

The Oracles of God

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: Rom. 3:1-2

- A. Why did God give the Law? To create a relationship? To save sinners?
 - 1. Israel was already in a covenant relationship with God, through the faith of Abraham and the Noahide law - Gen. 15:1-6, 13, 18
 - 2. The Law of Moses cannot save - Gal. 3:11; Rom. 3:20.
- B. Why did God give Israel the Oracles of God?
 - 1. Ted Koppel of Nightline said, "Our society finds truth too strong a medicine to digest undiluted. What Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai were not the Ten Suggestions. They are the Ten Commandments."
 - 2. Humankind needed to learn of law and sin, truth and error, their need for salvation and a Savior - Acts 17:30
 - 3. It was a time of ignorance, and God wanted humankind to come to a time of knowing God and His will, heart and soul. He must bring man who knew only seven commands given to Noah, to the place where men knew the whole of the scheme of redemption - Eph. 1:17-20

I. WHY GOD GAVE ISRAEL THE LAW

- A. To reveal His glory and Holiness - Deut. 5:22-24
- B. To reveal man's sin - Rom. 7:7, 13; 1Tim. 1:9
- C. To identify Israel as His chosen people and separate them from the heathen
 - 1. Psalm 147:19-20; Eph. 2:11-12
- D. To give Israel a standard for godly living - Deut. 4:1, 5:29
- E. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ - Gal. 3:24
- F. To illustrate by type the Person and ministry of Christ - Heb. 10:1.

II. THE FUNCTION OF THE LAW

- A. A Sign - Points to the law of love in Christ - Matt. 22:35-40
 - 1. If I love God as I should, I will always keep Commandments 1-4. If I love my neighbor as I should, I will always keep Commandments 5-10
- B. A Servitude - It illuminates bondage since the flesh finds it impossible to keep
 - 1. Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1; Rom. 8:3
- C. A Schoolmaster - It points men to Jesus and prepares them - Gal. 3:22-29
- D. A Shadow - It is contrasted with the reality and fulfillment found in Jesus
 - 1. Col. 2:14-17

III. THE LIMITS OF THE LAW: IT CANNOT

- A. Make anyone perfect - Heb. 9:9
- B. Justify from sin - Acts 13:38-39
- C. Give righteousness - Gal. 2:21
- D. Give life - Gal. 3:21

IV. THE DELIVERANCE FROM THE LAW

A. Jesus fulfilled the Law - Gal. 4:4-5, 7

1. Jesus perfectly kept the Law and fulfilled all the types

B. Jesus met all the righteous requirements of the Law - Col. 2:13-14; Rom. 6:14

C. Jesus brought the Gentiles into covenant relationship with God - Eph. 2:13-17

Conclusion: Heb. 10:7-10