

INTRODUCTION

When God, our Creator, made us in the beginning, He made provisions for our happiness. When God gave us our being, He also gave us what we need for our well-being. I observe that on the first pages of Genesis, we see these things in two pairs:

marriage and childbearing
work and sabbath-keeping

Hopefully that way of speaking sounds familiar to you by now.

I'm speaking to you about these things as preparatory to going on in our study of The Ten Commandments. So far we have considered the first three commandments. But there is some controversy associated with the fourth commandment. I know that one good way to settle some of that controversy is to see how the sabbath appears in the scriptures before The Ten Commandments. So we are looking into that together.

We looked in on these things as they appear in the historical account of Noah and the ark and the great flood.

Today we look in on these things as they appear in the historical account of Jacob and his family.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:1-28

BODY

What do we see in the Bible's account of Jacob and his family, pertaining to the provisions God made for our happiness when He created us?

- I. Observance of the Seven-Day Week, but with No Mention of Sabbath-Keeping
 - A. Laban was observing a seven-day week
 - 1. the Hebrew word is a form of the word ‘seven’
 - 2. the reference is to a seven-day wedding feast
 - a) Judges 14:12 Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing.
 - b) Judges 14:17 Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people.
 - B. But there is no mention of sabbath-keeping
 - C. Just like we had in the account of Noah and the flood
 - D. As if the sabbath day is all but forgotten
 - E. The seven-day week, which was created to be a blessing to man, used by sinful men to mistreat their fellow men

- II. Observance of Marriage, but Not Kept According to Its Original Institution
 - A. Jacob comes to Haran for the purpose of finding a wife
 - 1. a legitimate purpose, to find a wife
 - 2. in the case of Isaac and of Jacob, the parents took the initiative
 - B. Jacob knows that in order to have Rachel, he needs to marry her, and with her father's permission
 - C. Laban, Jacob break the law of nature in marrying Jacob to a second wife
 - D. See how Jacob received a taste of God's justice in this
 - 1. old way of saying it: God repaid Jacob in his own coin
 - E. Jacob had not set out to marry two women instead of just one
 - F. Jacob's father had married only one woman, and taken no other women

III. God's Great Salvation in Jesus Christ Revealed in Type and Shadow

A. Jacob as a type or shadow showing the salvation that God would send

1. The father sent His son to take a wife (Gen 28:1-4)
 - a) from his mother's people
 - b) with God's blessing
 - c) to become an assembly of peoples
 - d) to bring them the blessings God promised to Abraham
2. The son went
 - a) leaving the promised land where his father was
 - b) leaving the great wealth to which he was heir
3. The son came
 - a) to his mother's relatives
 - b) was seen by them as being the same flesh and bones as they were
4. The son loved his chosen bride, and worked long and hard to gain her for himself; but it did not seem too long or too hard to him, because of his great love for her (Gen 29:20)
5. The son took his bride away from her wicked father to take her to the promised land
 - a) she would have clung to her father's idols (Genesis 31:19)
 - b) she deserved to die for her idolatry and theft (Gen 31:32)
 - c) but God provided that her accuser could not prevail, because her sin was covered (Gen 31:33-35)
 - d) the Son commanded that she put away her idols and serve God (Gen 35:2-4)

- B. Jesus Christ as the anti-type or substance actually bringing the salvation by which God saves us
1. Gal 4:4-5 ...God sent forth His Son...to redeem those who were under the law Gal 3:13-14 (paraphrase) to that God's blessing would come upon us, that we might receive the promise through faith
 2. 2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 3. Gal 4:4 ...born of a woman... John 1:11 He came to His own...
 4. 1 John 1 (paraphrase) the Son, Jesus Christ, was seen by those people's eyes; they touched Him; they heard His voice Luke 24:39 (paraphrase) they saw and felt that He had flesh and bones just as they did
 5. Eph 5:25 (paraphrase) the Son loved His bride, the church, and gave Himself for her
 - a) laboring and suffering much for us, especially in His death on the cross
 - b) but it did not seem like too much to Him, because of the great love with which He loved us
 6. we were in idolatry, and rightly accused of it by the devil, but God has caused our sins to be covered by blood
 - a) Romans 8:33-34 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
 - b) and as God has commanded all men everywhere to repent, by the power of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have 1 Thess 1:9 ...turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
 - c) so Col 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

CONCLUSION

Sinful men need more than the natural law to govern their dealings with other people.

We must place our trust not in these provisions God has made for our happiness during this life, but in the provisions God has made for our eternal happiness, when Jesus Christ will be the fulfillment of these things.

There is clear expression in the Bible of what God commands and approves, over against what He prohibits and disapproves. We are to obey these things. But we are not to seek salvation from God's wrath in such obedience.

Instead, we are to see also in the Bible the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to seek salvation from God's wrath through faith in Him

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Colossians 3:1-2

Alvin - Scripture Reading - Ephesians 5:22-33

Alex - Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Ava - Prelude "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Journey - Trinity 206 "Up from the Grave He Arose" - Andrew lead

Journey - Trinity 725 "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 216 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Calvin (on Genesis 30:15):

God suffered them to contend with each other, that the punishment of polygamy might be exhibited to posterity. And it is not to be doubted that this domestic private quarrel, yea, hostile dissension, brought great grief and torment to the holy man. But the reason why he found himself thus distracted by opposite parties was, that against all right, he had broken the unity of the conjugal bond.