

LAW AND GRACE



THOU SHALT HAVE NO
OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE
UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN
IMAGES

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE
THE NAME OF THE LORD
THY GOD IN VAIN

REMEMBER THE SABBATH
DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY

HONOUR THY FATHER
AND THY MOTHER

THOU SHALT NOT KILL

THOU SHALT NOT
COMMIT ADULTERY

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR
FALSE WITNESS

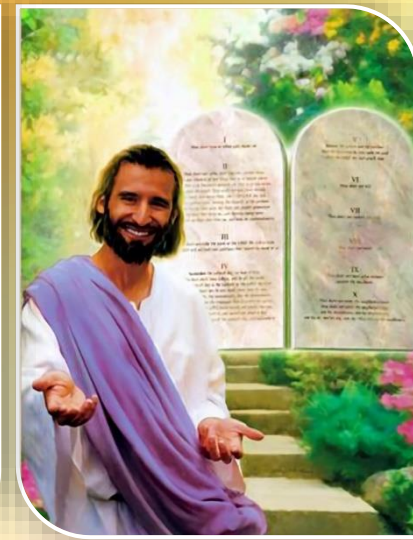
THOU SHALT NOT COVET

Lesson 7 for
November 13, 2021

God created humans as morally free beings who could love Him and obey Him. In order to love and obey, we need something more than freedom.

We must know the One we love, and we must understand what is right and wrong (that is, to be subject to a Law).

How are grace and the Law related? How do they work in the lives of the believers?



➔ The Law in a perfect world

➔ Law and Grace

➔ The Law that benefits us

➔ The grace that redeems us

➔ Saved by Law?

THE LAW IN A PERFECT WORLD

“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.” (Ezekiel 28:15 NIV)

Was there a Law before humans were created?

Ezekiel mentioned the perfect behavior of Lucifer and his fall into wickedness. He added, “You were filled with violence, and you sinned.” (Ez. 28:16)



Rules are needed to evaluate if an action is correct or not, good or bad, fair or unfair, sinful or not... These moral rules establish the standards of what should be done and what shouldn't.

Therefore, there was a Law in Heaven long before humans existed, a divine Rule that ruled whether a being was irreproachable or sinful.

God created moral beings and established a moral Law that governed them. This Law is valid both in Heaven and on Earth.



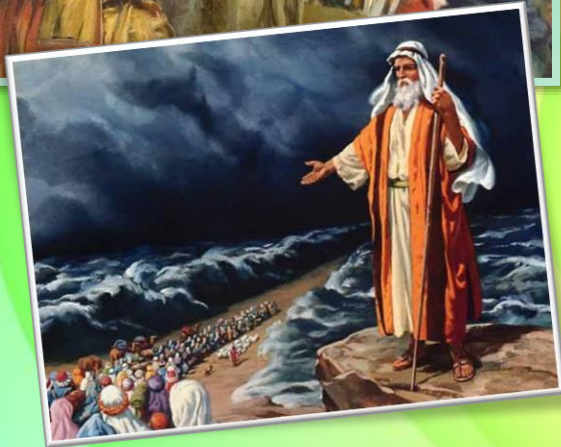
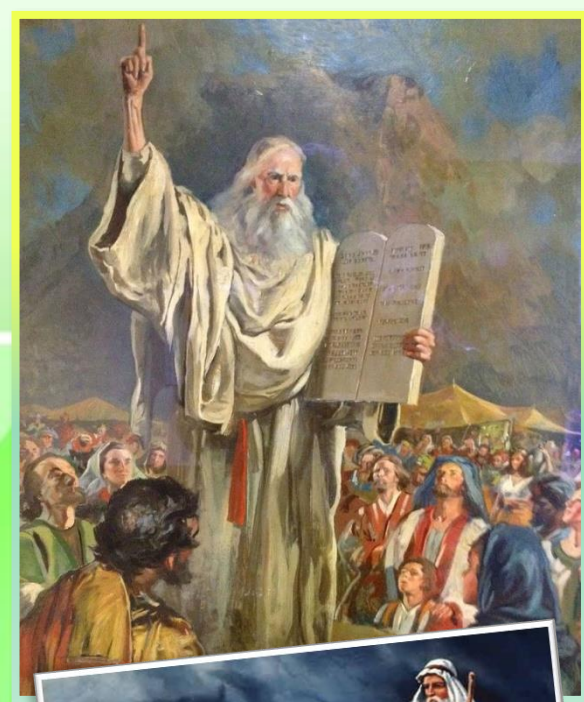
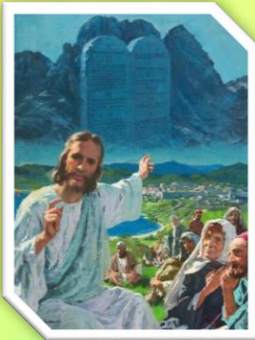
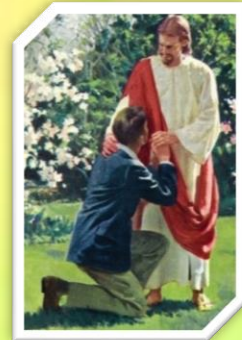
LAW AND GRACE

“Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 32:46)

Moses’ speeches in Deuteronomy stressed how necessary obeying the whole Law is. The Law is inherent to the covenant (Dt. 4:13).

Nevertheless, God didn’t say that He would give them the Promised Land if they obeyed the law. He didn’t take them out of Egypt because they were obedient. He did it for love (Dt. 7:8). This is GRACE.

God’s grace forgives us for having violated His law, and God’s grace enables us to obey His law, as well, an obedience that arises from our covenant relationship with Him.



“The law given upon Sinai was the enunciation of the principle of love, a revelation to earth of the law of heaven. It was ordained in the hand of a Mediator—spoken by Him through whose power the hearts of men could be brought into harmony with its principles.”

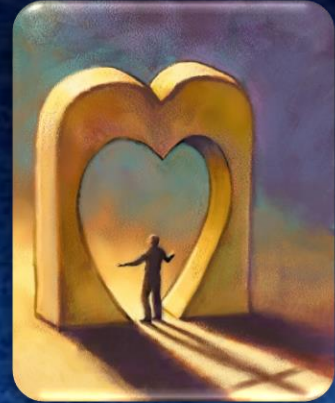
E. G. W. (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, cp. 3, p. 46)

THE LAW THAT BENEFITS US

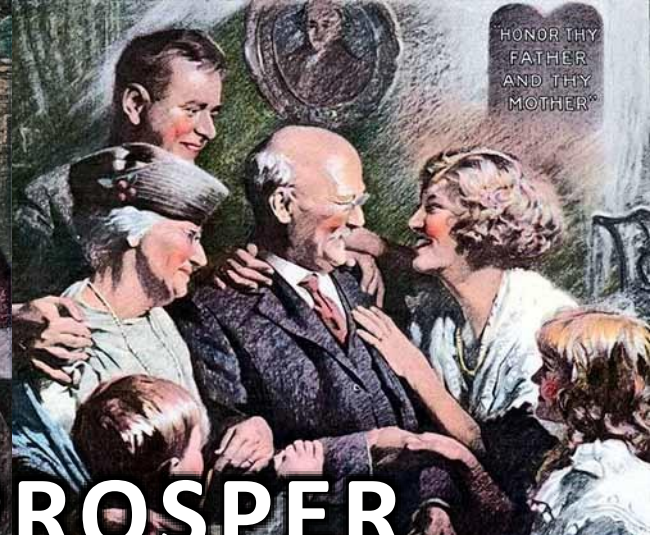
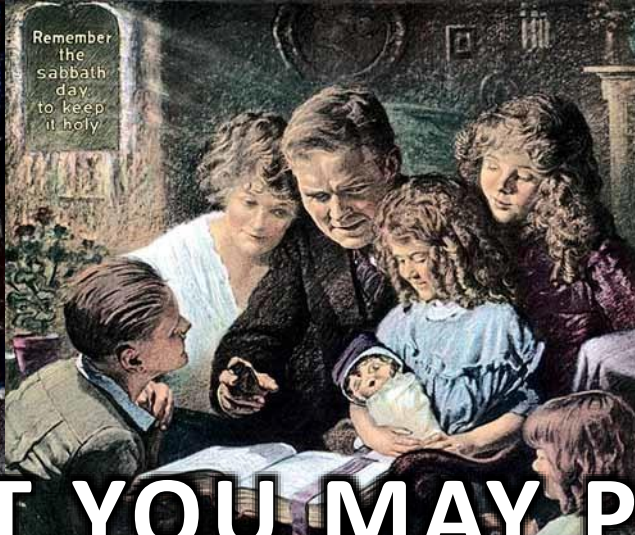
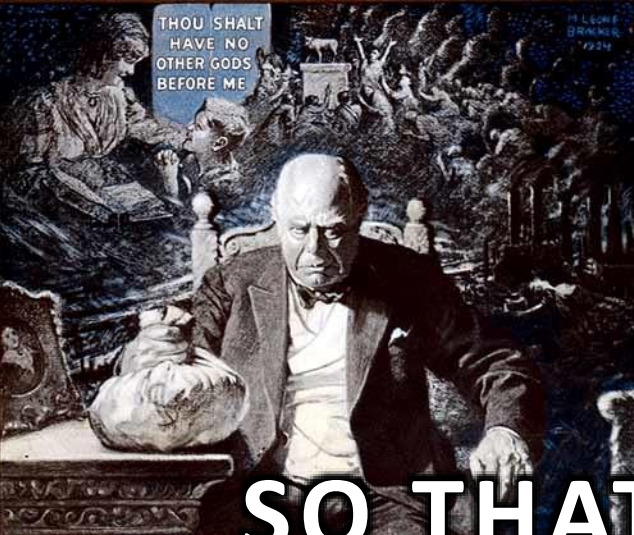
“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but [...] to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

