

GOD'S LAW, THE LORD, & US

(The place of God's Law in His Eternal Purpose that Men and Women should be in His Image & Likeness, and have fellowship with Him.)

The CEREMONIAL LAW & its Fulfilment in CHRIST

(Making it possible for us to love God and live in fellowship with Him.)

The MORAL LAW & its Fulfilment in Christ

(Christ's life on earth demonstrated Human life in the Image of God -- lived in true Neighbourly Love -- and His Death made that Life available to all who Believe.)

Criticism / Correction / Addition is welcomed. Please feel free to use material in this booklet to the Glory of God in any way you wish

E. Read.

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INTRODUCTION

As often in Biblical Interpretation, it's easy to accept one of the widely differing human points of view as correct, and attack the alternatives. It seems more honouring to God, and more beneficial to ourselves, to admit that there are both Protestants and Roman Catholics who teach Justification by Works, and who teach Justification by Faith. There are Evangelical Seventh Day Adventists who are committed to the Gospel of the Grace of God, and there are Evangelicals who go to unbiblical extremes of both Law-keeping, and of indifference to Law-breaking.

So we must try to avoid name-calling, and endeavour to search all the relevant Scriptures, and let them speak for themselves, as far as that is possible. The angle from which I wish to view the subject is:

The place of the LAW in God's Eternal Purpose that Men and Women should be in His Image & Likeness, and fellowship with Him.

God had declared His purpose in Gen 1:26-27. He had maintained that purpose through the Fall/ Rebellion for which He had provided the triumphant counter-stroke in the sacrificial death of God the Son as Eve's descendant, Gen 3:15; 1 Pet 1:19-20 Rev 13:8. It seems that apart from the words recorded in Gen 3:15, some hint of this was given to Adam and his family, as lambs etc offered as substitutionary and thanksgiving sacrifices "by Faith" are a feature of the lives of God's

Unconditional Covenants? God's after-the-flood Covenant-promise of Gen 9:1-17 is often said to be an unconditional covenant, as God promises what He will do, whether men honour Him by obeying His will declared in Gen 9:4-6, or not. But from then on obedience to His will declared there - that the blood should not be eaten with meat, and that murder should be avenged - was a mark of Faith and Godliness. A mark of those who were being blessed by being taken up into the purposes of God.

God's Covenants and Promises are Sovereign declarations to be taken up by Faith, and will be enjoyed in the measure we allow ourselves to be taken up into God's purposes. Trusting Faith is Obedient faith or it's not faith at all, only Presumption, Jas 2:14-26 Noah, Abraham, etc ACTED in Faith, or there would have been no Ark, and Abraham's descendants would have remained as part of the life and culture of Pagan Ur, Josh 24:14.

EVE RLASTING/eternal Covenants- These words seem to mean that God's eternal purposes are involved. The promise of never again sending a flood was such a Covenant, but only because the next universal judgment is by Fire, 2 Pet 3:3-7. Other such covenants - that Israel would occupy the land of Canaan, Gen 17:7-8, etc, and David's descendants rule in Israel, 2 Sam 23:5, have been intermittently fulfilled. The last, Heb 13:20-21 says the Lord's Blood would bring His work to perfection in the Saved.

In Gen 12:1-9 God's Call of Abraham was also a Declaration of His Purpose, and a Promise that he would be the channel of God's Purpose to Bless mankind, and that as part of this his descendants would possess the land of Israel. Abraham took up that Promise by Faith, and God kept him, in spite of his going down to Egypt, lying to Pharaoh, etc Gen 12:10-20 Against the background of Lot's defection God encouraged Abraham in his life of Faith, Gen 13:14-18; 14:17-20

In Gen 15:1-6 God repeated the promise of a vast number of descendants and in spite of his persistent childlessness ABRAHAM BELIEVED THE LORD AND HE COUNTERED/CREDITED IT TO HIM as RIGHTEOUSNESS, **1 This became the standard definition of Salvation granted by God in Grace, and taken up by man in responsive Faith, Rom 4:1-25 Gal 3:1-29

Gal 3:12; James 1:25; 2. Depending on works, trying to obey God's Law for righteousness, is shown to be a dead end since Salvation has been proclaimed in Christ crucified and risen, Rom 9:30-10:21.

Gen 15:7-19 records that immediately after Abraham declared his Faith in God's Promise, and He declared that Abraham was justified by Faith, God renewed His promise that Abraham and his descendants would be given the Land of Israel. In response to this, Abraham stepped back from unconditional reliance on God's unconditional Promise, and requested a sign/ supporting evidence from God. God responded and made a Covenant with Abraham that he would have descendants who would be given the Land of Israel, but only after they had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. This reads as if it was a penalty for his stepping back from Faith by asking God for confirmation. This Covenant has nothing to do with SALVATION BY FAITH, it concerns inheritance of the Land of Israel.

Gen 17:1-27 records that God confirmed this covenant with Abraham, that his descendants would be numerous, and would be God's people and possess the land of Israel as His covenanted gift. To the Covenant Promise of Gen 15 the Lord added a Covenant obligation - Unless Abraham and his male descendants accepted the physical "cutting off" involved in being circumcised, they would be "cut off" from the benefits of the covenant. Circumcision was to be a permanent token/ sign/ reminder that they, and slaves they bought, were God's people, and entitled to possess the Land of Israel.

Although the promise that Abraham would be the Father "of many Nations" was repeated, here it seems to refer only to the tribes descended from Jacob, plus Esau and Ishmael. If so, there is nothing in this covenant which is linked with/ relevant to the promise that many nations would be Blessed/ saved by Faith, in Christ the Seed of Abraham. They have no circumcision, no covenanted right to the land of Israel, and Salvation is granted to them by Sovereign Grace. The Love involved in that granting calls for a response of loving, obedient fellowship with their Saviour and Lord, empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit as the spirit of sonship. It isn't a covenant that depends on any actions of theirs, or lack of them. We don't slip out of God's family by failure in our "Faith" or "Works," and reinstate ourselves by vigorous efforts of "Faith" or "Works." We ARE the sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, and our joy and His joy in this are shared only as we live in fellowship with Him by Faith.

available, and handed over to him as authority when it had played its God-ordained part/role, Gal 3:6-29. For us, now, Grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We live now under Grace, not Law, and so can live victoriously, Rom 5:21-6:18.

The promise that universal blessing would come from THE Seed of Abraham, Gen 12:1-3; Gal 3:16, is taken up again in Gen 18:1-19, and in God's Grace not abandoned by Abraham again falling into unbelief and deliberate falsehood in 20:1-18. In due course God, through His enabling and Abraham's obedience, Rom 4:17-22 kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac was born. And the not-born-by-Faith, not naturally-impossible-to-be-born son, Ishmael, was cast out. In this he became a picture of those who try to be both a Christian saved by grace according to God's Promise, and yet also committed to working at producing righteousness by their Law-keeping, Gal 4:21-5:25.

Good Works pleasing to God are His purpose for those saved by Grace alone, Eph 2:1-10. They are possible only AFTER someone is born of the Spirit, Rom 8:1-9. They are motivated and enabled by God indwelling us, and writing His Law in our hearts, Phil 2:12-14; Heb 10:15-17. And we are to commit ourselves to producing them - with our eyes, not on the Law given at Sinai, but with our eyes on our crucified, triumphant Lord, 2 Cor 3:3-18; Phil 3:1-21; Col 3:1-17; Heb 12:2-5; 2 Pet 1:11.

Abraham had already been justified by Faith/ believed God and that had been counted unto him as righteousness, but Gen 22 records how, under God, he gave a second witness to those facts. He had believed God, and Isaac had been born. God challenged him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and his doing so was a "work-of-Faith" an "obeying-God-action" that demonstrated clearly and dramatically the reality of his faith-based fellowship with God. Salvation for mankind would depend on God giving His Son into death/ providing a Burnt Offering, and to Abraham was given the privilege of being willing to give the son on whom all his hopes and ours depended. As he did so he continued to believe God that He would, through Isaac, AFTER this event, generate the nation of Israel, and the Saviour of the world, Heb 11:17-19.

Footnote **2 The Greek makes this dear. Rom 5:20 says THE LAW ENTERED/was added- Pareiserchomai- To come in from the side, THAT THE OFFENCE/ trespass MIGHT ABOUND/increase- That the offensiveness of sin should be so obvious that it would be clear that the only answer to it was the superabounding Grace of God. The

Calatans, with mention of circumcision, or possession of the Land of Israel. Physical circumcision although done by well-meaning parents etc, like the Law in general, left men still sinful at heart. Men were commanded to circumcise their hearts, Jer 4:4, but until God intervened to do so their situation was hopeless, Deu 10:16-17; 30:6; Rom 2:29 Cp Gal 6:14-16; Phil 3:3; Col 2:11-14; 3:9-11.

Christ, being born under the Law, was circumcised, Lk 2:21. But with the coming of the Gospel, circumcision became a matter of indifference, 1 Cor 7:19-20 Gal 5:6; 11; 6:15. Jewish opposition to Paul and the Gospel centred on this teaching, Acts 21:21; Gal 6:12. And within the church there was a Pharisee Heresy- Hairesis- Sect or Party, which demanded Gentiles be circumcised, Acts 15:5; Titus 1:10. Paul resisted this as it undermined the whole Gospel, amounting to a denial of Christ and a forfeiting of Gospel Grace and Sonship Gal 2:3-5; 5:2-6. Human action could remove a little of any male's flesh. Spiritual circumcision involves putting off the body of sins/sinful human nature, and only Christ can do that for us, Col 2:11-13. (Just as He alone can baptise us into the Body of Christ, 1 Cor 12:13.)

Those who use their imaginations as they read these Scriptures can produce all sorts of teachings. The only legitimate teachings are those that conform to the interpretation provided by the NT. The NT states that there are TWO Covenants- Law expressed in the on-stone-written 10 Commandments, and Spirit-empowered- Grace that by Faith claims and inherits the promises made to Abraham. These two are mutually exclusive, Rom 3:19-4:25 7:1-8:17; 2 Cor 3:3-18; Gal 3:1-4:31. To blend them into one as "a Covenant of Promise" in which Law is kept by Grace and the work of the Holy Spirit, is a triumph of human cleverness, but a tragic defiance of the words of Scripture and the Spirit of Truth who gave them to us.

As we look back at the Law from the NT viewpoint we see that it set three requirements for the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. The Ceremonial Law was a Shadow of the Reality of what was needed for sinful man to be in the Image of God, and have complete fellowship with Him - Loving Him with all their being, Mk 12:30 To make that possible Christ needed to DO for us ALL it pictured/ foreshadowed.

c. Christ must not only BE and DO that which the Law foreshadowed, He must also Pioneer the Life that Saved humanity must live - Pattern it visibly, demonstrating it in flesh and blood, and show that He had Provided the means for the Saved to live that way in obedient Fellowship with God, Jn 15:5-12; Heb 2:10-11. By the way He was seen to live He Patterned the way He the Son of God would LIVE, as the Spirit of Sonship, in everyone who received Him, Jn 1:12; Rom 8:12-17; 2 Cor 4:10; Gal 2:20 4:3-7.

GOD'S OT COVENANT & WRITTEN LAW - General summary

LAW- Torah- Law, instruction, guidelines is the OT word. Torah is derived from Yarah- To teach, sometimes to shoot an arrow. Teaching pins down facts! At the human level, the Father, Mother, etc give the young instruction- Torah, as in Prov 1:8; 3:1; 4:2; 6:20 287. Behind this, and giving value to it was THE LAW- Torah, which God gave to Moses for Israel, His commands which demonstrated and taught His will. Jeremiah promised that the day would come when God would write His Law, His will for them, in men's hearts, Jer 31:33 Nomos **3 is the NT Greek word for Law. From Nemo- To divide out, distribute, so law given out by the state to direct the lives of its citizens. It's also used of a force which impels action - The Law of sin, the Law of the spirit of life in Christ, Rom 7:21-23 8:2. But usually it means THE LAW, given at Sinai through Moses, revealing God's will for Israel, and the books recording it, and so all the OT, Mt 11:13; Lk 16:16.

The Law & the Covenant- God made a Covenant with Abraham promising the land of Israel to his descendants, Gen 15:18. This required the circumcision of all males, Gen 17:11-14. The Law given later through Moses set out the conditions under which God would be free to bless them, while remaining true to His character. Israel entered into this Covenant with God, Ex 19:3-8; Deu 29:12. This OLD covenant which condemned men as sinners was permanently embodied in letters on stone Tablets. The NEW which brings life to sinners is permanently written in their hearts by the indwelling Spirit who transforms them into Christ-likeness, 2 Cor 3:3-18. See Booklet 1, 2 Corinthians.

The Law of God & the Law of Moses. Some claim that the Moral Law is the Law of God, and God's permanent requirement. And that the

1:53 HIS STATUTES/decrees- Chuqqah Used of the laws of nature/seasonal patterns, Jer 5:24 3325 of what was to be given to the priests, and of the laws regulating the feasts, Ex 12:14; Lev 16:29, 23:41, etc. Choq is the general form of the word. Moses said he settled disputes by teaching "GOD'S STATUTES/decrees- Choq AND LAWS-Torah, Ex 18:16

HIS JUDGMENTS/Laws- Mishpat- A pronounced judgment or formal decree, intended to maintain law and order. It refers to the act of sitting as Judge and giving a proper verdict that upholds the rights of all concerned, Ex 23:6; Ecc 12:14. HIS COMMANDMENTS/commands- Mitzvah- Commands to DO, or DON'T. Later used of commands given by Kings, parents etc. Deu 4:45 add another word THESE ARE THE TESTIMONIES/Stipulations- Edah, and THE STATUTES/decrees- Choq, and the JUDGMENTS/laws- Mishpat. 1 Ki 2:3 David commands Solomon KEEP THE CHARGE/what (He) requires- Mishmereth, OF THE LORD THY GOD, TO WALK IN HIS WAYS, TO KEEP HIS STATUTES/decrees- Chuqqah HIS COMMANDMENTS/commands- Mitzvah, HIS JUDGMENTS/laws- Mishpat, AND HIS TESTIMONIES/requirements- Eduth AS WRITTEN IN THE LAW- Torah OF MOSES. The LAW- Torah sums up all these aspects of God's revealed will for His people Israel.

