**Lesson 4: The Law, Joshua, and the Land**

1. Giving of the law and the fact that the law does not save
2. Exodus 19:10-13- The law came with great fear. God is to be feared. The law was not meant to be a thing of hope for the people to put their trust in for salvation.
3. Leviticus 18:5- Paul takes this verse and says this means if you want to be saved by the law, you have to live by every bit of it.
4. Galatians 3:11-13- What Paul is doing in Galatians is saying that if you seek to live by the law, that is, to get life from the law, you are cursed. Why? Not because the law is bad, but because we are sinful and cannot keep it. The law points us to the need of a savior.
5. Categories of law
6. Ceremonial laws
7. Rituals and ceremonies for worship including practices for priesthood. What types of animals are acceptable.
8. Hebrews presents Christ as sacrificed once for all time (Heb 10:10, 14). The book of Hebrews shows us that Christ is the true and better tabernacle or temple, lamb, goat, etc. It even says in Heb 10:4 that the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. Thus, as we read ceremonial laws, we do not read them as commands to us, but as they are, types of Christ.
9. Food laws and holy days
10. Dietary restrictions, regulations for cleanliness.
11. Specific holy days for Israel to observe.
12. Difference between: “it is an abomination *to you*” versus “it is an abomination.”
13. Mark 7:19 Jesus declared all food clean.
14. As regards holy days, God gave the Jews holy days for the purposes of foreshadowing Christ. Romans 14 says that some people observe days, others don’t. Paul condemns observance of days, months, seasons, and years as a necessity for salvation in Galatians 4:10.
15. Civil Laws
16. This includes laws that regulated the civil life of the community which includes citizenship, slavery, marriage/divorce, etc. Particular to the Jewish citizens.
17. Moral Laws
18. These are the timeless moral laws. The penalty for these things might be presented in a civil manner, but the fact that these things are morally wrong are timeless.

1. Joshua
2. Exo 23:20-23- God promised an Angel would go before them and that they should fear Him as if He were God Himself. He even says “My name is in Him.” Justin Martyr and other early church fathers took this to be a hint at the name of Jesus Christ. Deuteronomy 3:28 sounds very similar to this passage. The Hebrew name of Joshua is *Yeshua* which is Jesus’s name.
3. Joshua 5:13-15 shows that Joshua was not the main leader of their army.
4. Division of the land
5. Read through the book of Joshua and every time a place is mentioned, look it up in your maps in your bible or on bibleatlas.org in the atlas search.
6. Judges
7. Concept of the memorial stone in Joshua (24:27; 4:5-7) representing that God would bless the people as long as they walked in His ways.
8. Joshua 1- They should not let the book of the law depart from them. Joshua 24:15- They are challenged to serve the Lord and when they say they will, Joshua says they cannot because they are evil and their bold declaration witnesses against them.
9. Judges- Defined by “right in his own eye” morality. Rebellion 🡪 Enemies conquer 🡪 Cry out to God in desperation 🡪 Judge sent to save them 🡪 Judge dies 🡪 Back to rebellion.
10. Discussion: Looking for Christ in Joshua and Judges
11. Examples: Rahab’s scarlet cord, Gideon meeting the Angel of the Lord, ultimately focus on Samson. The strong deliverer who only in His moment of greatest weakness and through his death did he save his people with his arms stretched wide.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions**

1. Reflect on Exodus 19:10-13. How does the fear and reverence displayed by the Israelites at the giving of the law emphasize the holiness and authority of God? How does this passage underscore the inability of the law to bring salvation? (**The law cannot save because we cannot keep it. We are incapable of having a righteousness of our own that is acceptable before Christ. See the entire book of Galatians)**
2. Explore the significance of Leviticus 18:5 in light of Paul's interpretation in Galatians 3:11-13. How does Paul use this verse to illustrate the impossibility of achieving righteousness through the law? What does this reveal about the purpose of the law in pointing to the need for a savior? (**The law points us to the need of a savior. It exposes the real status of our hearts as desperate for a mediator, a righteousness that is not our own)**
3. Discuss the distinction between ceremonial, food, civil, and moral laws in the Old Testament, as outlined in the lesson. How does understanding these categories help us interpret and apply the law in light of Christ's fulfillment?
4. Discuss Joshua's exhortation to the Israelites in Joshua 1:7-9. How does Joshua emphasize the importance of God’s word in our lives?
5. Analyze the character of Samson in Judges, focusing on his strengths and weaknesses. How does Samson's life prefigure Christ, particularly in his moment of greatest weakness and ultimate deliverance? (**Remember his arms outstretched as he saves God’s people from their enemies, not by his strength, but through his death)**
6. Discuss the encounter between Gideon and the Angel of the Lord in Judges 6. How do we know this is not just an angel? (**He is worshiped. He receives a sacrifice)**
7. Discuss the concept of "doing what is right in their own eyes" in Judges 17:6 and 21:25. How does this moral relativism lead to spiritual decline and the need for divine intervention? What does this teach us about “discipleship methods” that emphasize the importance of our own opinion of the text as opposed to what the actual meaning of the words is? (**We cannot make discipleship about our own opinions. It must be about clearly understanding sound doctrine as taught authoritatively by qualified teachers)**
8. Read Galatians 2:11-21 and discuss:
9. What was so wrong about what Peter was doing? (**He was making it seem like it mattered to act like a Jew to be a good Christian)**
10. 2:16- How is a man NOT justified?
11. 2:16- How is a man justified?
12. Can anyone be justified by the law (2:16)? Why not?
13. 2:20-21- What is the identity of one who is in Christ? How does this teach us that no righteousness can come through the law?