



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## The Law of Moses

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While looking through an old folder, I found an old instruction manual for a board game called “Hungry Hungry Hippos.” Since I no longer have the game, I could easily assume it to be of no value. It would not be able to be used as rules for any other game. However, these instructions serve as a detailed reminder of how the game was played. The same illustrates our relationship to the old law today. While we still have the Old Law available, it is no longer binding.

There are many who even take the stance that the Old Testament offers nothing for us today. We no longer offer animal sacrifices, nor must we have dedicated priests to offer sacrifices on our behalf. Men today are not required to take annual trips to Jerusalem. So, since we are no longer subject to the requirements within the Old Law, why must we study it? Just because something may be “old” or “outdated” does not mean it has nothing to offer.

All Scripture has been preserved over the past centuries according to God’s plan. All the preserved Scriptures are essential to make us whole. Just because we do not live in the same way the people of old did does not exclude the importance of the Law. In Romans 15:4, the text reveals that the Old law has been preserved for our learning. Events recorded under the Old Law serve as examples for us as 1 Corinthians 10:4-11 states. Every Scripture has been preserved by God’s providence and offers a countless amount of lessons for our profit.

The Law of Moses serves another important purpose. Paul writes in Galatians 3:24 that “the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ.” The Law pointed toward the hope that Christ brings. In verse 23 Paul tells how the law kept us under guard. The Law itself, had control over us by its power to show us our sin. However, it could never take away our sin. It did serve the purpose of keeping us looking for a Savior provided in Jesus’ covenant.

When Paul says the Law was our tutor, he means that it was the instrument preparing us for Christ. A tutor back then was a servant who lived in the house and had the responsibility of training young children in basic understandings of life, so they could attend school at a proper age.

The Law is also beneficial as it manifests the true character of God over hundreds of years. Romans 7:12 tells us that “the law is holy.” If the Law is holy, the One who put it in place has to be holy as well. The text also states that the commandment is “holy and just and good.” These descriptions of the Law accurately reflect God’s character which is seen throughout the Old Testament.

But, there is a fine line we tread. While the Old Law is important, it is no longer binding upon us. Paul reveals this fact in Colossians 2:14-16 where he says we’re not to be judged by the Law, because it was nailed to the cross. But, it is important for different reasons as well. Hebrews 7 refers to the New Law as a better covenant. We know this to be true because only the New Law can make those who approach God perfect, forgiven of their sins before Him. Regardless of what some men say today, we realize the importance of the Old Law. The Old Law aids us in identifying our sin’s damage to our relationship to Almighty God, and our true need of a Savior. The Law of Moses served its intended purpose of preparing man to obey the New Law given by Jesus Christ.

# I Fell On My Face

Nathan Combs

History is full of human rulers who sat in majestic palaces and demanded the respect of those who entered their presence. But regardless of their ornate apparel and commanding voices, those human rulers were simply men. While men might have quivered in their throne rooms, they did not dissolve into dust by gazing at the glory of kings.

Beholding the Almighty King of the universe is a different matter entirely. When Moses asked to see the face of God, he was told: “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live” (Exodus 33.20). The full glory of the King of Kings is such that mortal man is inherently unable to behold it without destruction. This point was so well understood that many in the Old Testament even feared to have conversations with angels (Genesis 32.20, Judges 6.22-23, 13.22). During the days of Moses, when God spoke to the people from Mount Sinai and revealed himself in a shrouded form of smoke and fire, the Israelites were amazed they lived to tell the tale: “Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, *and man still live*” (Deuteronomy 5.24).

God gave several of his prophets diluted visions of his grandeur before sending them to preach his messages. Ezekiel is a good example of both the awesome glory of God and the proper human response. In Ezekiel chapter one, the prophet first saw a stormy wind coming from the north with flashes of fire and something like gleaming metal. Out of this ominous storm he saw four “living creatures” with wings and multiple faces. Beside the creatures was the appearance of wheels within wheels that were full of eyes. Above this remarkable picture was a throne, upon which God himself was seated in an appearance of fire, gleaming metal, and rainbow. All of this was described by Ezekiel as “the *appearance* of the *likeness* of the glory of the Lord” (Ezekiel 1.28). As glorious as this vision was, it was still several steps removed from the truest form of God’s glory. But what was the prophet’s reaction? “And when I saw it, I fell on my face.”

Do you and I fall on our faces, too? Some people tremble with excitement and fear to shake the hand of a human celebrity, but they think of the God of the Bible with a yawn. Some people pour over magazines and internet articles to gain juicy details about Ben Affleck’s current relationship status, but they have not given attention to the messages of the Holy One. If we are living on his earth, we are standing in his throne room. Those who accept his son’s sacrifice on the cross are allowed to “behold the glory of the Lord” with “unveiled face,” as we are transformed to reflect His glory (2 Corinthians 3.18). Have you trembled before your King?

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