The Giving of the Law- God revealed Himself to Israel, and on the basis of His having delivered them from Egypt, offered a covenant. If they obeyed Him fully and kept His Covenant Israel would be His one and only people, a nation of kings and priests. The people said they would do everything God said, Ex 19:1-8, and God gave them the 10 commandments, Ex 20:1-17. When the Covenant was read to Israel, and they promised to keep all God's Law, the written Law and people were sprinkled with the blood of the covenant sacrifice, Ex 24:1-8. Moses broke the stone Tablets on which God had given him a copy of the Law, as Israel had already broken the Law by Golden Calf worship. The wiping out of Israel was averted by the Priestly Intercession of Moses, and the execution of idolaters. God's command to do this was carried out by the tribe of Levi, who by their response became separated to God for His service. The first application of the Law was death to Law-breakers, 31:18-32:35 The Stone Tablets, and the Covenant were renewed with assurance that Israel would possess the land, Ex 34:1-20-28

live, and possess the land, Deu 17:18-20. Each king was to write, have written for him, a copy and read it all his days so as to learn to fear the Lord and to keep His Laws carefully, Cp Josh 1:7-8. The Priests were to study, apply, and teach it, Jer 18:18. In the measure Israel kept the Law God was bound to bless or discipline them. Unless they kept ALL the Law they couldn't live in fellowship with God, and lost the right to live in God's Land. Covering failure with animal sacrifice, was all that was possible under the Law, Heb 9:6-14; 10:1-17.

The Glory of God- From time to time God revealed something of His Glory visibly. Cp 2Cor 3:7-18. By doing so He emphasised the privileges and penalties of being His people. This may be seen in, Ex 16:10-12; 24:15-18; 29:38-45; 33:12-23 (although this is more Promise-related than Law-related), 34:29-35; 40:34-36; Num 14:10-37; 16:41-50

Israel's Experience of the Penalties of Law breaking- To not keep God's Law cursed the Law-breakers, often with violent death, Ex 32:25-35; Num 11:1-35; 12:1-16; 20:1-13; 21:3-9; 26:64-65; 27:12-14; Deu 32:48-52

Israel must respond to the Grace of God- Deu 7:6-26 God had chosen them in Grace, not because they were righteous, delivered them from Egypt and given them His Law. If they loved Him and followed His Law He would bless them with health and fruitfulness in the land. This would require them to remember what they had already learned of God, avoid pride, and love and serve Him. They must Love God for His love for them, and this required them to circumcise their hearts and be kind to aliens, if they were to enjoy fellowship with Him, Deu 8:1-20; 9:1-29; 10:14-22

Blessings/Curses Proclaimed by Moses in his farewell- They needed to obey the Lord their God, and keep His commands and decrees written in this Law with all their heart and soul. By God's mercy, even at the worst, repentance and blessing will be possible, when the Lord circumcises their hearts. His Saving Word was with them, not far off. They must choose Life, in order to remain in the land, Deu 30:1-20; 31:30-32; 47.

Blessings/ Curses Proclaimed by Joshua when formally taking possession of the Land- Failure to fully obey God's Law in god fellowship with the Lord their God would curse every aspect of life, bringing disease, drought, defeat, despair, cannibalism, and exile. Full,

mentioned 2x in 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles. It was a central feature for the returning Exiles - being mentioned 27 times in Ezra- Nehemiah. The Law set the pattern for Life in Israel from then on (The Law is referred to 36 times in the Psalms, and 48 times in the Prophets, 5 of these in Malachi. Israel's failure to Love the Lord and Keep the Law is the main emphasis.)

Law Publicly Read & Taught- They must constantly remember and teach their children their whole experience since Egypt so that they would love the Lord God and walk in His ways - the options were Blessings or Curses for them, Deu 11:1-32 The Law was to be publicly read to Assembled Israel every seven years, so children etc would learn to fear the Lord. The scroll was stored meanwhile alongside the Ark of the Covenant. It would be needed to remind them, as they would turn away from God and His Law, Deu 31:9-29. They failed to teach the Law for a long time, Josh 8:34; 2 Chr 15:3, but public teaching of the Law was taken up again under Jehoshaphat, 2 Chr 17:8-9. The returned Exiles took the responsibility seriously and used it well, Neh 8:1-18. They found the Feast of Tabernacles and kept it, reading the Law publicly daily. That Priests should teach the Law is in Mal 2:7.

Exhortations to Law-obedience- Josh 22:5; 23:6; 1 Ki 2:3; 2 Ki 17:13. Ezra was well-versed in the Law of Moses. Had devoted himself to the study of the Law of the Lord, Ezra 7:6-10. Examples of Law-obeying- Boaz allowing Ruth to glean, and marrying her, and 2 Ki 14:6; Ezra 10:3. Benefits of Law-Obeying- It moulds the good and permanent life of the Godly, Ps 1:1-3; 19:1-22, 37:31.

Penalties for ignoring the Law- Prayers are detestable, Prov 28:9. Earth defiled by those disobeying God's Laws. The everlasting Covenant broken, Isa 24:5. They had ignored the Law of God - their children would be ignored by God, Hos 4:6. Prophets point out that Israel is suffering because she has rejected/ignored/disobeyed the Law, Amos 2:4.

The Law in the Millennium- It seems that the OT Law will again be applied under the direct rule of the Lord Jesus over the world, from Jerusalem. This will fulfil the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, King David, and through the Prophets etc, Isa 23; 9:6-7; 42:4, plus all of chapters 11, 49, 60, 61, 62. A good deal of Ezekiel chapters 34 to 48 Zechariah chapters 12, 13, and 14; Mic 4:1-7; Mt 19:28; Acts 3:19-21; Rom 11:25-36 The Lord will rule in perfect righteousness over a world full of people living natural lives, compelled to live according to external

requires men to be rightly related to each other, and vice versa. In the NT this is confirmed in Mt 22:36-40; Mk 12:28-31; 1 Jn 4:21. **4

The CEREMONIAL Law & its FULFILLMENT in CHRIST

(The Ceremonial Law expands Commandments 1-4. It was a Shadow of the Reality of what was needed for sinful man to be in the Image of God, and have fellowship with Him. Christ must DO for us ALL that it pictured/ Foreshadowed.)

Altars & Sacrifices- When the Priests made the first offerings on behalf of the people, God's Glory appeared and His Fire consumed the sacrifice. This showed that they and their offerings were acceptable/ accepted, Lev 9:1-24. For other general points see Lev 7:22-27; 20:1-8; 22:17-33; Num 15:1-31; Deu 18:9-13.

Burnt Offering- Olah- From Alah to go up So Ascending offering. The offering was totally transformed (apart from ashes) into smoke that rose towards Heaven, and so towards God, Lev 1:1-17; Num 28:1-8. The offerer laid his hand on the animal's head to identify himself with the animal, and it was killed. This pictured the total surrender of the life of the offerer to God, and was accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. The blood was first presented to the Lord and sprinkled around the altar to signify this atonement. The whole animal was then burned as an aroma pleasing to the Lord. **5 This offering is mentioned first in Leviticus because it was the basic offering, made daily for all Israel. It proclaimed that God's people should be wholly His in all they are, do, think, feel, say in whole-hearted Love for God. No mere man can achieve this, except, perhaps, momentarily. The constant failure to live wholly for God meant there was a continual need for Burnt Offerings as substitutes so the altar fire was to be kept burning always, Lev 6:8-13. Sin offerings associated with the Olah were a reminder of the need for sin to be dealt with before such an offering was acceptable.

CHRIST as the Burnt Offering- In His life and His death the Lord Jesus perfectly fulfilled what was pictured in the Burnt offering. His conception was of the Holy Spirit, Mt 1:18, 20 and He was born Holy, Lk 1:35. His development from infancy to adulthood was normal, Lk 2:40-52, except that there was no taint or element of sinfulness in Him at any stage, 1 Jn 3:5; 2 Cor 5:21, (He had no Ginosko- fellowship-knowledge of sin. He had total understanding knowledge- Oida, of the sinfulness of sin) and

good & the poor, etc. Fair treatment of others, and Fear of God go together. Good people are to treat others as God has treated them, Lev 25:17, 42-43

Footnote **5 Before the Law the burnt offering seems to have been the only sacrifice, although the technical word Olah is first used of Noah's offering, Gen 8:20

And in the end, having come to do the will of God in death, as in life, Lk 22:42; Jn 18:11; Heb 10:7-10, He handed over that sinless holy life to the Father, in total surrender, Lk 23:46; 1 Pet 2:22-24. Christ is our Burnt Offering. We are sanctified/made holy/set apart and made acceptable in Him, Heb 10:7-10 - all of us who by Faith have laid our hands on Him/confessed Him, and claimed Him and His sacrifice, Rom 10:8-11. And our obedient, Spirit-empowered living in fellowship with Christ our Burnt Offering moves us along the path of Godliness pictured by that offering, Rom 6:5-14; 8:1-17; Gal 2:20; Eph 1:3-23; Col 3:1-17; 1 Th 5:16-24; 2 Pet 1:1-11.

MEAT/grain Offering- Incense, olive oil, and wine were associated with this. A token amount was burned as an Aroma pleasing to Lord. The bulk was a food provision for priests, to be eaten by holy people in a holy place. This offering acknowledged God as the Giver of their crops, Ex 29:40-41; Lev 2:1-16; 6:14-23

CHRIST as the Grain Offering- The fine flour may be taken to symbolise the perfection of the Lord's Life, totally without the impurities or lumps that are part of any merely human life. The Incense could picture the attractiveness and sweetness of His life, especially to the Father. This doesn't seem to be spelled out in the NT, but is covered by the references to the animal Burnt Offering with which the vegetable Grain offering was associated.

PEACE/fellowship OFFERING- Shelem- from Shalom- Peace, **6 This offering pictured/symbolised the blessedness of God's people, sharing in fellowship with Him the good things God provides. This fellowship is open to us when we have placed ourselves unreservedly into God's hands. So, the Peace Offering follows logically after the Burnt Offering that pictured a life wholly committed to God, Ex 18:12; Lev 3:1-17; 7:11-21. (The Sin Offering that follows was needed to restore fellowship when it had been broken by our sin.) The offering was made freely as thanksgiving, a vow etc. The offerer laid his hand on the animal's head. The fat and Blood were burned as an Aroma pleasing to the Lord. Part of

maintained by the Sin Offering that met the need to have a clear conscience before God. The result was a comfortable and virtuous state of wholeness, well-being, fruitfulness and joy that grows from and manifests fellowship with God, in His purposes of blessing for His people. Solomon's early reign prefigured - as a rough sketch - the coming Prince of PEACE, who will reign in PEACE, forever, Isa 9:6-7.

When we turn to Him the veil that blinds us to the meaning of Scripture is removed, and we see Christ in the Scripture, are transformed into His likeness. Increasingly we can do all things in fellowship with God to His glory, 2 Cor 3:15-18; Col 3:1-17. Our Lord guides us in the ways of Peace, Lk 1:79. Before dying as our Peace Offering He promised us His Peace in the face of anything this world can do, Jn 14:27; 16:33. And Risen from the dead His first words to the gathered disciples were Peace be with you, and He showed the marks of the Cross by which He had won that peace for us, Lk 24:36; Jn 20:19-22, 26. Most of the Epistles address the readers on the basis of the Grace of God to us in Christ, and the Peace that provides. To explore this subject further read Rom 8:6; 14:17; Rom 15:13; Gal 5:22; 1 Th 5:23 etc.

This Peace and fellowship with God is enjoyed only as we make the effort to obey our Lord, in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, Rom 14:5-12; 2 Cor 13:11; Eph 4:1-6; Phil 4:4-9; Col 3:12-17; Heb 12:1-4. Out of this Peace provided in Christ grows Fellowship with God, in Worship and Work, 1 Cor 1:8-9; 3:9; 10:16; 2 Cor 6:1; 13:14; Phil 2:1; Phil 3:10; Avoiding fellowship with Evil and cultivating Fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ is part of our fellowship with God, Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 10:18-22; 2 Cor 6:14; 8:4; Gal 2:9; Eph 5:11; Heb 13:16; 1 Jn 1:3-7.

Sin Offering- Chattah. **7 Lev 4:1-35 For unintentional sin, to be offered when they become aware of having sinned. **8 The offerer laid his hand on the animal's head to show it was dying for his sin. Its blood was sprinkled before the Lord/ the curtain of the Holy of Holies, etc. The fat was burned on the altar and its body burned outside camp. With other sin-offerings for such unthinking sinful actions as failure to speak up as a witness, touching uncleanness, etc, a part only was burned as an offering to God. The rest was food for the priests, Lev 5:1-13; 6:24-30

CHRIST as the Sin Offering- The Lord is our Sin Offering, and on Him all our sin has been laid, Isa 53:6, 10. In His body, on the Cross, He Himself bore our sins, 1 Pet 2:24, and that is accepted for us when we

totally covered/hidden from sight.

Footnote **8 Apart from the offering on the Day of Atonement there was no offering for intentional sins repented of. The provision for an offering for deliberate sin could have given the impression that one could sin at a price. A sacrifice was no substitute for obedience, 1 Sam 15:22

TRESPASS /guilt Offering- Asham. This made Atonement for having failed to obey God, unintentionally disobeying the Law, or for having cheated someone. In the later case restitution + 20% had to be made. The offering also provided food for the Priests, Lev 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-10; Num 15:21-36 Christ as this offering is included in Christ as the Sin Offering.

Day of Atonement- Yom Kippurim. As it's always in the plural perhaps Atonements - as covering all the sins of all Israel, Lev 16:1-34. For their own safety, entry into the Lord's presence was restricted to the one person, the High Priest, the one day each year, and the one ritual. He must make atonement for himself, for the Most Holy Place, and the altar of sacrifice, from their defilement that resulted from association with the uncleanness of God's people. And Atonement for the people for those sins. Cp Ex 29:33-37; Ex 30:10. In order to get the benefit for themselves each individual had to AFFLICT THEIR SOULS/deny themselves- Anah- From Ani- Poor, weak, humble, afflicted. Often used of God sending affliction for disciplinary purposes, Deu 8:2. 1 Ki 11:39, Ps 90:15. Cp the Blessed "Poor in Spirit," Mt 5:3. And their sending away of the scapegoat bearing their sins symbolised their desire to be finished with sinning,

Atonement & Reconciliation- Consistency in translation isn't one of the virtues of the KJV, and it has the word Reconcile in the OT where the idea doesn't exist - Lev 6:30 8:15; 2 Chr 29:24; Ezek 45:15, 17, 20; Dan 9:24, are All Kaphar- to Cover. The nearest Kaphar comes to meaning to reconcile is Gen 32:20 where Jacob hoped his gifts would COVER/hide from sight his previous offences. **9 And the word Atonement in KJV Rom 8:11 is a mistranslation of Katallage- Reconciliation. So, to get a clear picture we need to refer back to the Hebrew and Greek Texts.

