

**TEACHING GOAL**

To show that because God created us we are therefore obligated to Him to keep His laws.

**DOCTRINAL STANDARDS**

Q. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Q. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us, that because God is the LORD and our God, and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments.

S.C. 43-44, L.C. 101, W.C. of F. XXI, Savoy 22, Young 78-79

**SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

**Study Passage:** Amos 1-3

**Support Passages:** Isaiah 40:18-31, Malachi 3:6, I Samuel 8:10-22, II Chronicles 7:14

**BIBLE STORY**

I Samuel 5: Dagon deserves no obedience because he was not the creator.

**.MEMORY ASSIGNMENT**

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” (Exodus 20:2, ESV) “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.” (Amos 3:2, ESV)

**APPLICATION**

As creatures of God, all peoples are obligated to keep God’s Law and those inside the pale of the church more so, because we are entrusted with the Bible and receive God’s covenant promises.

## SUMMARY

To believe, as most so called churches do, that the Law was good for Israel but that now the church is under grace and perhaps there is some newer, higher law, is “implicit polytheism.”<sup>1</sup> It is to say that God changes from age to age. It implies that God’s nature is consistent with a given law-order in one age and then His nature agrees with another law-order, thus He changes. To the contrary He states, “For I, YAHWEH, do not change...!”<sup>2</sup>

We may observe His perfect consistency in His judgments against the nations mentioned in Amos 1-3. The sins of these nations are still sins today. God held these Gentile nations as accountable for their law breaking as He did Israel, and modern nations are surely not exempted. These six Gentile nations were hostile to God and His people and are representative of all Gentile nations in all history. Did God mean to exempt Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Greece, Rome, etc. from His accountability? Did they not do these same sins and more besides? Don’t we also in modern times break God’s Law in like manner?

Not mentioned in Amos 1-3 is Philistia, but God surely held them accountable for their idolatry. He visited His wrath on them when they desecrated the Ark of the Covenant. With incredible stupidity and crass irreverence to YAHWEH, they set the ark containing the Torah next to the stone idol known as Dagon, as if Dagon was capable of acting in their behalf.<sup>3</sup> Our modern nations do the same thing by placing God’s Law irreverently beside their humanist laws, their Dagon, Molechs and Chemoshes, thus displaying the common belief that God’s Law is subservient to the state.

The sins of the nations of Amos 1-3 are common today. Damascus (Syria) fought with Gilead and used iron threshing carts to torture their victims. Amon ripped open pregnant women of Gilead. Gaza and Tyre delivered Israel to their arch-enemy Moab and this latter desecrated the dead. Judah rejected God’s Law and Israel made slaves of the righteous, committed adultery and forced the Nazarites to demit their vows. The United States has practiced many unbiblical laws and policies in the areas of taxation, education, military subscription, and socialist economics. In this manner it attempts to command the future, predestine the world, and to be as God.<sup>4</sup>

The modern church in recognizing and deferring to the state in much of its ungodliness stands guilty of idolatry, for which God holds us accountable. The church, having received the greater knowledge, bears the greater guilt. The consistent YAHWEH calls first upon his people, who are called by his name to humble themselves, and pray and seek his face and turn from their wicked ways.

Then he will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.<sup>5</sup> Of all the peoples of the earth, Christians are known (chosen, Amos 3:2) by God. He therefore expects us to keep His laws and when we fail to be serious about this and willfully transgress, He promises to punish us. How much better it is to love Him and practice obedience to Him.

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31, ESV)

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<sup>1</sup> Rushdoony, The Institutes of Biblical Law, The Craig Press, 1973 p18.

<sup>2</sup> Malachi 3:6

<sup>3</sup> see Isaiah 40:18-31

<sup>4</sup> I Samuel 8:10-22)

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<sup>5</sup> II Chronicles 7:14