

The Laws of Almighty God – Always Ahead Of Their Time

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Throughout man's history there have been tragedies that could have been averted if various laws of Almighty God had been employed. Unfortunately, there have been numerous reasons preventing mankind from reaping the benefits of following these laws, from an ignorance of their existence to a refusal to obey them. In today's world, scientists acknowledge that there are many laws at work in the universe, but most of these same people do not give credit to Almighty God for creating them even though it is foolish to state that complex laws exist without the presence of a supreme lawgiver. This situation is described accurately in a number of scriptures,

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress (hold down) the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest (evident) in (among) them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (divine nature), so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God (by the things He created), they did not glorify Him as God (give credit to Him for the creation of the universe), nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts (reasoning), and **their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools** (Rom. 1:18-22; NKJV throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament (expanse of heaven) shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech (all the great works of God metaphorically speak volumes continually), and night after night reveals knowledge (required to create the universe). There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard (it should be self-evident wherever you look). Their line (measuring line showing both design and planning) has gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle (tent) for the sun (set bounds or limitations in relationship to other planets), which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber (each day as the sun dawns), and rejoices like a strong man to run its race (metaphorically describing the sun's activities from morning to evening). Its rising is from one end of heaven and its circuit to the other end (description of the orbit of the Earth in relationship to the sun which creates the lengths of days, months, years as well as the four seasons); and there is nothing hidden from its heat (Ps. 19:1-6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is natural for human beings to think they are clever and can find the answers to everything given enough time (cf. Gen. 11:1-6), but Almighty God does not excuse arrogance from those who purport to be authorities regarding the subject of creation. In a discourse with Job, God pointed out that the tendency not to acknowledge His works permeates the thinking and reasoning of those who view themselves too highly. Consequently, in the absence of humility no one can come to an accurate understanding of Almighty God's works,

Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man (remember who you really are in your fallibility); I (Almighty God) will question you (this applies to all of mankind) and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know (as you consider yourself so smart)! Or who stretched the (measuring) line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone? (Job. 38:2-6; Ed. notes in parentheses)

God shows that it is easy to examine creation after it is already in existence, but how could anyone have come up with all the laws that allowed the earth and other planets to be created in the first place and then remain suspended in space and function in an orderly fashion? For instance, what would happen if Almighty God did not create the law of gravity? This law had to be in existence prior to any life on Earth. Otherwise, every physical being would have floated into outer space. After the creation of mankind, what would have happened if God had not established the weather patterns, in conjunction with the four seasons every year, providing rain when it is needed for crop growth?

If you (mankind) walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely (Lev. 26:3-5; cf. Dt. 11:14; 28:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The statutes and commandments mentioned in this last scripture were ordained so that mankind could live a happy, prosperous and peaceful life. In a sense, all God's laws were ahead of their time because they expressed His love for His creation even before Adam and Eve existed. This is confirmed by angels who were present before the time of Adam and Eve. These angels were happy because they were living and working in harmony with the laws of their Creator,

(At creation) when the morning stars (archangels) sang together, and all the sons of God (other angels) shouted for joy? (Job 38:7; Ed. notes in parentheses)

This scenario will not occur again until Jesus Christ returns to introduce the laws of his heavenly Father worldwide,

And He (Almighty God) will destroy on this mountain (a symbol of government) the surface of the covering cast over all people (cf. 1Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9; Jer. 31:31-34), and the veil (representing the concealment of God's hidden truths; cf. Col. 1:25-27) that is spread over all nations (making them hostile toward the law and commandments of God). He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord will wipe away tears from all faces (Isa. 25:7-8a, cf. Rev. 21:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

According to the law of biogenesis, mankind could not have been created from a non-living source, or random sequence of events. Instead, man in all of his complexity was created by a Supreme Life-Source following specific laws. The law of biogenesis, attributed to Louis Pasteur, states that all life arises from pre-existing life, not from nonliving material. Pasteur's (and others') empirical results were summarized in the phrase *Omne vivum ex vivo*, which is Latin for *all life (is) from life*, also known as the "law of biogenesis". Pasteur stated: "La generation spontanee est une chimere" ("Spontaneous generation is a dream").

Therefore, not only does the creation of life require a Life-Giver, but also the laws used in creation cannot simply appear without a Law-Giver. This is why King David gave credit and thanks to Almighty God recognizing that the formation of a human being is an extremely complex and marvelous thing requiring the action of many laws under the direction of a Supreme Law-Giver,

For You (Almighty God) have formed my inward parts; You have covered (woven) me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame (bones) was (were) not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed (Ps. 139:13-16a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Someone once said that if an explosion occurred in a machine shop and a Swiss watch was formed as a result, then he would concede that the universe in all its complexity just happened as a result of a random explosion many billions of years ago. The former scenario is logically absurd as is the latter.