Atonement- Kaphar- To Cover. As Noah COVERED the Ark with Pitch to protect those inside from the waters of the Judgment Flood, Gen 6:14,

take away sin, Heb 10:17. The sin debt remained to be settled and Christ's Atoning Sacrifice cleared all those debts, and dealt with Sin and Sins, once and for all, Rom 3:25; Heb 10:1-14. Hilasmos is used for the Day of Atonement in LXX Lev 25:9, and in HE IS THE PROPITIATION/Atoning sacrifice- Hilasmos FOR OUR SINS.. FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, 1 Jn 2:2. PROPITIATION/Atoning sacrifice- Hilasmos is also in, 1 Jn 4:10.

Footnote **9 The Hebrew word Ratsah is rightly used of men being reconciled, 1 Sam 29:4, but when it's used of men's relationship with God it's used negatively as "NOT ACCEPTED/held responsible, Lev 7:18; 19:7; 22:23, 25 etc. The Greek words Katallage, Katallasso, are never used to mean Reconcile in the LXX.

The Psalmist prayed that God would PURGE AWAY/Forgive- Kaphar their sins, Ps 65:3; 79:9. LXX translates these as Hilaskomai, and in the NT the repentant Publican prayed GOD BE MERCIFUL TO/have mercy on- Hilaskomai ME A SINNER, Lk 18:13. The Lord can do this, because as our High Priest, He became like us so that He could MAKE RECONCILIATION/atonement- Hilaskomai, for our sins, Heb 2:17-18.

Reconciliation, be Reconciled- Apokatallasso, Katallage, Katallasso, as in 1 Cor 7:11 remain unmarried or be RECONCILED to her husband. If Israel's casting away be the RECONCILING/reconciliation of the world, Rom 11:15. While we were still sinners/ God's enemies we were Reconciled- Katallasso to Him through the death of His Son, Rom 5:10, through His death for us on the Cross, Col 1:20-22 See also Eph 2:16; 1 Pet 3:18. God, who reconciled- Katallasso us to Himself through Christ, gave us the ministry of reconciliation- Katallage. God was in Christ reconciling- Katallasso the world unto Himself.. committed to us the ministry of reconciliation- Katallage. Our message is Be ye reconciled- Katalasso to God 2 Cor 5:18-20 Note. God is never said to be reconciled to us - He is unchanging Righteous Love.

Redemption in the OT- God promised to Redeem (Gaal- to act as a Redeeming Relative- Goel) Israel from slavery in Egypt. Israelites were commanded to Redeem- Gaal impoverished relatives who had sold themselves, and their property, Lev 25:25 Boaz did this in Ruth 4:1-10. (Animals could also be "Redeemed," Ex 13:13, but a different word - Padah - is used for that redeeming.) While the death of the Passover Lamb was involved in Israel's Redemption from Egypt, the Redeemer was the Lord Himself who proclaimed Israel to be His son, so that He

the Mediator of the New Covenant has died as a ransom, Heb 9:15, and so has become our Redemption, 1 Cor 1:30 He obtained eternal Redemption for us by entering the Most Holy place on our behalf by His blood, Heb 9:12. In Him we have Redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, Eph 1:7, 14; Col 1:14, having been justified freely through the Redemption that came by Christ Jesus, Rom 3:24. Spiritual Redemption is already ours but we will not be set free from the Physical limitations and sufferings of our bodies until our Adoption, when the Lord returns, Rom 8:23. Meanwhile we're committed to not grieve the Holy Spirit with whom we were sealed for that day of Redemption, Eph 4:30. The related verb, Lutroo is used of Christ giving Himself to Redeem us from all INIQUITY/wickedness, Titus 2:14. And, of our not being redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold from our VAIN CONVERSATION/empty way of life, but with the precious blood of Christ, 1 Pet 1:18.

Exagorazo- To buy out of the Agora- Market Place, was used for buying a slave in order to set him free - permanently. This is the word used in Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, Gal 3:10-13 - the curse that was on us for failing to keep it all perfectly. The Law and Death held us enslaved, 1 Cor 15:56-57. God sent His Son to redeem those under the Law that we might receive the full rights of sons (As Israel was redeemed from Egypt), Gal 4:5. We're to live life to the full, REDEEMING/making the most of the time because the days are evil, Eph 5:16; Col 4:5.

Agorazo- Bought in the market place, is used of buying the Field, and the Pearl, Mt 13:44, 46 and of our being bought with a price - so committed to honouring God with our body, and not becoming slaves of men, 1 Cor 6:20 7:23. The Redeemed in Heaven Praise the Redeemer who with His blood REDEEMED/purchased men for God out of every nation, Rev 5:9.

Exaireo- To rescue. He gave Himself for our sins to DELIVER/rescue- Exaireo us from the present evil age, Gal 1:4. Exaireo is used of Joseph, Israel, Peter and Paul, Acts 7:10, 34; 12:11; 26:17.

Christ the Purifier- In Ex 29:36 etc LXX translates Kaphar as purifying- Hagnizo, or making clean- Katharizo. Cp Rev 1:5. By the sacrifice of Himself Christ provided Purification of sins, Heb 1:3. His perfect suffering on our behalf is bringing many sons to Glory, Heb 2:10. The bodies of animals whose blood the High Priest brought into the

offering - an animal sacrifice.) In 1 Tim 2:15 Paul accepted their financial gift to him as a fragrant offering - an acceptable sacrifice pleasing to God.

Equipment used in Ceremonial Law

Materials, Skills & Pattern- God's people were to give and use the materials and skills He had provided to make the Tabernacle, and all the equipment needed by which the Law could be kept. It was voluntary work for God, in obedient fellowship with God, but it all had to conform visibly to the pattern of His invisible Being and Purposes. A difficult and demanding work, but it could be done because it was a matter of Physical action, Ex 25:1-9; 35:4-39:43 Num 8:4.

Ark & MERCY SEAT/Atonement Cover- Kapporeth. A slab of Gold with Cherubim facing each other, hammered out of one lump of Gold. It served as a kind of covering/lid to the Ark that contained the stone Tablets of God's Law. God, according to His promise, would be there enthroned above the Mercy Seat to meet and talk with them. This made it the central feature of the Tabernacle/ Israel's worship. And on Yom Kippur the atoning blood was sprinkled on and before it in His presence, when the High Priest entered once a year amid clouds of incense, Ex 25:10-22 31:7; 35:12; Lev 16:2; Num 7:89, etc.

CHRIST our Mercy Seat- Hilasterion in Heb 9:5, as in the LXX. GOD has SET HIM FORTH/presented Him TO BE A PROPITIATION/sacrifice of atonement- Hilasterion through Faith in His blood, to DECLARE/demonstrate His RIGHTEOUSNESS/justice FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS THAT ARE PAST/committed beforehand, Rom 3:25 See Atonement, page 14

Lamp stand- Giving Light/Truth by which to serve Him/ serve in His presence, Ex 25:31-40 Num 8:1-4. Oil for lamps- to keep them burning, Ex 27:20-21; Lev 24:1-4. See Zech 4:1-14. Anointing Oil- for Priests, Tabernacle and its furnishings to make them HOLY/set them apart for the use of God, Ex 29:7 30:22-33 31:11; 35:28 37:29, 40:9-15; Lev 8:2-12, 30 Anointing set a man apart for God-given service, and is associated with the Holy Spirit coming upon them to empower them, 1 Sam 16:12-13.

202120, 2110, 3031 001, 221a 02. It seems to me that the Lord Jesus is in some way what this altar symbolised, but there is no NT statement of this except possibly Heb 13:10.

Footnote **10 The Lord patterned the life of all Christians and provided for us that we also would all be BORN of the Spirit, Jn 3:5-8, BAPTISED of the Spirit, and continue to DRINK into Him, 1 Cor 12:13, as we use our God-given gifts. By the Spirit we also live in joyful dependent fellowship with the Father, Jn 15:9-12; 20:21; 2 Cor 1:22 1 Jn 4:17. The Holy Spirit shines God's Truth on us, Jn 14:16-17, 25-26 15:26 16:12-15; 1 Cor 2:6-16; 1 Jn 2:27, and empowers us to shine as witnesses, Acts 1:8. Those who wish to follow this subject through will find this list useful: Mt 10:20 28:19; Lk 11:13; Jn 3:5-8; 6:63 7:37-39, Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-40 4:8; 5:3-10, 32 6:3-7; 7:55-60; 8:15-17, 29-40 9:17, 31; 10:19-20 44-48 11:11-17, 21-24, 28 13:1-4, 9-12, 52 15:7-10, 28-29, 16:6-7; 19:2-7; 20:22-24, 28 21:4, 11; Rom 2:29 5:5; 7:6; 8:2-16, 23 26-27; 9:1; 14:17; 15:13, 16, 19, 30 1 Cor 2:10-16; 3:10-17; 6:11, 19; 7:40 12:3-13; Spirit in Ch 14 seems to be the man's human spirit); 2 Cor 1:22 3:3-18; 5:5; 6:6; 11:4; 13:14; Gal 3:2-5, 14; 4:6-7, 29 5:5, 16-26 6:8; Eph 1:13; 2:18, 22 3:4-5, 16-19; 4:3-7, 30-32 5:18-21; 6:17-18; Phil 1:19; 2:1-3; 1 Th 1:5-7, 4:8; 2 Th 2:13-15; 2 Tim 1:14; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Pet 1:2, 12; 4:14; 1 Jn 3:24-4:6, 13; Ju 1:19-21; Rev 22:17.

Table- For the SHOWBREAD/Bread of Presence. The Table was placed just outside the Veil which screened off the Glory of God's presence above the Mercy Seat. As the Priests ate this bread after it had been replaced by New Bread at each Sabbath it was also a symbol of God's fellowship-provision for His people, from what they gave to Him, Ex 25:23-30 Num 4:7. Bread for the Table- Lev 24:5-9.

Christ the Bread of Life for us, fresh from the presence of God, Jn 6:32-51. (The main symbolism there is of course the Manna, as Bread. Christ as the Bread on whom we feed is also pictured in the Last Supper-Breaking of Bread.)

LAVEN/Basin- Water for Priest's washing. God required that those who came into His presence be Clean, Ex 30:17-21. **11

Christ our Laver- The Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ (by the Spirit's action) is the means by which we have been washed from the filth of our sins, Acts 10:15; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 7:1; Eph 5:25-27; 1 Jn 1:7-9; Rev 1:5 [RT-KJV] [Nes- NIV] expresses the same thought as freed from them. Our Lord symbolised this in Jn 13:1-10. The Lord is, and has made, perfect provision for His people to become clean, and to be clean in

It (providing the way into God's presence) is finished, the Temple Veil was torn apart from the top to the bottom, Mt 27:50-51. The Glory cloud of the Lord's presence was no longer there, but our Lord's death had provided access into the immediate presence of God, for every Believer.

Christ the Curtains/ Veil- The human body of Christ was the Temple/ Tabernacle indwelt by God, making the Presence of God a reality among His people, Jn 2:19-21. Our Lord said I am the WAY, Jn 14:6. His body is the Veil, which by its atoning death is a new and living way by which we now enter the presence of God, Heb 10:19-20

Footnote **11 The OT ceremonial included WASHINGS- Baptismos Heb 9:10, as in Mk 7:4, 8; Heb 6:2; 9:10. These are the only times when Baptismos is used, but because the word is related to our word Baptism- Baptisma it may need to be said that John's baptism symbolised Repentance/willingness to be rid of sins, and water may refer to that in Jn 3:5. Our water Baptism symbolises our being DEAD to our old life and its sin, not merely cleansed from it.

Sacred clothes for Priests- To give them GLORY/Dignity and BEAUTY/Honour so they could represent God and serve Him as priests. These fitted the Priest to come into the presence of God, Ex 28:1-43 They included names engraved to be carried on Priest's shoulders, and over his heart, and Urim & Thummim - the means of making decisions for the Israelites, Ex 28:9, 21, 29-30 Bells and Pomegranates, Ex 28:35 Gold Plate with Holiness to the Lord - to bear INIQUITY/Guilt of the Israelites' offerings, Ex 28:38 Linen undergarments, Ex 28:42-43

Christ our High Priest is Clothed by His Nature, and in His functioning clothed in the Gold of glorious incorruptibility, the Scarlet of sacrificial blood, the heavenly Blue, the royal Purple, and the fine white linen of righteous living, Rev 19:8. He bears our names on His Shoulders and Heart. He will never forget us. The Crucifixion Marks on the hands of the risen Christ assure us of His, Jn 20:19-20 Isa 49:15-16.

Incense Altar Ex 30:1-10. Incense Ex 30:34-38 These are taken to symbolise the unique attractiveness and acceptability of the Lord/ His Name, as in the allegory of Songs, 1:3. Incense rising to God is a symbol of Prayer, and ours are acceptable/pleasing to God when they are in the Name/authority/in tune with Christ, Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-4.

apart as Priests so that God could live among His people, and they could know Him as the Lord their God. We have already referred to the Sacrifices, Clothes etc which were provided to equip them to serve God on man's behalf, and vice-versa. These made an atonement for them/made them acceptable to function as God's priests, Ex 28:6-43 29:1-46 Lev 8:1-36 With Death as the alternative, they must not act as Priests unless as ordained by God, and not unclean/unfit for any reason, Lev 21:1-24; 22:1-16. The experience of Nadab & Abihu, Korah etc, underlined this, Lev 10:1-20 Num 16:1-50 17:1-13; 18:1-7.

Under the High Priest they were to guide, and give verdicts on, the whole range of people's lives. They must KNOW God, and His will, Teach, encourage, lead by example, all His people to Know Him, and to live in fellowship with Him, Lev 10:10-11; 13:1-14:57; Deu 21:5 etc. Human Priests had their life needs met by a share of the offerings, firstfruits, tithes, Lev 7:28-38 27:30-34; Num 18:21-32 Deu 14:22-29 18:1-8; 26:1-15. (Before Moses, under God, set up this Priesthood, the head of each family was its Priest, Gen 8:20-21, 22:12-13.)