Love—one of God’s qualities—permeates the book of Deuteronomy. God loves and asks for love. Why would a loving God put limits on His children with a strict Law?

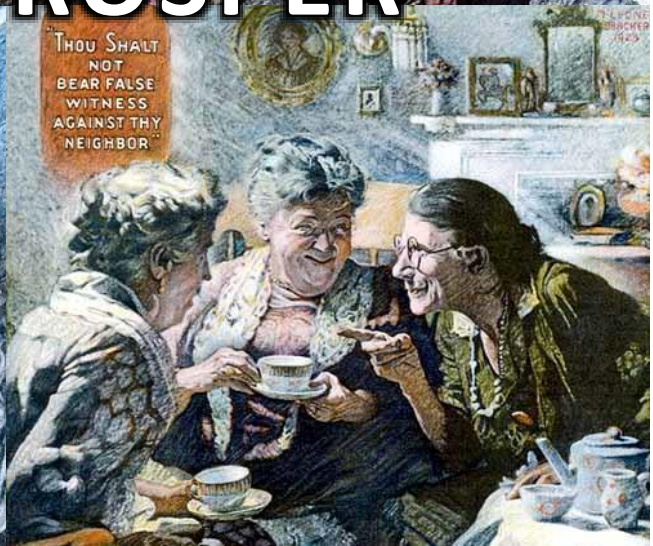
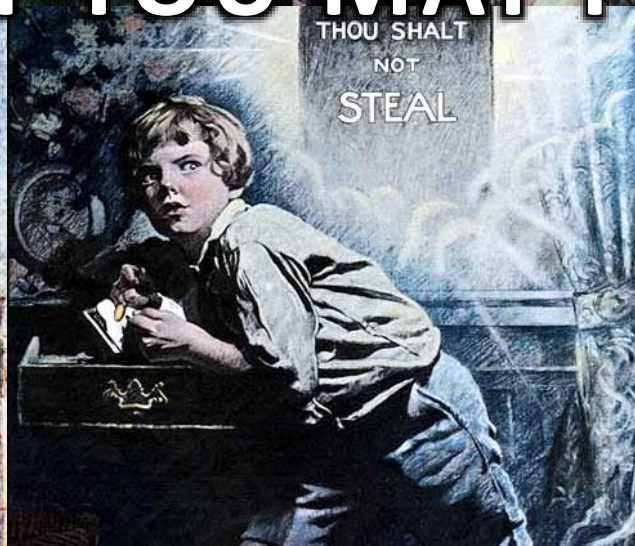
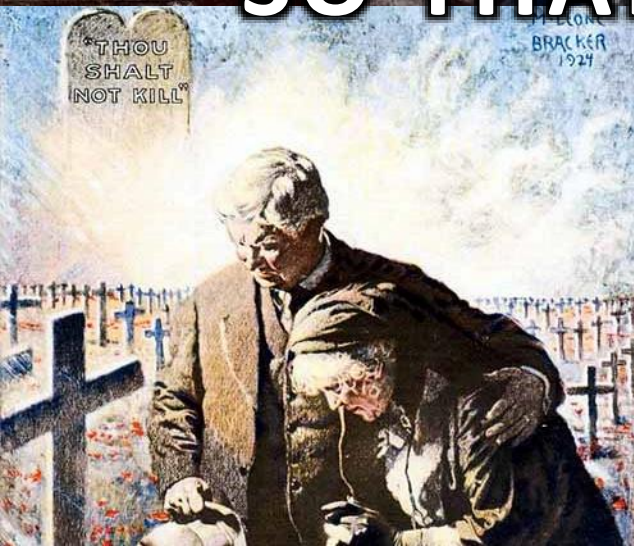
Because He loves us, God wants the best for us. The best for us is to avoid troubles and to prosper. This is the role of the Law.