In order for life on Earth to function harmoniously, God established laws pertaining to the health and welfare of all His subjects. When these are ignored there are consequences that will occur sooner or later. For instance, God made it plain that there are negative effects associated with being exposed to dead bodies. In order to minimize these effects, God gave specific instructions for those who might come into contact with a dead body, which included washing thoroughly in water. Unfortunately, the commands that God gave regarding these washings have often been viewed as applying only as a ceremonial law. However, that is not accurate. More often than not, God was teaching His people that cleansing is essential to keeping oneself free from infection both physically as well as spiritually, because both can be fatal. Failure to follow this advice, in a physical sense through proper hand washing, caused many deaths during the 19th century in Europe. Philipp Semmelweis was a Hungarian physician who was described as the "savior of mothers" because he discovered that the incidence of puerperal fever among pregnant women in hospitals was connected to doctors who would perform an autopsy, or dissection, and then visit these women without washing their hands. The mortality rate fluctuated from 10% - 35%. This rate was three times higher than in hospital wards where midwives were involved with child-birthing. In these hospital wards, the midwives had not been exposed to dead bodies,

He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. He shall purify himself with water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean (Nu. 19:11-12).

Also, God commanded that metal objects be sterilized in fire in order to prevent the spread of disease. Unfortunately, many people have died as a result of surgical instruments being used between patients without any exposure to heat,

Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to battle, "This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord commanded Moses: Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water. And you shall wash your clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp (a precautionary quarantine)" (Nu. 31:21-24; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Many soldiers died during the Civil War in the United States as a result of being infected by instruments that were unsterile because the importance of heating instruments to kill bacteria was not known until after that war. Also osteomyelitis, which is the result of broken bones being exposed to the air, spread prolifically during the civil war and Almighty God warned about the

dangers of touching broken bones and then transferring any associated bacteria from person to person,

Whoever in the open field touches one who is slain by a sword or who died, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days (Nu. 19:16; emphasis added).

In order to limit the spread of infectious diseases, God taught the importance of quarantine. Unfortunately, because God's laws have not been taken seriously for most of man's history many people have suffered the consequences. It is interesting to note in an article from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled, "History of Quarantine, The Middle Ages," that mankind did not begin to collectively embrace and follow the law of quarantine until the 14th century,

The practice of quarantine, as we know it, began during the 14th century in an effort to protect coastal cities from plague epidemics. Ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing. This practice, called quarantine, was derived from the Italian words *quaranta giorni* which means 40 days.

When considering all the scriptures on the subject of quarantine and leprosy, it must be remembered that the term "leprosy" can be applied to a number of communicable skin diseases. Therefore, it should be considered a generic term for anything having the potential for transmission from person to person,

When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body like a leprous sore (Heb., saraath, disfiguring skin diseases, including leprosy, and so in vss. 2-46 and 14:1-32), then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests (Lev. 13:2ff; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Anyone with a communicable disease needs to be isolated as quickly as possible in order to limit the spread of the infection from person to person, and everyone within close proximity needs to be warned of the potential danger,

Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his habitation shall be outside the camp (Lev. 13:45-46).

In order to protect people from illnesses due to food contamination, Almighty God gave instructions regarding how long cooked meat can be kept before being discarded. The context was associated with meat being cooked for peace offerings. It is important to bear in mind that refrigeration was not available when these instructions were given,

And if you offer a sacrifice of peace offering to the Lord, you shall offer it of your own free will. It shall be eaten the same day you offer it, and (as well as) on the next day (second day). And if any remains until the third day, it is an abomination. It shall not be accepted (Lev. 19:5-7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Even with refrigeration being readily available today, it is not recommended that cooked meat be kept for more than 3 days. Almighty God gives these commands to mankind in order to protect them from harm, and this is the case in another law relating to the food we eat,

Whatever dies naturally or is torn by beasts he shall not eat, to defile himself with it: I am the Lord. They shall therefore keep My ordinance, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby, if they profane it; I the Lord sanctify them (Lev. 22:8-9).

Because many nations do not know about these laws of God, or simply ignore them, they suffer the consequences. In an article discussing the issue of eating animals that have been dead for a while, Dr. Qadar Malik of Pakistan stated that unknowingly people are getting various illnesses by consuming meat from diseased and dead animals. He added that such meat is extremely dangerous for human health and can cause dysfunction of the liver and kidney.