CHRIST our High Priest- The Son of God became human - one of us - and suffered as the Godly must always suffer, and so is a sympathetic High Priest - One we can approach with confidence. He is Faithful and True to God, and to us, and having made atonement for our sins, brings us into fellowship with God by removing those sins. We're to fix our eyes not on Moses the faithful servant of God who by the Law mediated Servanthood, but on Christ the Faithful Servant-Son of God who mediates Sonship to us, Heb 2:10-3:6. To Christ our Great High Priest, source of needed mercy and help, everything is open, and His Word is able to act on our inmost self as we deal honestly with God. He is God's agent in transforming us, and is perfectly fitted to meet our every need, from His Priestly Throne of Grace as we come to Him, Heb 4:12-5:1. Like God's OT Priests, He was chosen from among men, to offer our contributions to God for His work, and His sacrifice on our behalf fits us to be God's people. He was made perfect for this role by sharing our weakness and sufferings, but sinlessly, so the sacrifices He offered were for our sins only, Heb 4:15; 7:27, and He is High Priest forever, Heb 5:1-10.

The Aaronic Priesthood was flawed/ineffective, and the OT Law was weak and UNPROFITABLE/useless, Heb 7:11-19, so Christ is a Melchizedek-type Priest, and operates under a new Law. God's PURPOSE hasn't

whose work dealt with the shadows that preshadowed the eternal reality. Under the New Covenant associated with the True Sanctuary, God's Laws/revealed will are in the hearts of His people. Their sins are forgiven, and they know God for themselves. This is effective and replaces the Old Covenant which had been ineffective because no-one kept it, Heb 8:1-13 - or could keep it, Rom 8:3-4. The external Law had been outgrown and was replaced. The earthly Physical Sanctuary with its continual round of animal sacrifices, external actions and cleansings, dealt with sin in external ways, leaving consciences unsatisfied. This temporary scheme has been replaced by Christ who entered the True Most Holy Place with His own Blood and so obtained eternal Redemption for us by offering Himself through the Eternal Spirit as an unblemished Sacrifice. Christ's offering dealt with the roots of sin, in the inward reality of our being, and cleansed our conscience from the activities that lead to death, so that we can freely serve the Living God, Heb 9:11-14; Rom 8:1-17, 28-34; Gal 2:20 Christ as Mediator of the NEW Covenant provides for us REDEMPTION/a ransom- Apolutrosis- That which sets us free from the transgressions committed under the First/Old Covenant, so that we now receive the promised eternal inheritance God purposed for us, Heb 9:15.

The OLD Covenant and Law was made final and irreversible by the death of the Covenant victims and the sprinkling of their Blood. The NEW Covenant has been made final/ irreversible, and takes effect, because Christ whose "Will and Testament"- Diatheke, it is, died, and the provisions of that will are legally available for distribution. There is no REMISSION/ forgiveness- Aphesis- Sending away, freeing from sin, without the Shedding of blood. Under the OLD Law the High Priest took the blood of animals into the earthly Holy of Holies once every year. Under the NEW Covenant/Law Christ entered the True Holy of Holies= acted in the presence of God dealing with the eternal realities of God's purposes/man's rebellion and sin, with His own Blood. He did this once at the End- Sunteleia- Completion of the WORLD/Age- Aion. The Coming, Life, Atoning Death, Resurrection and Ascension was the completion of God's work in the world that will ensure His purposes will be fulfilled. All Rebel powers have been defeated, Col 2:15. Sin has been dealt with, and full provision has been made for His people - they're Justified, and glorified. When He returns, the application of Salvation to His own will be complete, Rom 8:23-25; Phil 3:21, and Judgment meted out to those who rejected Him, Heb 9:16-28 10:26-31.

The MORAL Law & its FULFILMENT in CHRIST

(The Moral Law expands Commandments 5-10. This expansion takes only half the space devoted to the Ceremonial Law. As many of the details aren't directly relevant to Christ they are given in Appendix III.)

Did Christ Keep the Law? In the will of God, our Lord and Saviour was born, according to the Promise to Abraham, of a Jewish mother, and according to the Promise to David, she was one of his descendants. So He was born under the Law, Gal 4:4, and lived under it, Lk 2:22-24; sinlessly in fellowship with the Father, Jn 8:29. Some say that the Law is the revelation of the eternal will of God, that it can never be changed, and so we must keep it. This ignores the fact that idolatry, Disobeying parents, Adultery etc aren't possible in Heaven. Rather the Law is the will of the eternal God applied to the lives of sinful men in such a way as to be most helpful to their limited understanding and limited desire to please Him. To lie, steal, murder, etc are forbidden, and need to be forbidden, only as long as there is any desire or ability to commit those sins.

The Law as given by Moses was God-given and true, but only in the sense that the Laws of Mathematics, etc given to young children are. It was TRUE, as far as it went, but Christ was TRUTH in Human form. As Lord of the Sabbath, Mt 12:8, and all the other Laws, He did not hesitate to RE-WRITE THEM.

When the New Maths came in 30 years back the experts said the minds of 5 year olds were at the "Concrete Operational Stage - they learnt by dealing with things they could see and feel. It was true enough (Their morality is at that stage too - they need to see your smile or frown, feel your smack or hug, before they get the message!) The child took his coloured Cuisenaire rods, and put a 2 cm rod next to a 3 cm rod, and found that they're the same length as a 5 cm rod. So he learnt that $2+3=5$, hopefully. But, 15 years later in a maths exam at University he doesn't cover his desk top with cuisenaire rods! The rods were true and useful as far as they went, but he's outgrown them, and his mind functions automatically in terms of Equivalence, Conservation of Number etc.

him to recognise it when he saw a Kinnar tree, but what he saw would replace my sketch. The Law sketched out the way men should live in order to please God, and enjoy life - The man who does these things shall LIVE in them, Gal 3:12. It helped to restrain men from sinful actions and show when they went wrong so they could repent and seek forgiveness. But it's only a sketched outline, limited to their understanding, and to what can be put into words, useful, but falls far short of the real thing. The Lord Jesus EMBODIED the will of God for man - He was God embodied, the One from whom the Law had come. Our Lord's life placed over the outline of the Law, left nothing of it not covered with a better and fuller expression of the will of God.

The Pharisees made a determined effort to keep every possible detail of the Law, but this was a dead end because it cleaned up only the externals of their lives, Mt 23:26; Mk 7:2-6; Lk 18:10-12. They were so fussy about Law-keeping that they wouldn't eat an egg unless sure it wasn't laid on the Sabbath by a Sabbath-breaking hen! Or laid on Sunday or Monday in case the hen was working on the Sabbath to make those eggs inside her. In a Jewish hotel we were refused milk in our tea because we might still have some meat in our digestive systems, and the milk just might have come from the mother of the animal the meat came from - they quoted Thou shalt not boil a young goat in its mother's milk, Ex 23:19. Pharisees hoped to be rewarded in God's Kingdom but the Lord said only those with a higher standard of righteousness could even get into the Kingdom of God, Mt 5:20 **12

In the life of Christ, (and ultimately in all who are in Christ) the seed of the written Law is developed into the plant, achieves its full purpose - Man living in the image of God and to His Glory, Gen 1:27; Rom 8:29; Jude 24-25 Christ didn't KEEP the Law in the sense of merely doing all the Law commanded, but FULFILLED the Law in that ALL His thoughts/feelings/attitudes were in fellowship with God the Father, Jn 8:29. The Law had nothing to say to Him - it was written to restrain those who were by nature sinners - murderers, etc, 1 Tim 1:9. The Lord never had to say to himself "I must not tell lies today," etc. To be the spotless sacrifice for our sins His every thought, word, and action needed to be in fellowship with the Will of God. Not just uncondemned by the form of words in which God gave His Law to Moses. In Jn 8:46 He could confidently challenge his critics to point out one failure to live up to the Law, or His higher level Law statement in Mt 5. John the Apostle, who knew Him so well, wrote He came to take away sins, and in Him was no sin, 1 Jn 3:5.

He quoted the Law and filled it out by showing the true demands of Law beneath the surface-obedience of the Pharisees, Mt 5:17-18; Lk 16:17-18; 24:44-48

Murder is a wrong action, a SIN, but that's not the full story. Murder comes from Anger. Anger is the ROOT, murder is its FRUIT. The thoughts and feelings of that Anger are wrong, a sin, and risk leading to murder. Name-calling and abusive language is sin. It's murdering people with words, Mt 5:21-22. Of course no murderer is in fellowship with God, 1 Jn 3:15, but God can't welcome us or what we offer until sins of thought, feeling, and words are put right. We should put things right promptly. Once you get to Court saying "Sorry" then, can't stop the Court process, Mt 5:23-26

Footnote **12 Some claim that the Pharisees' failure was lack of sincerity, and a heart's love for God and man, which is true. But God's Word says that only God can GIVE that - the most earnest human endeavour is a dead-end until one has been Born Again, Born of the Spirit of God. Only God Himself in us can move us to want to please God, and enable us to do so, Phil 2:12-13. The sincerity and zeal of Saul of Tarsus enabled him to live in PHYSICAL obedience to the Law as interpreted by the Pharisees, Acts 22:3; 23:1; Phil 3:5-6. It was when he faced the INVISIBLE ATTITUDE required by the Law - Not coveting - that he realised that it condemned him, and every other man, Rom 7:7-11. The works of the Law are a spiritual dead-end, Rom 9:31-10:13; Gal 2:16; 3:2-3, 5-7.

By God's Grace you and I are assured of being with the Lord in Glory. But the first business we have there is to Appear, be Manifested, Displayed - us, our behaviour as His Children, before His Judgment Seat, to Receive what we have done in the body, 2 Cor 5:10. In this body - what its tongue has said, hands have done. In the Body of Christ - in our interaction with each other. Whatever it means had the effect of making Paul go all out after living to please the Lord, constantly in Fellowship with Him.

Adultery is a wrong action, a SIN, but again, that's not the full story. When King David glanced down into the garden next door and noticed Bath Sheba as an attractive woman - that wasn't sin. But instead of looking the other way, he kept gazing at her lustfully, and was already thinking about sexual union with her - in his heart and mind committing adultery with her, before he got a chance to do so with his body. So, our Lord warned that to look lustfully at a woman (who is not your wife) is sin, Mt

an, sacrificially, without to do more than others demand, 3:33-12 Love your neighbour becomes love your enemy as well, in fact nothing short of being like God in attitude and behaviour is acceptable, 5:43-48

Other Commandments upgraded in NT

- I am the Lord who redeemed you from Egypt, Ex 20:1-2./ redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, 1 Pet 1:18-19
- You must not make idols. You belong to Me alone, and I must punish or reward everything you do according to whether it's disobeying, or obeying Me, Ex 20:3-6./ Offer yourself as a Living Sacrifice, Rom 12:1. Do ALL to the glory of God, 1 Cor 10:31.
- You must not speak about Me lightly, or misuse My Name, Ex 20:7./ Blasphemy against the witness of the Holy Spirit in heart and mind is damning, Mt 12:30-32, Mk 3:22, 28-29.
- Stop working physically every 7th day, and Rest instead on the Finished Work of Creation, Ex 20:8-11./ Stop working Spiritually - relying on your efforts to be right with God by keeping His Law. Rest - relying on the Finished work of Redemption, Heb 4:7-11.
- Honour your Father and Mother, Ex 20:12./ Honour everyone, parents, children, brothers sisters, neighbours, workmates, 1 Pet 2:17.
- Don't steal, Ex 20:15./ Those who used to steal, stop stealing, and work so as to be able to give things away to those in need, Eph 4:28
- Don't tell lies about people, Ex 20:16./ Say only what is true, and love must be the motive of all the truth you speak, Eph 4:15.
- You must not covet/want to have anything that is not yours, Ex 20:17./ Be content with what you have, because God is with you always, Heb 13:5.
- The Lord's Use of the Law- The Law stirred up people's expectation that Messiah would come, Jn 1:45 The Lord used men's knowledge of the Law as a witness to them, Mt 7:12; 23:36-40 23:23, Jn 8:17; 10:34. Pronounced Woe on them for fussing over details and ignoring important matters, Lk 10:25-28 and so failing to keep it, Jn 7:19. He also said that only those free of a sin could enforce law's penalties on it, Jn 8:5-9.
- Paul's Use of the Law- He was thoroughly trained in the Law, and zealous, Acts 22:3,12. He worshipped the God of the Fathers as a follower of the Way, and believed everything that agrees with the Law and was written in the prophets, Acts 24:14. He had done nothing against the Law of the Jews, Acts 25:8. He preached from it, Acts 13:15, He declared to them the Kingdom of God and tried to convince them of Jesus from the Law of Moses and the prophets, Acts 28:23

us, 1 Cor 2:14-16. To our natural, religious minds actions done in obedience to God's OT Law are solid and real, but God says it's only a shadow. **13 Law gives us things to do that we can understand, a way of measuring our progress, and comparing ourselves with others as better or worse. Humans naturally view the Law as a scale by which they build up enough good actions to outweigh their bad ones, and so be acceptable to God. Or a bank of earned righteousness in which the self-righteous can build up a credit balance. But Salvation by Law-Keeping would require us to be Perfect as our God is - as the Lord Jesus in His life on earth was, Mt 5:48 Jn 8:28

Footnote **13 Millions have been misled by the teachings of churches which have imposed the OT Ceremonial Law - Human priests, Vestments, Incense, "Sacrificing Christ" on the Altar in the Mass - often for a fee as a means of shortening time spent in a mythical Purgatory, Infant Christening replacing Infant circumcision, Fast days and Feast days, and food laws etc. Millions also have been side-tracked by the attempt to impose the OT "Moral" Laws, and Church extensions of them as a means of Christian living. These have largely buried the Gospel of the Grace of God. The idea that anyone can live in fellowship with God and to His Glory by obeying a set of rules is rubbish in the Bible, Gal 3:21. If it had been possible for us to please God and be Righteous by our efforts at keeping the Law before we got saved, or after we got saved Christ was wasting His time, Gal 2:21.

The Law seems a way of controlling the actions of church members to make their lives better. No-one ever did keep all the decrees and laws, but trying to keep them made them better-behaved, happier people, and made them realise they were sinners, and so make sin offerings to God to have their sins forgiven. But while there is truth in this, it all too easily becomes the folly that God condemns in Galatians - The folly of viewing Law-keeping as a way of being righteous with God. The Law was brought in at Sinai, for the specific purpose of dealing with sin, until Christ should come, and righteousness should be available by Faith in Him. From then on human effort to keep the Law was OUT. It had nothing more to say to us. We Christians no longer look to the Law to find out what we should do we look to Christ, and set out to live trusting Him, and in fellowship with Him. The Holy Spirit is in us to set us free from the struggle to obey the Law that left us in sin, and subject to Judgment, and Death, Rom 8:1-4. God says we've died to the Law and

10:14-17; 15:11-22; 16:1-17; 17:1-18; 21:1-18. Its emphasis is on showing in detail that assures us of Heaven, Col 1:27, and moves us to prepare for Heaven here and now, Eph 3:13-21; Col 3:15-17; 1 Jn 3:1-3.

