

Law, Grace, and Citizenship

Labor Day Conference—2012

Session #2 (1 Sep): "Law: God's Revelation & Man's Opinions"

I. REVIEW & TRANSITION

Our situation . . . Our foundation . . . Major concepts

II. PAGANIZATION OF NOAHIC CIVILIZATION

Noahic contract: (1) civil authority given right to use _[lethal force]_ to protect life (9:5-6)

(2) geophysical environment variation limited (8:21-22; 9:11-15)

(3) man-animal relationship involves substitutionary atonement (9:1-4, 8-17)

Every family and tribe had _[the 'Noahic Bible']_ and knew the contract terminology

9th major concept: evil manifested itself at Babel (Gen. 10:8-12; 11:1-4) ==> transform the institution of state (preservative) into a *redemptive institution of social salvation by works of law created by the socially strongest group*

II. INJECTION OF ISRAELITE COUNTER-CULTURE TO DISRUPT PAGANIZED NOAHIC CIVILIZATION

God raises up an “interfering counter-culture” with exclusivity (Gen. 12:1-3) that opposes all attempts to assimilate it into other kingdoms but which *acts as the conduit of ethical authority over all cultures—constant irritant to autonomous civilization.*

1. All knowledge is derived from empirically-sensed reality, the domain of facts
2. Religious ideas concern extra-sensory reality (God's existence).
3. Therefore all religious ideas are mere private speculations that cannot be real knowledge.
4. Therefore no religious idea can claim to be true knowledge.
5. Therefore no religious idea can claim superiority over all other religious ideas, i.e., exclusivity is an unjustifiable claim

Premise #1 is a definition without justification

Exclusivity continues up to today (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- Major "bone of contention" in pagan civilization (as in today's pluralism)
- Basis of all _[Missionary]_ and evangelistic work

Violent Separation of the counter-culture from the pagan culture (exodus)
Exodus from Egypt

Mt Sinai began the brutal "weaning" process of sanctification (Ex 32:1-6; Num 11:4-5)

III. GOD LAYS DOWN THE LAW THAT DEFINES FOR ALL TIME "SOCIAL JUSTICE"

10th major concept: Kingdom of God is perfect society on His terms!
 Mosaic contract is *provisional*--i.e., Kingdom of God coming contingent upon man's response

Deut 5:22-27; 4:6-8

Gentiles have the "ethical conscience + remnants of Noahic Bible to understand, but paganism hates the voice of God and so tries to suppress all awareness of this historic event.

- 5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service
 - 5:11 Accuracy in language about God
 - 5:12-15 Management of labor and property
 - 5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family
 - 5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved
 - 5:18 Marriage is to be protected
 - 5:19 Property is to be protected
 - 5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings
- 5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

Implications of God's design for our labor:

LIFE [God's image](protected)	LIFE [God's image] (jeopardized--)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning as primary social and educational unit—Deut 6)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional so responsibility transferred to the messianic state)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive even in a fallen world)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted—classical pagans had slaves to do work)
INTEGRITY of PERSONAL COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth that fits reality)	INTEGRITY of PERSONAL COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes "truth"—sophist rhetoric)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to the God Who created and controls history according to His announced plan)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self and suppression of all 'reminders' of Creation and Providence)

IV CONCLUSION

9th major concept: A continuing "war" exists between God's injection of special revelation, His interfering works in history vs. paganized Noahic civilization which is corrupted and enthralled with the vision of Babel: "man makes himself"

10th major concept: God's righteousness and justice define "social justice", not man; the Mosaic law manifests true justice

You and I are on the front lines of this war/