separated". The fundamental principle of the Pharisees is that by the side of the written law there was an oral law to complete and to explain the written law. It was given to Moses on Mount Sinai and transmitted by him by word of mouth. The first portion of the Talmud, called the Mishna or "second law", contains this oral law. It is a digest of the Jewish traditions and rituals and was esteemed far above the written law.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer. " (Matt. 23:14)

SADDUCEE - The Sadducees, meaning "the righteous", were a religious party among the Jews at the time of Christ. They denied that the oral law was a revelation of God to the Israelites, and deemed the written law of Moses alone to be obligatory on the nation, as the divine authority.

"For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. " (Acts 23:8)

SCRIBE - a clerk, especially a public servant, secretary, recorder, whose office and influence differed in different time periods. A religious teacher.

"Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words. " (Jeremiah 36:32)

PRIEST - Male descendant of Aaron of the tribe of Levi, who performed the necessary duties within the tabernacle as laid out in the Levitical Law. In a wider sense, a priest is one who performs the role of a teacher, judge and mediator.

"But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. " (Leviticus 1:9)

SACRIFICE - to slaughter, kill; metaphorically anything offered to God

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. " (Romans 12:1)

Terminology (Part 2)

TABERNACLE - dwelling place, tent, portable temple of worship

"Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubim of cunning work shalt thou make them. "
(Exodus 26:1)

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. " (Revelation 21:3)

TEMPLE - sanctuary, place of worship

"So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. " (1 Samuel 1:9)

SIN - to miss the mark. Disobedience of God's commandments

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. "
(1 John 3:4)

APOSTLE - messenger, one sent

"Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the Truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." (1 Timothy 2: 7)

DISCIPLE - a learner, pupil, student

"The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. " (Luke 6:40)

REPENT - to be sorry, to turn away from (sin)

"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. " (Ezekiel 18:30)

RIGHTEOUSNESS - to be spiritually correct, faultless, without blame

"Awake to righteousness and sin not." (1 Cor. 15:34)

WORKSHOP – MYSTERY

During the ministry of Christ, his disciples preached the Gospel of the Kingdom without teaching about his sacrificial death. They never thought that such a thing would happen.

"He sent them to preach the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:2)

"Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.' But they understood not this saying and it was hid from them that they perceived it not." (Luke 9:44)

Had the apostles understood the things spoken by Jesus, his death would have confirmed their belief that he was the Christ.

"For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead." (John 20:9)

"These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they these things were written of him, (and of his death also), and that they had done these things unto him." (John 12:16)

After Christ's ascension to heaven, the Spirit revealed this mystery of the Gospel to the apostles before they resumed their preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Look up Ephesians 3:1-9; Romans 16:25-26 and Colossians 1:25-27.

From these verses write down what you think the mystery is as described in the Bible. Is the mystery something that cannot be understood? Is it something that could be understood but was not known? Is it something that is known now or is it still hidden?

The prophecies concerning Jesus Christ were not at first understood, but once they were fulfilled they became **known** and were preached in connection with the gospel message to both Jew and Gentile.

"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:31) see also Acts 8:12.

SUMMARY related to Mystery

"...The mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles... " (Ephesians 3:4-5)

"The preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest. " (Romans 16:25,26)

"The mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest." (Col 1:26)

1. Aspects of the Kingdom of God involving Jesus were a "mystery" to the world until the apostles' day.
2. The word "mystery" comes from the Greek word "mysterion," which means something hidden or secret.
3. The Apostles received an understanding of the mystery of Christ.
4. What was once a mystery is no longer a mystery.
5. God has revealed His plan slowly through the ages.
6. The revelation is complete.

The Role of Prophecy

TWO-FOLD PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

Forthtelling - Prophecy, according to *1 Corinthians 14*, involves building up, exhortation, and comfort (*14:3*), edification (*14:4*), conviction and conversion (*14:24,25*), and instruction (*14:31*). (See also *2 Peter 3:1-3*, "to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.")

Foretelling - Prophecy also served to warn man regarding his failure and need of repentance and salvation at the hand of God, while at the same time confirming the certainty of God's plan. (Example: *Heb. 11:7*)

NOTE: Prophecy is not for the purpose of satisfying idle curiosity about future events, but to assist believers to develop their faith.

PRINCIPLES IN UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY

1. Analyze the passage in terms of history, context, and its literal meaning.
2. Note exactly to whom or to what the passage refers. Observe whether the prophecy is forthtelling or foretelling. Is it directed at comfort, exhortation, or edification, or is it speaking about what will happen?
3. Distinguish between direct and symbolic predictions.
4. Remember that God's ultimate revelation in Christ illuminates all earlier revelations.
5. Keep in mind that some imagery is difficult to interpret, and to be successful interpreters, we must follow the basic principles for interpreting all figurative language. The imagery should have made sense to the original readers.

EXAMPLE OF FULFILLED PROPHECY - DANIEL 2

Prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar's Image
Head of Gold - Babylon
Breast & Arms of Silver - Medo-Persia
Belly & Thighs of Brass - Greece
Legs of Iron - Rome

SOME FAMOUS PROPHETS:

Moses	Nathan	Isaiah	Christ
Elijah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Daniel