The Law is like a protective fence. It keeps us from making mistakes. It also teaches us how to have a healthy relationship with God and our neighbor which is for our own good.

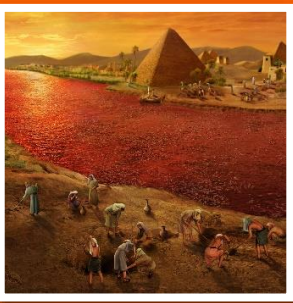


SO THAT YOU MAY PROSPER



THE GRACE THAT REDEEMS US

“And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:15)



When Moses reminded the Israelites about the Ten Commandments, he approached the fourth one in a new way. This time he emphasized God as the Redeemer instead of the Creator. God didn't redeem Israel from Egypt because they were righteous, but because He gave them grace. Once we are redeemed, He asks us to respond to His grace by keeping the Law.



This way the Law becomes a response to God's redeeming grace, not an agent of redemption. Actually, obeying the Law is a way to tell others about God's grace in our lives (Lv. 19:18).



SAVED BY LAW?

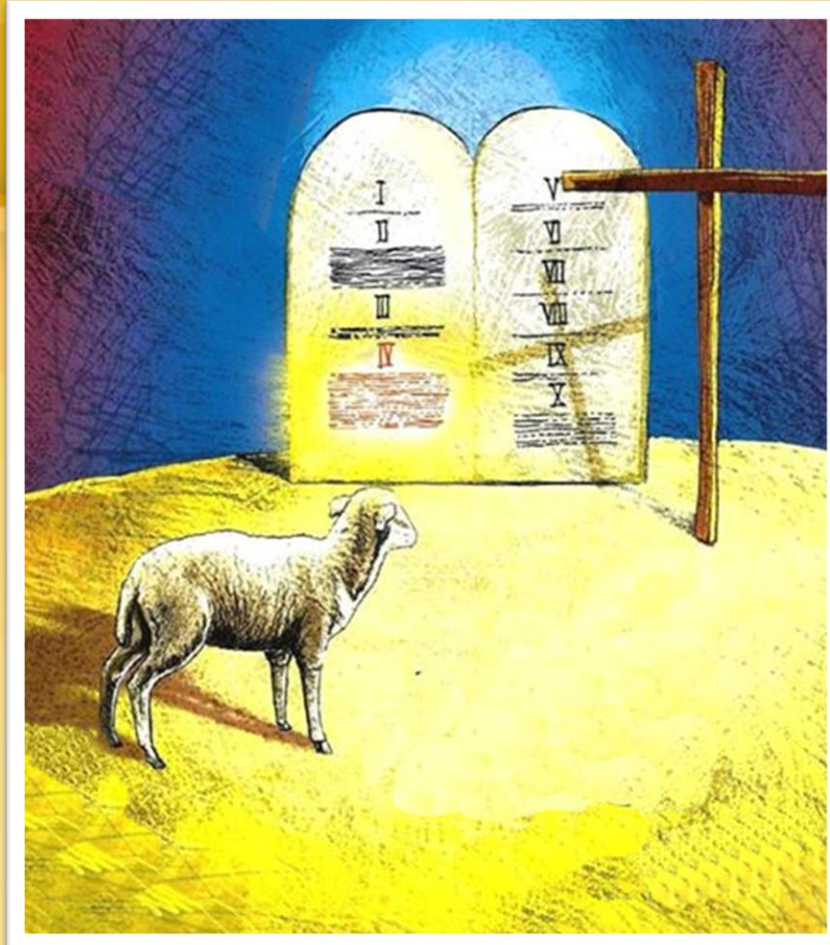
"Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people." (Deuteronomy 9:6)

How is our own righteousness—how well we obey the Law—related to our salvation?

God planned our salvation before creating the first human being (2Tim. 1:9). Jesus had already died to save us before we did anything good (Rm. 5:8).

There is no good deed we can do to obtain salvation (Titus 3:5). God has done everything needed to save us. God offers His grace no matter how we behave.

When we accept His grace by faith, He writes His Law on our hearts and His Spirit gives us power to obey it.



“God loves the sinless angels, who do His service and are obedient to all His commands; but He does not give them grace; they have never needed it, for they have never sinned. Grace is an attribute shown to undeserving human beings. We did not seek after it; it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow grace upon all who hunger and thirst for it, not because we are worthy, but because we are unworthy. Our need is the qualification which gives us the assurance that we shall receive the gift.”

E. G. W. (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, cp. 73, p. 519)