Paul had been a determined, careful, Pharisee Law-Keeper, and he felt good about his ability to control his actions, Phil 3:6. But no-one can completely control their thoughts and feelings and Thou shalt not covet, condemned him. The Law is holy, righteous and good but trying to keep it launches us into a hopeless battle against our sinful nature in which sin is always the winner as the Law provokes a man to sin, and condemns him to death for sinning, Rom 7:7-13. Cp Rom 2:12-29, 3:19-20, 13:8-10. When we try to keep the Law it shows us that our very nature is hopelessly sinful, sin-loving, and it's our fault as we often choose to sin even when we know that what we are choosing is wrong.

Even as Redeemed in Christ our old nature instinctively serves sin. We must turn our back on the Law-sin-death team and make full use of our new Freedom in Christ who sets us free from the Law of Sin and Death - ie The hopeless attempt at obedience to the Law that always must bring condemnation to death for our failure to keep it, 1 Cor 15:56. In that new life and power in the Spirit, as a result of what Christ has done, we're God's children, know it, and are free to choose to live that way. This fulfils God's eternal purpose in Creation.

The Law prepared us for Salvation by teaching us that we were hopeless sinners, Rom 3:20. It showed us we were in prison. It was God's Child-minding servant/slave to shepherd us along to Christ. This is using the Law lawfully/according to God's purpose in giving it, as it was made not for the righteous, but for Law-breakers, rebels, murderers, etc. 1 Tim 1:8-9. Only the Lord Jesus pleased God in all He thought, felt, said, and did. There is no way that you and I could ever be right with God by living a good enough life. Anyone who relies on obeying the LAW is under God's curse unless he continues to do everything written in the LAW, Gal 3:10-11. One infringement of the rules disqualifies a Contestant at the Olympic Games, and one infringement of God's Law disqualifies any attempt at Righteousness by Law-keeping, Jas 2:10. A tyre with ONE hole in it, goes flat. A telephone line, or power line, with ONE break in it is dead. If I am dangling from a chain, and ONE link breaks, I drop!

That all have sinned is made obvious by the Law, and that all have come short of the Glory of God as displayed in the life of Christ is obvious.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law. He did this so we could by Faith receive the promised Spirit, Gal 3:13-14. When we receive Christ we're born again, born into God's family, born of the Spirit. Jn 1:12; 3:6-8, a New Creation in Christ, 2 Cor 5:17. Baptised by the Spirit into the body of Christ, 1 Cor 12:13. Led of the Spirit, who witnesses with our spirit that we're God's children, and enables us to live in fellowship with God, Rom 8:1-16, and produces in us the fruits of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23. Such living, with our lives being controlled by Love for Christ and our Neighbour, may seem vague, shadowy. God assures us that the shadow is the written Law. The way for us to live is in fellowship with Christ crucified - Him living in us, Gal 2:16-21. The Lord Jesus united Believing Jews and Gentiles, by abolishing- Katargeo in His flesh the Law- Nomos which divided them, so by the Spirit we all have access to the Father, Eph 2:14-18.

Once it brings us to Christ we're made righteous/ Justified by faith in Him, the Law has ended its work, Gal 3:22. The Law operated on the slave principle of unthinking obedience motivated by fear of earning its condemnation. From the KJV some get the idea the Law is our teacher as Christians, Gal 3:23-25. But the Greek word Paidagogos **14 means the household slave put in charge of a boy to protect and train him. It may take us to school, but we're to pay attention to Christ our teacher, Mt 23:8-10. In Christ, endowed with the Spirit of Sonship we operate on the Son Principle, the freedom to apply the principles of Love, with a disciplined mind, Gal 4:6-7; 4:21-5-6; 2 Tim 1:7.

Footnote **14 The nearest modern equivalent today is the "Baby-sitter" parents hire to care for their children when they go out for the evening. Baby-sitter Law has no right to say what the children must do once the Parents come home.

We received the Spirit when we believed the Gospel, not when we had kept the Law well enough, and we're to live now by Faith in Christ/by the Spirit, not by trying to keep the Law, Gal 3:2-5. It's our having received Christ as Saviour, and He being in us that makes us certain of heaven, Col 1:27. The "circumcision" that marks us as God's people isn't done with human hands Christening us, Col 2:9-15, but by the Holy Spirit's action, Jn 3:5-8; 1 Cor 12:13, and it's this which is expressed in our water-baptism, and gives value to it, Rom 6:1-23. The Lord's commands in Mt 5 deal with the heart of the matter of living in fellowship with God, but demand a perfection that is possible only by the Lord keeping His promise to put His Laws in our hearts, and write them in our minds, Jer

All His Commandments are summed up as Abide in my love - love one another. This is a matter of living as His Friends, sharing His interests, doing things His way, putting Him first, others next, and self last, laying down our lives, putting them at His disposal, as we live day by day, Jn 15:9-17. Some may say It's a nice idea, but this world isn't a place where it's easy to be always loving. But the Lord Jesus lived that way in this world, as a human being by doing what the Father wanted Him to do, and we can remain in His Love in the same way. He says so, and He knows what He is talking about. The world may not be kind to us - it wasn't always kind to Him either, but He loved and acted lovingly towards everyone all the time, and so remained happy in His Father's love.

Some say they can't love people who aren't lovable and they're not going to be a hypocrite and pretend to. Good. Trying to feel loving towards people doesn't work and pretending to love them won't please God either - Ananias and Sapphira pretended to love the poor enough to give them the whole price of the land they sold and that killed them, Acts 5. By commanding us to Love each other as He loves us Christ reminds us that He doesn't pretend we deserve it, or that we're always lovable. He JUST LOVES US. Thank God! Some people are nasty. The way they behave is hateful to God. They are as lovable to Him as a bit of grit in our eye, or a bigger bit in our shoe, but He loves them because He IS Love, not because of what they are. If we want to stay in happy fellowship with Him we must yield to the Love He pours into us, Rom 5:5, and let Him show His love for our enemies by praying for them, and doing them a good turn when we can, Mt 5:44; Lk 6:27. We can't make ourselves love like that, but the suffering caused by our enemies is bearable, when we remember that when we were enemies Christ died for us, Rom 5:5-6.

Our job is to thank Him, and use His gift of Himself by obeying Him. Love that can act Lovingly always, is a fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Gal 5:22-23, but that Spirit-derived Love-joy-peace is inseparable from the Spirit-derived patience-kindness-faithfulness-goodness-gentleness-self-control we're willing to use in dealing with difficult people, Acts 2:42-47; Gal 6:10; Phil 2:1-16; 1 Th 5:12-24; 2 Pet 1:1-11. The ones closest to us may be our sternest test, (perhaps because they're so much like us?!) - because they are important in our lives they upset us the most. Our

Our nature protests "It's not natural! It's not Me! Why should I!" Of course it's not natural, it's spiritual, the fruit of the Spirit! It's the way the Lord behaved. The way God's children behave. The way things go in Heaven - Do we want to be at home there? It's the way people live, who live happily in the Love of Jesus. It's what the Lord spoke of as laying down our lives- Psuche- The Soul-life of our instincts and feelings. Giving up our right to do what we feel like doing, so we can happily share life in Christ with others, Jn 15:13. If we feel that it just about kills us to be nice to others sometimes, Phil 2:1-15 style, it's what the Lord commands us to do if we want to keep living happily in His Love. Paul summed it up in Gal 2:20 I have been Crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life that I now live in the body, I live by the Faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. At times we may speak too lightly of the Lord being with us at all times, without thinking of the pain that loyalty to us costs Him.

If I could talk its language, I could spend hours teaching the Law of butterfly life to a Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar saying "Look you shouldn't be chewing those leaves - that's low food, you should be sipping honey from flowers. Stop crawling around like that why don't you fly! It looks much more elegant, it's smarter to fly, it would be more fun - You could at least TRY to fly." All the Law and rules of Butterfly life are wasted on it. What it needs is a new birth into a new life, with a new nature, 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15, and being granted that commits us to constantly choosing that new way of life, Rom 8:9-16. There's an old verse which sums it up: "Run John and work the Law demands, But gives us neither feet nor hands. A better word the Gospel brings, Bids men to fly, and gives us wings."

Do Christians have to keep the Law? Well if all the above has happened to us we've got something better to do than look at the Law, and seeing how righteous we can be by its standards. We keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus, and follow Him. Lay aside every weight.. run patiently.. looking.. Heb 12:1-3. As long as we are constantly checking with the Lord as to His will, and as to what is acting in love, the Written Word is no longer a "Do-it-yourself" manual to make us better than others, or to gain a pass mark. (It's 100% if that's what we're aiming at!) It's more of a love-letter from Him revealing Himself and His will to us that under the Spirit's guidance and power draws us to Him, and moulds us into His

Gal 2:1-21; in Acts 15; and the Galatian Epistle as a whole, we see that the Gospel was in danger of being nullified by being put into a Strait-jacket of Law. It was vital that this not be allowed to happen Gal 1:6-9. Shared Salvation and Love in Christ required Jews and Gentiles to avoid offending each other. Like Paul we're free to conform to local customs to better reach them with the Gospel, Rom 14:1-15:13; 1 Cor 9:19-23 But we're to defy any attempt to make us keep the Sabbath and OT Law, Col 2:16-17.

Christian Jews at Jerusalem continued to be zealous Law-Keepers, attending the Temple, Acts 3:1, taking vows, and making the sacrifices when the vow was completed, Num 6:13-20 They called their local churches Synagogues, Jas 2:2. There was a danger that rival Jewish and Gentile churches would be set up, or as in Galatia, Gentile Churches be compelled to keep the Law. Paul's great answer was to have the Gentile Churches show the reality of Fellowship with Jerusalem by giving a generous gift for the poor there, and have the Jerusalem believers accept this in Christ, not reject it as unclean Gentile money. The Jerusalem Apostles accepted this, but insisted that to give the impression that he wasn't preaching that OT Law wasn't binding on God's people Paul join local Christians briefly in making a vow, and in paying for sacrifices to mark the completion of their vows as if Christ hadn't replaced all Sacrifices, Acts 21:17-26 Until the destruction of the Temple, AD. 70, it seems many Jewish Christians were still trying to put the Gospel into the wine-skin of Law-Keeping, Mt 9:17, including worship at the Temple,

As a Practical Matter The issue of the relationship between Christians and the Law is important. "Saved by the Grace of God, sure of Heaven and Free to live as I please as Grace forgives all Sin," is a damnable lie, Rom 6:1-23 Lawlessness- Anomia. A- Negative, Nomos- Law. Non-conformity to God's revealed will, wickedness, is totally unacceptable to the Lord, Mt 7:23; Rom 6:19; 2 Cor 6:14; Titus 2:14; 1 Jn 3:4. That those who are in Christ have been redeemed from under the Law to live as sons puts us under Christ's Law, 1 Cor 9:20-21 - Christ is the Law written in our hearts, Jer 31:33-34; Heb 10:16.

Or put in another way it's because His Spirit is in us, and we're led of the Spirit we're not under the Law, Rom 8:9-17. When we received Christ and were born again, born of the Spirit, Jn 1:12; 3:5-8 that new life in us lives in fellowship with God, far above the sins involved in breaking the

Because the precious blood of Christ bought us to set us free from slavery to sin and unites us to Christ, we're moved to use that freedom to become Christ-like, Rom 6:15-7:6; 8:12-17; Gal 5:1-6, 13-26; Jas 1:25-27; 2:8-26 **16 The OT belongs to us as a text book of warnings and encouragements, Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11-13, and of things which illustrate for us God's principles, 1 Cor 9:8-12. The whole Scripture is profitable and equips us to live and serve fully to God's Glory, 2 Tim 3:15-17.

Being set free to live in fellowship with God on the basis of Faith/obedience to the Holy Spirit requires total reliance on Christ alone, and rules out circumcision and any reliance on the Law, as that frustrates/ makes useless Christ's work, Gal 5:1-4. That's why Paul resists the idea of Circumcision/ Law-obedience, and suffers for doing so, Gal 5:11; 6:12-16. Paul had all anyone could ever have of all that, and threw it away to rely wholly on Christ's righteousness/ fully enjoy Life in Christ, Phil 3:1-15. IF they live by the Spirit the fruit of the Spirit will be manifest in their lives. If they make their own decisions about things Self-indulgence will ruin their lives, OR they will be ruined by quarrelsome Self-righteousness which is also a work of the flesh/sinful human nature, Gal 5:1-26

One last point - The Levites did the physical work that made the work of the Priests possible. It seems to me that while without Christ our Priest we can do nothing in the way of spiritual work, the Levite-style physical work of preaching, teaching, caring etc which is committed to us as our responsibility is used by Him in doing His Spiritual work.

Footnote **15 The OT Laws are as irrelevant to a Believer living in fellowship with Christ His Lord, as Street Traffic lights are to an aeroplane pilot. But if we're flying our plane so low that we find we're faced with a red light - eg the action we're contemplating would be breaking Commandment 5, or 8, etc we must stop at once.

Footnote **16 It's possible that this sonship freedom from Law isn't instantaneous with the New Birth which makes us God's Children. Gal 4:1-31 may teach that at first we may need to be under the orders of the older Christians who care for us. In a sense Sonship involves maturity - Christ being formed in us, Gal 4:19, at considerable "Travail" to those involved! But Law-keeping must never be regarded as an alternative to Sonship-freedom

The SABBATH is Special

Resting on the Sabbath day gave the family time to socialise, and a rest for servants and working animals - Part of loving one's neighbour as oneself. When they stopped working on the 7th day the sun shone, plants grew, and the whole of Creation around them went on as usual. **18 Every week the Sabbath Rest reminded them of the FINISHED WORK OF CREATION, and God resting on the 7th Day but continuing to sustain the Universe in being. In that way it challenged them to have fellowship with His pattern of work and rest, and trust in His provision for them.

Along with most details of Law-Keeping the Sabbath isn't mentioned in Judges, Ruth, Samuel or 1 Kings. It's mentioned 8x in 2 Kings and Chronicles, and was important to the returned Exiles as it's mentioned 9x in Nehemiah (who stopped Sabbath working and trading, Neh 10:31; 13:15-22) Formal or reluctant keeping of Feasts, Sabbath, Sacrifices, etc merely annoyed the Lord. Keeping them sincerely, showing mercy and avoiding evil, was blessed by the Lord, Isa 1:13-20 56:2; Amos 8:4-6.