God's laws are not limited to the creation of the universe, or to improving the health of mankind, they are also an integral part of how we relate to one another. As the society in which the law and commandments were given was primarily agrarian, God gave many laws regarding how this form of commerce was to be used to assist the poor,

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God (Lev. 19:9-10; cf. 23:22).

At the end of every third year (in a seven year cycle) you shall bring out the tithe (a tenth – 10%) of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do (Dt. 14:28-29; cf. 26:12; Amos 4:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And if one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner that he may live with you. Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit (Lev. 25:35-37).

To preserve the family unit in peace and harmony, and by extension local communities and nations, God pronounced laws pertaining to the conduct of everyone within these entities (cf. Leviticus 18). If these laws are ignored, eventually all of these groups begin to fall apart and the ability to maintain law and order within a society becomes impossible,

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he (Lot) insisted strongly (because he knew that there was no law and order in that society); so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally (have sex with them)" (Gen. 19:1-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Today, it is politically incorrect to condemn those who flaunt the laws that God gave in the 18th chapter of Leviticus, and in other scriptures, but history has proven that when

these laws are ignored over a number of generations, societies eventually break down and are removed one way or another.

In the 23rd chapter of Leviticus, God gave commands to the nation of Israel, which now include those who have been called by Him from Gentile nations (Isa. 11:10; Rom. 2:4b; 15:10), to keep His Holy Days. These are God's festivals and were never meant to be exclusively Jewish as many claim today (Lev. 23:2, 4, 37, 44; see studies – God's Holy Days). Because God loves mankind, he gave them His Holy Days as an annual reminder of the plan he is working out to provide an opportunity for everyone to inherit everlasting life (see studies – God's Holy Days). By observing these holy days annually, people are given answers to questions such as, "Why was I born?" or "What is the purpose of this life?" or "Is there life after death?" (see studies – FAQ and Symbolism). By ignoring God's commands to observe these holy days, mankind as a whole will never be able to come to an accurate understanding of these questions.

Many of God's laws deal with the economic well-being of individuals and nations. When these are ignored there can be hardship for extended periods of time. Forgiveness of debt every seventh year (during a fifty year cycle) is one of these laws,

At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release (remission) of debts. And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother because it is called the Lord's release (Dt. 15:1-2; Lev. 25:3-7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

By observing this law every seventh year, individuals are freed from debts they have incurred and they are able to become active participants in the economy, which helps create more jobs. Under God's law, everyone would be freed from any debt associated with their property (in today's society that would include mortgages) because the land would not be owned by anyone except God and those to whom He gave it (cf. Lev. 25:23). At the end of forty-nine years (cf. Lev. 25:8-9), if anyone had rented out their property, or used it as collateral for a loan, they would have it returned without further obligations,

If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his kinsman-redeemer comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the balance to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released and he shall return to his possession (Lev. 25:25-28).

In order to remove any possibility to speculate on real estate, God valued His land based on the number and value of crops that could be produced on it during a fifty year cycle. Consequently, as the nation approached the Year of Jubilee all property became less valuable, which made long term speculation impossible. Land simply had less value year by year. Unfortunately many people lose their property today due to real estate speculation and inflated values combined with unscrupulous lending practices,

According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of crops he shall sell to you. According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price (value); for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops. Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God (Lev. 25:15-17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As these scriptures show, the love of Almighty God is clearly expressed in His law and commandments. By observing these instructions mankind is being taught various ways they too can learn to love others.

Therefore obedience to every law and commandment of Almighty God will result in a positive outcome either sooner or later, even if they are not fully understood and appreciated at the time (cf. Mt. 4:4). Often it takes faith (trusting in God's promises written in His word) to obey, especially if a particular law is not easy to follow or comprehend. In addition to applying God's laws in a physical sense, the spiritual principles behind each law and commandment must also be recognized and applied accordingly (cf. Rom. 7:14a). Consequently, it is important to remember that they were written down to protect mankind from as many problems as possible, both physically and spiritually. These laws and commandments are proof that God loves all those whom He has created. Unfortunately, the majority of mankind views God's laws as either an intrusion of their privacy and freedom, or an unnecessary inconvenience, or simply antiquated and applying only to those who lived in ancient times (cf. Mt. 5:17-19),

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome (1Jn. 5:3).

See, I (Almighty God) have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I commanded you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess (Dt. 30:15-16; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In reality, God's laws will always be ahead of their time and never obsolete. They are applicable to every generation of mankind in one way or another, and those who ignore them will suffer the consequences. The main reason for the return of Jesus Christ is to restore the law and commandments of Almighty God, proving again that they are always ahead of their time (cf. Ps. 2:1-12; Mi. 4:2).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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