The Lord Jesus was born under the Law, as the One to fulfil the Law yet be the end of the Law, Gal 4:4. He kept the Sabbath, the food Laws, etc, even accepting the baptism of repentance, Mt 3:14-15, although He had nothing for which He could repent. And although God's Son, He paid temple tax, Mt 17:24-27. But the Lord treated the Sabbath Law differently from the other nine Commandments **19 and was constantly accused of breaking it when He acted in compassion as LORD of the Sabbath.

Footnote **17 There is no suggestion in Scripture that Adam, Noah, Abraham, etc kept the Sabbath Day. Israel was to Remember to keep it FROM THEN ON, as the Lord Jesus commanded us to Remember and show forth His Death in the Bread and Wine of the Last Supper, Lk 22:19; 1 Cor 11:23-26

Footnote **18 I like the children's story about the farmyard rooster who crowed every morning until the sun rose. One day his throat was too sore for him to crow, and he waited in misery - sure that daylight wouldn't come without his crowing. But the sun rose just the same. Of course roosters SHOULD crow, and Christians MUST evangelise, counsel, shepherd and teach, but always remember Who is doing the real work in us, and through us.

were forbidden, Mt 24:20 (Devout Jewish soldiers are said to have on one occasion early in the Maccabean revolt against Syria, allowed themselves to be slaughtered rather than break the Sabbath by fighting!)

The Sabbath Law stands out as the only one of the 10 Commandments not repeated in the NT, and in fact Christians were commanded not to let anyone judge them about it, Col 2:16-22. This seems to bear out the statement of Ex 31:12-17, that it belongs specifically to the Jews. **21 All such Laws were only foreshadowing the reality that would come in Christ. So for us who know Christ as our Saviour and Lord, setting aside the First Day, or the Seventh Day, or all the days of the week, to worship God isn't the basis of our Salvation, or of our assurance of Salvation. As Jews the women were right in obeying the Sabbath Law, Lk 23:56, rather than offend their consciences, and that of their neighbours. The Church was yet to be built, Mt 16:18, and when it was, Sabbath-keeping, and Food laws, became an option which some Christians chose - they were free to follow their consciences before the Lord, but were to show consideration for the consciences of others, Rom 14:5-10; 1 Cor 10:32.

When among Jews the Apostle Paul kept the OT Laws, 1 Cor 9:19-23. That synagogue rulers asked him to preach, suggests that he dressed as a Rabbi. Wherever he went he made a point of going to the Synagogue on the Sabbath as it was the day when the Jews were there, and he always gave them the first chance to hear the Gospel, Acts 13:14-16; 17:1-4, etc. We would do the same, or attend Moslem Mosques on Friday if we were allowed to preach Christ in them. Preaching in a Synagogue on the Sabbath didn't make the Apostle Paul a Sabbath-keeper any more than preaching on the Areopagus/ Mars Hill, Acts 17:17-34, made him a worshipper of Ares/Mars! (Synagogue worship had no Biblical authority, never being referred to in the OT.)

The ruling made by the Apostles and Elders at Jerusalem says nothing of the Gentiles being required to keep the Sabbath, Acts 15:19-21. (If Jews or Gentiles wanted to hear the Jewish Law they could attend the Synagogue on the Sabbath to hear it.) Jewish Christians tended to keep the Law including the weekly Sabbath, and the Seasonal Feast Sabbaths.

Footnote **20 That the rhythm of one day's rest in seven is wholesome for or needed by all of us is a reasonable inference from that.

Footnote **21 It seems that the Sabbath, New moons, and Feast of Tabernacles will be kept during the Millennium, Isa 66:18-24; Ezek 45:17; 46:1-17. That those who come

them Rest under His chosen King - but again through their unbelief, and the apostasy of King Solomon, Israel failed to enter into the Rest provided, Heb 4:6-8.

The Jewish Sabbath of resting one day a week from their physical work is not for us. It was only a shadow, foreshadowing the TRUE Sabbath the Lord Jesus has provided for us when He Himself bore our sins in His body on the Tree, so we might die to sins and live for Righteousness, 1 Pet 2:24. Being made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, 2 Cor 5:21.

It is FINISHED! the Lord cried out with a loud voice, and breathed out His life into the Father's care. His one offering of Himself for sin perfected His people for ever, and having completed the work of Salvation He sat down, Heb 10:8-14. This "Finished work" provides Rest for all who Cease from their own works, and come to Him, Mt 11:27-30. When we gave up our efforts at self-righteousness, and in Faith trusted our selves, our soul's salvation into the Saviour's hands we entered into REST and began that eternal Life of Fellowship/knowing the True God, and Jesus Christ whom He sent to be our Saviour, Jn 17:3. This is the Sabbath Rest- Sabbatismos for God's people today, Heb 4:9-11. **22

The hard work we must do is to stop trusting in the things WE can do and rest in the blessing of what HE has done. Trusting ourselves to His saving care is the work we must all do, Jn 6:28-29. Tragically, many who earnestly desire to be God's people continue to trust their own efforts to earn righteousness by Law-keeping, including Sabbath-keeping and yet may miss out on the eternal life which is God's gift, claimed by Faith, by those who know they are sinners. Those who respond to the Gospel enter the rest of Salvation - Grace-given Righteousness, by Faith in Christ, Rom 3:21-26; 6:23; 9:30-10:10. As we live and serve God in Christ, evangelise, shepherd, counsel, and teach, our total dependence on Him continues. Abide in Me, for without Me you can do nothing," Jn 15:5. We need to remember that.

Footnote **221 was a Student Teacher in 1942 under a teacher with a strong sense of responsibility. A chart on the wall full of earnest exhortations to activity was headed I. A. D. O. M. - "It All Depends On Me." I'm glad it doesn't. Im glad It All Depends on

have done as we can to please God, and realise that its as hopeless as patching a Car tube when the rubber is perished, Rom 8:3, the Lord says Come to me.. Take my Yoke.. and you will find Rest, Mt 11:28-30 Blessed be Christ our Sabbath Rest. That's the SABBA TH He wants you and me to keep. Are you enjoying that Sabbath Rest? Let's make sure we have placed ourselves in His hands, and are living in fellowship with Him, on the basis of His Finished Work which has made us perfect forever, Heb 10:14.

Lord's- Kuriakos Day- Rev 1:10. Some suggest John meant he was In the Spirit in the Day of the Lord seeing the Judgments that would happen in that future time, Isa 21:2; 13:6-9; Jer 46:10; Joel 1:15; Zech 14:1-3; Mal 4:5, etc, but they're not mentioned in the early chapters. It may mean it was a public holiday for the LORD/Emperor's Birthday, or other celebration, so John as a slave worker in the mines of Patmos had the day off and time to write. But would John call Caesar Lord? I and others like to think that it's the First Day of the Week, viewed as the Lord's Day because it was the day of His Triumphant Rising. This makes sense as the Greek Word Kuriakos is used only here of the Lord's Day, and in 1 Cor 11:20 of the Lord's Supper. Nowhere in Scripture or early Christian writings is the Sabbath called the Lord's Day.

First Day or Seventh Day the Holy Day- It's not surprising that there's no commandment to keep the 1st day as the New Covenant doesn't deal with keeping certain days holy. Christ rose from the Dead on the 1st Day, and appeared to the gathered Disciples that day, and on the 1st Day again, a week later, Jn 20:19-28 (Eight Days later -as they counted the first and last day into the week.) The Church was formed on the 1st Day of the week, Pentecost The morrow after the Sabbath, Lev 23:15-17. The Breaking of Bread is recorded on the 1st Day, Acts 16:7, and it's not recorded for the Sabbath. In 1 Cor 16:2, also, as collections were to be made then - or it may mean set aside at home. Christians have generally taken this, as a sufficient guidance. **23 Our attention is directed not to holy days, but to Christ, to fellowship with Him, to witnessing to Him, and to showing His love to others. Doing whatever we do to the Glory of God, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is the goal set before us. Collective witness and worship are to be arranged as convenient, eg As often as you eat this Bread, 1 Cor 11:26

Footnote **23 Ebionites - Christian Jews continued to keep the Sabbath etc long enough to have given Mahomet the idea that "Christ was a God-sent Prophet." Christian

Sabbath, and now order their lives by the Lord's Day instead (the Day when life first dawned for us, thanks to Him and His Death.)" The Epistle of Barnabas says "We too rejoice in celebrating the eighth day, because that was when Jesus rose from the dead, and showed Himself again, and ascended to Heaven." The only other very early Christian writing to mention the subject, the Didache, says "Assemble on the Lord's Day, break bread and offer the Eucharist (Giving of thanks)." The quotes are from Early Christian Writings, The Apostolic Fathers, PENGUIN, 1968 Pages 89, 215, 234

In spite of this dear evidence some claim the Emperor Constantine changed the day more than 100 years later. **24 He did stop state persecution of Christians, giving them official recognition and some encouragement. He was baptised when dying, but never seems to have been converted. He gave state approval for the right of Jews to worship on the Sabbath, the Pagans on their Holy Days, and the Christians on the day they were already worshipping on - the First Day of the Week - Although a Pagan High Priest of the Sun he called it the SUNday. Oddly our modern paganising is moving towards Monday as the First Day of the Week.

God willed that every 7th day Israel rest from their own working, and in the Finished work of Creation, so they would never forget that their work was part of His work and depended totally on Him, His will and work. We realise with thankfulness that our physical lives still function in our Creator, Acts 17:28 but the REST we celebrate isn't that of Creation's 7th day. Week by week each Lord's Day, it's His will that you and I should meet around His Table, and be reminded that all we are, have and do SPIRITUALLY depends on the Finished work of the Cross of Calvary. In that way He calls us to have fellowship with Him in the Rest He has provided, and to go out, in that attitude of resting in Him, to have fellowship with Him in His Work in this world.

Footnote **24 Mrs White, and for 100 years her followers the SDA Church, taught that worshipping on the first day of the week was "The mark of the Beast" and all who did so were doomed to the Lake of Fire. She taught that God had no further purposes for the Jewish Nation, and would never let them have the Land of Israel again. She ignored Galatians, etc and claimed Jewish promises/responsibilities belonged to the church, and by taking them up her followers qualified for the Kingdom when Christ soon returned. By God's grace in recent years some SDA's have moved towards a

constant reminder that it's a FINISHED WORK, and that by ONE sacrifice He has perfected forever those who are set apart to be His people, Heb 10:14.

From time to time someone stands up and speaks for the Lord, gives thanks, breaks the bread and pours out the wine, acting on behalf of the Lord, or speaks for the congregation to the Lord, leading them in thanksgiving, praise and worship. But essentially our part is to SIT as welcome, invited guests, sitting in the presence of God Almighty our Saviour. He has sat down, with the work completed, Heb 10:12-14. As we look within and around it doesn't seem as if it were, but by SITTING we are confessing that by faith we accept that it is, and have ceased working for our salvation, as David sat before the Lord in praise and awe that God would keep the wonderful promise He had made to him, 1 Chr 17:16.

The Jews asked, What must we DO to work the works of God? and were told that the work of God was to believe the One God had sent, Jn 6:28-29. We have believed Him, trusted ourselves into His care and sit remembering what He has done, and enjoying what He has provided. The Psalmist asked What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits? What indeed can anyone GIVE to God who GIVES us all we have? We can give Him the pleasure that any good child can give to its parent - the pleasure of seeing gifts taken, appreciated, enjoyed, used to the full with thankfulness in our hearts, Ps 116:12-19.

WE eat the bread and drink the wine as a symbol that we have received Christ crucified as our Saviour, and that our spiritual life is nourished by feeding on Him and His work, and all our growing and working is on that basis. As well as proclaiming that we are His, and how we became His, we also proclaim our Lord's Death, His-all sufficient provision for Man to be forgiven and cleansed from his sin, and the certainty of our being with Him in Glory. Already our life is hid with Christ in God/Christ in us is our guarantee of Glory to come, Col 1:27; 3:3.

Too, we proclaim that the outworking of Salvation will one day be completed, and the Gospel door of Salvation closed by His coming. For as often as we eat that bread, and drink that wine, we proclaim our Lord's Death until He comes again, 1 Cor 11:26. As we think of that we experience a foretaste of the Day when we shall see Him as He is, be like Him, presented faultless before the presence of His glory with

Resting in Christ our Sabbath Rest and His finished work. From it we go out into the week's life and work resting confidently on that basis, that of a once-and-for-all, accomplished work, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God that was displayed on Calvary, Rom 8:28-39. Resting in the fact that we can do ALL things to His Glory, because He, and His Word is IN us and WITH us by His Spirit, Jn 1:12; 14:23; Col 1:27; 3:15-17. Resting in the fact that He has begun a good work in us, and will complete it, Phil 1:6. Having gathered to remember and worship in His presence, the solemnity and joy of that are ours as we go out to take up our life and work again, resting in the fact that we know that it is God Himself Who is working in us both to WILL and to DO His good pleasure, Phil 2:12-13.

REST is not inactivity. It's the relationship that God intended for man - a loving fellowship where all the heart, mind, soul and strength of the Believer is committed into the heart, mind, soul and strength of God Himself, Mt 22:37, and rests securely there. Such a Believer, like a plant firmly rooted in good soil, can cope with the stresses, flourish, and be truly fruitful, even to old age, Ps 92:14. Like a branch abiding in the vine, and letting the sap of God's word keep flowing into him. Like a Lamp wick resting in an inexhaustible supply of oil, Zech 4:1-14. Like a weak reed that strengthens itself in the Lord and so does not become bruised and broken, 1 Sam 30:6. The lamp wick out of contact with the oil, burns itself up, and smells offensively. The reed relying on its own resources soon collapses under the load. Although both may be worse than useless, the Lord bears patiently with their service, Isa 42:3. But how much better to cease from relying on our own works, and to enter into His rest, in day by day service, just as we have done so once and for all in salvation. When that is our state, as Paul demonstrates, the burdens can be carried, as our conscious weakness is met by His Grace as we rely on Him, 2 Cor 1:3-5, 9-11; 4:7-10; 12:7-10.

Sabbaths other than the weekly Seventh Day were the Monthly New Moon, Num 28:11-15, the Day of Atonement, and there were special Sabbath rests associated with the other 6 feasts. Ex 34:21-24; Lev 16:29-31; 23:3, 32 That no slavish work/Abodah was to be done is said in Lev 23:7, 8, 21, 25, 35, 36, 39, and they are called Sabbathon, 23:39. Sabbath and Jubilee Years Ex 23:10-11; Lev 25:1-22, 54-55; Lev 26:34-35, 43 were to be kept to honour God, and as a challenge to trust

sinful mankind, and that means ALL of us. As we grasp that truth it brings joy to our hearts, peace to our minds and strength to our arms as we seek to honour and serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What is Righteousness? Righteous used to be spelled Right-wise - To be righteous is to do the Right thing, in the Right way at the Right time. But what is the RIGHT thing? I've enrolled hundreds of 5 year olds at school. Some could be relied on to say what was kind and polite - even if it was a lie. Their parents had taught them that saying what was polite, made people happy, and avoided trouble was Right. But polite lies cause endless trouble. Others could be relied on to say what was true. But when they said "I'm not setting next to Tommy- he stinks, he should have a bath!" you had a different problem. God made man in His image so we can know Right from Wrong but as Fallen Rebels our consciences are all mixed up God has given parents responsibility to programme the consciences of children with the knowledge of Right and Wrong before they're old enough to notice it.

As parents we must take that task seriously, but realise that what Mum and Dad say can't be the final word. The Law of Parents, schools, Governments is Righteous only if it says what God says. God alone is truly Righteous, Mt 19:17, Infinitely, Eternally and unchangeably Righteous. And Holy, and Wise Love. Everything that God says and does is Perfectly Holy, and True, Loving, and Right. He is Light, and sin is Darkness, so He can have no fellowship with Sin.

We live in a world which prefers to ignore the Truth of God and wants to be ignorant of the Righteousness of God. Everywhere we go we must live, and proclaim the truth of God's Righteousness, and the Righteous standards of His Law so that people may realise that ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, Rom 3:23 And live and proclaim the Grace of God to sinful man in Christ Jesus.

God promised Abraham that His descendants would be God's people, He'd give them the land of Israel, and they'd be a blessing to all the nations of the World. When in grace He delivered the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt and they came to Sinai God said they'd be His own special people, a Kingdom of Priests, a Holy Nation - IF they'd obey His commandments God would be with them all the time to help and bless them. But they must walk in step with Him in the direction He was going.

long as you let him do what he wants, he seems a nice enough child, but say NO - don't do that, or tell him to do something like Pack up toys, and go to bed, and your Law will usually show he's a sinner, not a sweet innocent babe on loan from heaven! Rom 5:20

The Law is holy, just, and good like God who gave it. But it's WEAK in its achievements as Human Nature can't live up to its standards and seldom wants to, Rom 7:12, 8:3. But God's Law wasn't a useless dead-end. When a man realised he'd sinned, the Law told him to bring a Sin Offering so that his sin could be forgiven. And every year on the Great Day of Atonement the High Priest sacrificed a goat for the sins of the whole nation of Israel - and sprinkled the blood on and before the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies. God had said The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I've given it to you as an Atonement for your sins Lev 17:11.

But no animal chose to die for man, and the life it gave up was in no sense equal to the life the man had forfeited by sinning, so the Law made nothing perfect, Heb 7:19. It wasn't possible their blood could take away sins, Heb 10:4. It was a shadow of the true atonement Christ would one day provide, Heb 10:1 and covered man's debt to God, only temporarily as a Promissory Note promises payment in due course. So neither attempts at obeying God's Law, or the offering of Law's sacrifices for failure to obey it, ever made anyone Righteous.

Only as we realise this do we see the wonder of his statement, Christ is the end of the Law for Righteousness. You see END- Telos= the Goal, Completion, Fulfilment. When the Law was written it pointed forward to Christ. The Moral Law wasn't an impossible demand. Men failed to keep it because by nature they're rebels, unwilling to love or obey God, except as they choose to. Christ as man, born under the Law, lived up to its standards and far above them. He didn't KEEP the Law, and He certainly didn't BREAK the Law. He FULFILLED IT.

The Moral Law sketched out in words the RIGHT way for a man to live - The Life of a RIGHTEOUS man. But for thirty three years the Lord Jesus walked this earth as the human embodiment of the will of God for mankind. Christ is the END and FULFILMENT of the Moral Law, and in so living condemned every man and woman for their failure to do the same, Rom 8:3-4. "Self-righteousness" is possible only for those who have lived every moment of every day expressing LOVE for God and

Christ is also the END/ Fulfillment of all that the Ceremonial Law foreshadowed. He is the true, Heavenly Spiritual Tabernacle, its Priest, Furnishings, Offerings, and Rituals, including the Propitiation/ Mercy Seat where God and man meet and have fellowship, Rom 3:25 Under the Law every priest stood daily offering the same sacrifices that could never take away sins. But Christ, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever sat down on the right hand of God, for by one sacrifice He had perfected forever all who are set apart as God's people. Anyone now who tries to keep the Moral Law in order to become Righteous in God's sight, or maintain his righteousness in God's sight, or tries to offer sacrifices to God, is insulting Christ, the One who is the END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. He is the FULFILMENT END of the Moral and Ceremonial Law, and He has provided the fulness of which it spoke to all who Believe, and Receive Him. Those who take up the Law now and rely on it are relying on something which became obsolete, Heb 8:13, and that God has now replaced with Christ's death and resurrection. Everyone is either made righteous in Christ - or still in their sins.

All modern Law-Keeping and Sacrificing/ and Christening-into-eternal-Life Priests within Christendom are repeating the tragedy of the Jewish Pharisees, that of trying to establish their own Righteousness and missing out on God-provided-as-a-Gift Righteousness which stands ignored at their elbow, Rom 9:30-10:9. This remains a tragedy even though they sincerely give to God 3mint stalks out of the 30 in their herb patch, Mt 23:23 Christ is the END of the Law, or any system for Righteousness so we daren't take our eyes off Him to focus on anything else. Praise the Lord we're free from that hopeless attempt at earning our own righteousness, or maintaining it - We're justified freely by the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Although they may have a value, we daren't add to it preoccupation with Do's & Don'ts of Bible versions, Hymnbooks, hours and forms of witness/ worship, or the details of worldliness while forgetting that it's carnal and worldly to be quick to criticise and condemn others.

He's made Peace by the blood of His cross and reconciled us to God. We're no longer alienated in our minds by wicked works, Col 1:20-21. Our PAST has been dealt with, and our FUTURE is certain - He will present us Holy, in the sight of God who is Holy, and we'll be joyfully blameless, perfectly happy and unembarrassed in our own selves, knowing we are

We will find that the righteous lifestyle the Law required will begin to be seen in our lives as we walk not after the Flesh, but after the Spirit, Rom 8:1-16.

God's OT rules, Sermon on the Mount rules, Church rules, lists of things we should and shouldn't do, Col 2:20-23 Christ is the END of them all. No Law has any authority over those who are made Righteous in Christ Jesus. Our task is to concentrate on living in fellowship with HIM, not in keeping sets of rules. It's not easy for us to believe this. When the Lord saved me I soon started to make a list of Do's and Don'ts. I wouldn't obey the Lord in Baptism because I wasn't Good enough. I stopped witnessing because I felt my life wasn't Good enough. When I was Baptised and came into fellowship often I didn't want to come to the Lord's table because I wasn't Good enough. And it made me critical of others - If I wasn't good enough I was keen to believe others were no better.

What a fool I was, excusing myself from doing what the Lord told me to do while I waited to become Good enough! What an insult to God to say that those He'd sanctified in Christ, including myself, weren't Good enough. And by setting up rules by which I hoped to be good by working hard enough I'd fallen into the Galatian trap, Gal 2:21-3:4. We were born of the Spirit not because we were Good enough or working hard enough at Law-Keeping. Our natural self always prefers to turn its back on God's system of Giving by Grace and our receiving it as we trust and obey. It always prefers black and white rules - ways of measuring ourselves against them and comparing ourselves with others. But if we're trying to be Justified by Law - thinking about the things we're doing and not doing, and how we're doing, we've fallen out of the sphere of God's Grace. We're not abiding in the Vine. We can't bear fruit to the Glory of God, and we'll find it hard to get on with Brothers/Sisters in Christ because we've lost the joy of our Salvation. And are Grieving the Holy Spirit by taking control of our lives and service for the Lord. We've lost our first love, taken our eyes off Christ crucified - and all He's provided for us loses its grip on us.

In the things of God I've been a slow learner. But when all my efforts to make myself be a good Christian and a good servant of God drove me to despair, I began to learn what Paul wrote in Romans 7. When we find it impossible to be or do what we should we're ready to listen to Sin shall not have dominion over you, Rom 6:14. Why? because you are not

worry, and depression that bound me, but as day after day I read Rom 6:14 to myself, and looked to the Lord and said "You say sin isn't going to have dominion over me, because I'm not under Law, but under Grace. Please make it happen." And step by step His light and Love took over my life, and I WAS free to live in His Grace, as in 2 Cor 12:9-10; 1 Jn 1:5-9.

I don't know what Promise of God is the answer to your need, but God says in 2 Cor 1:20 that ALL His promises are YES in Christ, and when we say AMEN to them, God is Glorified. So, rejoice with me, Christ is the end of the Law - no matter what any man says, thinks, or feels - Christ is the END of the Law to everyone that Believes. Let us take up the responsibilities of daily life, and run with patience.. looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of his Life of Faith, Heb 12:2-3.

Appendix II What the Seasonal Feasts of the Lord Teach us

Lev 23:1-2 Appointed FEASTS- Moed- Appointed time, Appointed Place, etc. It's used first of Isaac's birth at the God-appointed time, Gen 28:14. It's used of the Tabernacle of the Congregation- Moed, the Appointed Place for meeting with God and having fellowship with Him. All Feasts were ordained by the Lord as times of special fellowship with Himself, because, wonder of wonders, God wants men to have fellowship with Him, and makes that possible. (Generally these appointed Feasts were Feasts in the sense of joyful feasting and socialising, but one "Feast," required them to not eat or drink, but be as sorry as possible about past sins.) Kept as mechanical routines they were hateful to God. He wants fellowship with His people, not the performance of duties, Isa 1:11-20

In Creation God made mankind, Male and Female, in His own image/ likeness, and viewed it all as being very good. It seems He was in the habit of having fellowship with Adam and Eve as after their rebellion He still looked for them. In fact, under the figure of "Wisdom," in Prov 8:30 the Lord says I was filled with delight day by day, rejoicing in the whole world, and delighting in mankind. Adam rebelled - that broke off God's fellowship with man. God called Abraham, and through him "Created" the nation of Israel by Redeeming them from the Slavery of Egypt, to have fellowship with Himself, Isa 43:1.

each other, personal fellowship etc. What God appoints blesses those who respond and obey in all sorts of ways, but the central fact remains, God's people are to meet because He told them to. And when they meet they fellowship with Him in doing what He told them to do He is GOD, blessed be His Name! All merely human religions rise from man's desire to be right with God and to please Him, and they are all dead and empty - like Artificial flowers - only what God creates is alive and fruitful.

You are to Proclaim as Sacred Assemblies- He says they are Sacred, so His people were to treat them as such. God's people need to meet together with Him, and He has commanded us to do so, Heb 10:25 When we do meet we need to set apart time and attention for Him. Thinking of Him, His will, His work, His love, and His loving purposes, so that by His Grace He may become more real to us. The Annual Appointed Feasts spell out the specific actions God had taken to bring His people into fellowship with Himself.

There were SEVEN annual Appointed Feasts bunched in two groups, centred on two months, both being in some sense First month and Seventh month, as the Lord declared that what was the Seventh month on their Seasonal calendar would now become the First month on their Religious calendar, Ex 12:2. Five Feasts were ONE day Feasts. Two were SEVEN day Feasts. These Feasts aren't just for those interested in History. God has recorded them for us because of what they can teach us, 1 Cor 10:6, 11. The Law was only a Foreshadowing of the good things that were coming, not the realities themselves, Heb 10:1. As we've already seen Christ Himself is the Sacrificial Lamb. He is the true High Priest, the true Mercy Seat etc so it's not surprising that these Feasts foreshadow something of what He has done and will yet do.

Lev 23:4-5 The Lord's Passover- The Passover Lamb was to be killed in the afternoon of the 14th day of 7th Month of the natural year. Its blood applied over their doors Redeemed them as Judgment fell on Egypt, the world in which they had lived. They stepped out into a NEW Life of fellowship with God who decreed that the new beginning be marked by making that month the First month of their religious year, Ex 12:1-14, 21-28; 42-49; Num 9:1-14; 28:16; Deu 16:1-2.

Lev 23:6-8 The Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread- When the Israelites, sheltered from Judgment by the blood of the Passover Lamb, ate the roasted Lamb, dressed ready to step out as a Redeemed Free Nation

Baptist publicly proclaimed that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the world's sin. God the Father from Heaven proclaimed His sinlessness as John baptised Him, Jn 1:29, Mt 3:13-17. For the following 3.5 years of public life, often surrounded by experts eager to find fault He demonstrated He was indeed without any blemish of sin. He was the only adequate Passover Lamb - Note that Lamb, in this setting, is always used in the Singular, Ex 12:6. And as our Lord said at the Last Supper This is My blood of the covenant poured out.. for forgiveness of sins.

It seems that the Lord celebrated the Last Passover with His disciples one day early as the Jews were preparing for their Passover when they took Him to Pilate the next morning, Jn 18:28. So it seems that at the very hour the Passover Lamb was to be killed, Jesus Christ was dying on the Cross as our Passover Lamb. At the close of the Passover meal He established the NEW Memorial Feast at which His Own remember Him and His Sacrifice that Redeemed them from this under-judgment-world, as the Jews remembered their redemption from under-judgment-Egypt. If we have "applied His blood" to our life we are sheltering safe under it. Under the Gospel each person must receive Christ for themselves, individually, and this is pictured in the fact that each household was to apply the blood to avoid judgment, and the Lamb was eaten individually to give strength for the journey.

The Redeemed set out on a journey through the wilderness and we also are called to be pilgrims and strangers here, 1 Pet 2:11. We're Redeemed by precious life's blood, 1 Pet 1:18-23 bought with a price, no longer our own. We're committed to a change of lifestyle - We must purge out the old LEAVE N/ Yeast of malice and wickedness, so that we can, every day of the week, keep the Appointed Feast of Fellowship with God with the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor 5:8. A spiritual quality of the eater, has replaced the physical quality of what was eaten. They ate unleavened bread on every day of the week for one week. We're to eat it every day of the week for the rest of our lives until the Lord takes us where there is no such "leaven."

Lev 23:9-14 Offering of the Firstfruit sheaf of the new harvest, on the day after the Sabbath following the Passover= the First day of the week. This reminded them that they were God's tenants, Lev 25:23 God had given them the land of Israel, but beyond that God as Creator had given them their lives as a stewardship, and all they enjoyed of Creation they owed to Him. Giving Him the FIRST sheaf of the new harvest acknowledged

Weeks, Exo 1:22, Deu 16:16, 18, 2 Chr 31:13. It was 7 weeks and Firstfruits, and also called Feast of Pentecost, Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Cor 16:8 as it was 50 days after the First Sabbath after Passover. The grain harvest would be completed, grain dried and ready to be ground into good flour. The first bread from the new harvest, two ordinary loaves baked with yeast were presented to God as the Firstfruits of the Bread of the new harvest. They were then eaten by His servants the Priests. It's fine to have a new harvest, but there was little point to it until it was baked into bread to feed the people.

That was the Shadow - What is the Reality

Acts 2:1-12 When the Day of Pentecost Came- On the very day that those loaves were being presented to God in the Temple, what it pointed to was fulfilled - God the Holy Spirit came down on the Disciples at Jerusalem, and formed the Church. Leavened bread could never be accepted by God as a burnt offering, Lev 2:11- as Leaven pictures the hidden working of sin. But God's work starts right where people are, and in Christ He accepts us and uses us while we're still imperfect, in these imperfect bodies, in this rebellious world. There were TWO loaves offered, and formed the ONE offering, as Jew and Gentile formed the ONE Church, Eph 2:11-16. Rom 12 calls us to offer our lives to God as a Living sacrifice, and shows how He can use such lives to bless people here on earth. We cannot in fact give anything to God directly, but what we do to His people counts as done to Him. Mt 25:40 states this timeless principle, although the setting is not directly concerned with us. This Feast is linked with concern for the poor. Compare Lev 23:22 with Acts 2:44-46

The NT makes the above associations between the Feasts, and the Gospel, clear. Pentecost is followed by a long gap of indeterminate length, as the number of days between the Passover, and the next Sabbath, vary. The Church age is also of indeterminate length. God's next intervention is the sound of His Trumpet to call us Home, 1 Th 4:16-17. That starts the Jewish sequence of events again, but the details of Israel's new beginning are unclear, as still in the future.

Lev 23:23-25 Feast of TRUMPETS- Silver Trumpets were blown on the First day of the Seventh month of the Religious/Spiritual Life year that began with Redemption from Egypt. The first month of the old seasonal

29. Christ and His Disciples proclaimed that the Kingdom was near in the person of Jesus Christ, and demonstrated the earthly blessings of Healing and Freeing from Demonic influence, Mt 10:1-8. The nation rejected Him - Priests, Rulers and the Mob alike crying Crucify Him we will not have this man to reign over us. But, as our Lord said, He looked forward to the day when they would welcome Him, Mt 23:37-39. The Gifts and Calling of God are irrevocable, Rom 11:29. God keeps His promises. ALL ISRAEL = Israel as a national entity, will be saved.

Lev 23:26-32 Day of ATONEMENT - Tenth day of Seventh Month, Num 29:7-11. This wasn't a new intervention by God to redeem them - the Passover Feast reminded them of their national Redemption - but by their disobedience they had forfeited the right to be God's People. The question was would God accept the Atonement Day sacrifices, withhold the Judgment punishment that was their due, and take Israel up again to be His People for another year. This on the basis of Blood atonement, and the carrying away of their sin by the Scapegoat. They could do nothing. They couldn't approach God. Only the High Priest could approach God on their behalf.

They were commanded AFFLICT YOUR SOULS/deny yourself. NIV is too weak, Jewish versions confirm KJV. As well as going without food, drink, work, or pleasure, they were to spend the day in self-inflicted misery because of their sins in the past year - Worrying whether God would cut them off forever, knowing that they deserved death. Unlike the Passover where individual family faith/ obedient action was needed to count oneself INTO the blessing, the Atonement Day offering was effective for ALL ISRAEL unless they counted themselves OUT by failing to mourn. When the High priest reappeared after sprinkling the blood on and before the Mercy Seat, showing that the atonement offering had been accepted, mourning was replaced by Joy, Lev 16:1-34.

That was the Shadow - What will be the REALITY?

The Lord wept over Jerusalem as He foresaw/ foretold the suffering resulting from rejecting Him, their Messiah, Mt 27:25. Israel has mourned for centuries under this God-given discipline which will peak, and end with His return, and their response, Zech 12:1-14 I will pour out on the

Footnote **25 In the 50th year/JUBILEE year the Trumpets were blown on the Day of Atonement proclaiming that everything was to be restored to its original state - Every Tribe, Clan, and Family took up the property that God had given to their ancestors, Lev 25 etc. The Apostle Peter pointed forward to the reality that this pictured - Christ must remain in Heaven until He returned and fulfilled the promises to Israel in the Restitution/Restoring of all things, Acts 3:21.

Lev 2333-36 39-43 The Feast of TABERNACLES - Shelters. Redemption Month 7, Day 15. Num 29:12-40 Deu 16:13-17. The Year's work was completed so it was holiday time. A time for enjoying the harvested food which had now been completely gathered in and sharing it together, and with the poor, the Levites, and Strangers - a time of blessing for all. The weather was warm and dry so that camping out, joyfully worshipping and socialising as a vast multitude, came naturally. Peace and security too - outdoor living - no need to lock doors, and city gates, Ex 34:24

The Trumpets called the Nation to Assemble at Jerusalem, Lev 23:24. Nine days later came the Day of Atonement. Six days later the Feast of Tabernacles began. These formed a close-knit unit, and their fulfilment will form a unit.

That was the Shadow - What will be the REALITY?

A time of Blessing for Israel is promised, Isa 9:7; 54:6-8; 60:1 - 63:6; 65:8-25 66:5-24; Micah 4:1-8; Zech 2:1-13; 8:1 - 10:12; 12:1 - 14:21; Rev 20:1-6, etc. While details are less than clear it promises something totally different from the life of the Church on earth, or in Heaven. Unlike the Gospel it speaks of God intervening in terrible Judgment on the nations, who will suddenly do all they can to establish Israel back in its own land. The Israelites will multiply rapidly, with secure, joyful and prosperous family and farm life, with a life span of more than 100yrs, living in peace/security, ruling over, and being a spiritual blessing to the other Nations, with Christ the Son of David ruling on David's throne, Jerusalem.

WHEN this will be isn't our business, Acts 1:6-7 but Rev 19:11-20:10 assures us that when the Lord intervenes in this way, He will reign for 1000 years righteously, in a world free from Satanic influence. It will

directed their national life and the destruction of Jerusalem AD 70. It influences Jewish life still with hopes of future blessedness. But scepticism about ANY known future is rock-solid in modern mentality, and strengthened by a seemingly unending succession of fanciful ideas proclaimed in the name of God, and claiming His Word as their source. If you're unsure about these things, I hope you'll join me in continuing to test all ideas against the Word of God as a whole. I'll add a further summary for consideration. Support for the above interpretation is seen in that there were:

- A. Two First Months- New Beginnings in the year. The First new beginning was a spiritual new beginning - Redemption by blood, followed by a wilderness journey towards home. A home which few reached without dying - as with us. The Second was the start of the earthly/ seasonal year. It started a series that could be celebrated only by a people settled into earthly life here in the Land God had given them. It followed and confessed national failure to live by the Redemption which formed Israel as a nation under the Law. It was inaugurated by the return of the High Priest whose offering for their Sin had been accepted. In the Jubilee year everyone went home to take up and enjoy an earthly possession - their God-promised, God-given portion/ share of the Land of Israel inherited through Abraham, no matter how long they had lost their use of it - Israel.
- B. Two Blood Sacrifices- Applied in different ways. ONE where the INDIVIDUAL believing family applied the blood to the individual home, and saved the individual firstborn from Judgment. Those saved opted into/ chose Salvation, dealing directly with God, in response to a "Whosoever," Gospel-type proclamation. In the SECOND the High Priest alone applied the blood, unseen in the Holy of Holies, for the WHOLE NATION, and the whole nation was saved from deserved Judgment, unless they opted out of that Salvation by choosing not to mourn/repent/ endure the suffering they'd earned. Jews who accept the "Mark of the Beast," will escape the terrible persecution, but will have opted out of the Salvation brought when Christ reappears from the Holy of Holies/ Heaven.
- C. Two Lifestyles experienced seven days a week. ONE marked by what it LACKS here on earth - Feasting on the Passover Lamb, but with yeastless bread, committed to a pilgrim life through a spiritual wilderness where they must not settle, or be at home. The Invisible

event allowed by an annual memorial Passover. The SECOND was a repeated Atoning event needed - Day of Atonement - so that God's earthly people, living a normal life on earth, and their children, could continue to live under God's Blessing in spite of human failure.

Closing Thought- The FIRST APPOINTMENT to which God calls everyone is with the Passover Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the World. God calls them to repent, and meet Him, and make Him their own. Having done so they will find Him the Bread of life to sustain them throughout life. The OT Passover pointed forward to HIM. Our "Appointed Memorial Feast," points back to Calvary, and forward to the Glory. There is no spiritual magic in it, just a weekly reminder of what Our Lord has done, and that we have received Him, and entered into the REST that he has provided. Whatever the future may hold God has now spoken His full and Final message in Christ, Heb 1:1. The rest of History is the outworking of that - All must face the Slain Lamb.

APPENDIX III A summary of Aspects of the Law, not covered in this booklet

Israel Belonging to God - His Purpose & Action- Obedience to God's Law, given by Him at Sinai through Moses, would ensure His presence among them and their enjoyment of fruitfulness undisturbed by enemies. Disobedience would bring disease, drought, fear, poverty, and defeat to break their stubborn pride and self-sufficiency. If they persisted in disobedience the Israelites would be exiled. God would never forget His covenant with them, so if they confessed their sins and returned to Him they would be restored, Ex 20:1-7; Lev 26:3-46; Deu 5:1-11. They must centre their worship of God/ their offerings, in the place He chose. They must not worship the Lord in the way other nations worshipped their gods, Deu 12:1-32. Moses reminded them of the past, and called them to renew the Covenant on God's terms. They were responsible to pass on to their children their knowledge of God and His Covenant, Deu 29:1-15, 29.

Atonement Money (the same for all as all were equally His people) must be paid with any census. This acknowledged their debt to God for their existence and avoided plague/ pride, Ex 30:11-16. The Blessing priests pronounced over Israelites was to put the Lord's Name on them and He would bless them, Num 6:22-27. The penalty for Blasphemy was death, Lev 24:10-16, 22-23. God guided them by the Cloud of His presence, Num 9:15-23. They were to have tassels on their garments as reminder to obey Law, Num 15:37-41; Deu 22:12.

God's People to be Clean- God who redeemed them from Egypt was Holy. They were to be Holy, and keep themselves and their places dean. Eat clean foods, keep food containers dean. Avoid/purify after contamination by death, etc. Ex 19:10-15; Lev 11:1-47; Deu 14:1-21; Deu 239-14. Red Heifer ashes. Water for cleansing from uncleanness resulting from touching a dead body, etc. Failure to purify self with water of cleansing means cut off fom God's people, Num 19:1-22

Clean from Idolatry- They must wipe out the Canaanites and their idols, or they would be corrupted and suffer the bitter consequences of dlatry, Lev 19:4-8, 19, 23-28, 31; 20:25-27; 26:1; Num 25:1-18; 33:51-53; Deu 7:1-6; 16:21-17:7; 29:16-29. No mixed clothing, sowing, plowing, etc, Deu 22:5-11. True & False messages from God. False Prophets and THE PROPHET, Deu 13:1-18; Deu 18:14-22

Clean from Leprosy- Regulations against the uncleanness of Leprosy/ Infectious skin diseases, and Leprosy/ Mildew on Clothing. The uncleanness involved was offensive to God, so contact with people must be avoided, presumably because contact could cause it to spread, but the public health aspect isn't mentioned, Lev 13:1-59, Deu 24:8-9. Rituals for declaring/ celebrating cleansing from Leprosy/ Infectious skin diseases. Oil & Blood offered to God, and applied to cleansed leper to make atonement for him, Lev 14:1-32. Ritual for purification of Mildew on house walls, AFTER removal of centre of infection - scraping of remainder. Uncleanness of Leprosy was a visible, objective fact. The ritual is a religious proclamation, Lev 14:33-57.

Clean from Body Discharges- Ritual to declare a man ceremonially dean after a continuing discharge, etc. Women being made ceremonially dean after monthly period, or giving birth. (Ceremonial uncleanness exempted the mother from much work.) Always the ritual came only after the objective fact of the discharge had ceased. Physical benefits aren't mentioned, Lev 12:1-8; 15:1-33

Unclean sexual actions were forbidden- They were warned against copying the Egyptians - where Brother-sister marriage was approved, and the Canaanites who associated worship with Shrine Prostitutes. They are to follow God's rules/ purposes for sex because He is God, and the Canaanites are being replaced

Details of Moral Law

Responsibilities to Parents and Family (Including Sexual matters)- Personal & Property rights of/as God's people. Rights of Firstborn, Brotherless daughters, newly married and childless widow. Kidnapper and Rebellious son must be killed, Ex 20:12; 21:1 - 23:9; Num 27:1-11; 36:1-13; Deu 21:15-21; 24:5, 7; 25:4-10. War Law. Marrying a captured woman, Deu 20:1-20 21:10-14. Rules against marital/sexual misbehaviour. Divorce, Deu 22:13-30 24:1-4.

Provision for the Poor- The Lord promised to bless those who made interest-free loans to the Jewish poor. Laws to control the taking of pledges, gleaning, freedom to eat from a crop when passing, Mt 12:1, etc. Year of Jubilee freeing Debt and Servants - unless volunteer. Runaway slave, Lev 25:25-55; Deu 15:1-18; 23:15-16, 18-20 24:25 24:6, 10-22

Murder and physical injury- Injuries repaid, Ex 20:13; Lev 24:17-22 Disputes and punishment, Deu 25:1-3, 11-12. Cities for Levites/ Cities of Refuge. Murderers to be killed, accidental manslaughter to be safe in city of refuge, Num 35:6-34; Deu 4:41-43 19:1-14.

Truth-telling- Dealing with witnesses, Ex 20:16; Deu 19:15-21.

Stealing and property- Restitution + 20%, Ex 20:15; Lev 6:1-7. No False weights, Deu 25:13-16. Return of straying animals, Deu 22:1-4.

Ruling & Judging- Judges and Administration of Justice. Kings, Deu 16:18-20 17:8-20 Transfer of authority, Num 27:15-23

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