

LESSON 6

Dispensation of the Law

Objective : To lead students to salvation through Jesus by making them aware about the incapability of the Law of God given to Israelites to save them from the sin and judgment.

Bible Portion : Exodus 19:5-24:18; Acts 7:30-53.

Memory Verse : Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin?

Introduction :

Dispensations came after the Dispensation of Innocence viz., Dispensation of Conscience, Dispensation of Human Rule and Dispensation of Promise were not helpful neither to reform men/women from the sin nor drawing them closer to God. Therefore God provided commandments and norms to the Israelites, the chosen ones through Moses. The Dispensation of the Law is of 1524 years spanning from the instance when God provided the Law at the Mount Sinai to the Crucifixion of Jesus on Calvary.

Test in this Dispensation

This dispensation witnessed a test to know whether the Israelites, the chosen people of God will obey and live according to the Law.

Giveaway of the Law

God delivered the Israelites His chose people from Egypt through Moses. In their journey to Canaan they were led by the pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Though the people were protected by the grace they rebelled and murmured against God. In this juncture it was highly inevitable to give them the knowledge of sin and its

punishment. For this the Law was given (Rom. 3:20). God in his glory and unique splendor appeared in the Mount Sinai. Revealing his holiness and making people aware about their weakness to stand before him, provided them with the holy code to practice. Three kinds of codes are included in this:

1. Commandments

Out of the Ten Commandments revealing the holy will of God, the first four is about the commitments to God and rest deal with the responsibilities related to men/women (Exo. 20:1-17).

2. Judgments

The laws to be practices in the social life are included in this (Exo. 21:1-23:3).

3. Ordinances

Clear ordinances were given to apply in the spirituality and worship. Special instructions about the worshipping place Tabernacle, making of its articles and system are highly important among these.

Covenant

The Israelites made covenant three times to obey the commandments and ordinances given by God through Moses and sealed it by sprinkling blood.

Failure

It's understood that the history of Israelites who were in receipt of most precious Law is series of pathetic failures and godly judgments.

In the wilderness

Moses upon receiving the commandments came down from the Mt. Sinai saw the seen people worshipping a molten calf (Exo. 32). Apostle Paul has summarized their sin and it's worth noticeable (1 Cor. 10:6-10). Thousands of people who committed Idolatry, fornication, testing God, murmuring, lusty thoughts were destroyed in the wilderness. The people who reached the border of the Promised Land were about to enter into. However due to unbelief and fear they hesitated to enter into

the promised land (Num. 14). As a result they had to wander 40 years in the wilderness. Only Joshua and Caleb who among the people older than 20 years old, who set from Egypt entered into the Canaan. Rest all were in trouble at wilderness. Even Moses who received the Law from God himself disqualified to enter into the Canaan (Num. 27:14).

In the Promised Land.

After entering into the Promised Land the people of God in the presence of Joshua renewed their covenant with God and pledged to serve the Lord only (Joshua 24:16-18). However people continued to become idolaters and violators of the Law during the times of Judges and Kings. The prophets who rose among them gave strong exhortations and warnings to the people (Isa. 1:16-20; Jer. 5:28-31). But no one including Kings, Priests or common people did mind their words. Moreover prophets like Jeremiah were brutally attacked. Due to the sin of Israel, they were divided into two nations. Israel, the northern Kingdom was destroyed fully in 722 BC by the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom Judah too fully destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Many were killed and rest were taken captives.

Post Exile Days

Jews upon coming back to Canaan after exile rebuilt the temple in many stages and strived to restore the worship. They also made oath to obey the Law of God (Neh. 10:29). But people contaminated themselves by committing sins like profaning the Sabbath day, inter-caste marriage, social injustice, unfaithfulness etc (Neh. 13:15-30; Mal. 3:7-15). As a result the Jews were subjected to foreign rulers viz., Greece, Egypt, Syria and Rome. Israelites sin reached to its peak at the Crucifixion of Jesus, who was their redeemer and promised Messiah. He came to his own people, and his own people received Him not (John 1:14). The Jewish people had to suffer the bitterness of this. The Roman emperors killed many in AD 50 and 66. In AD 70 Tirtos, the sun of then ruler Vespasian conquered Jerusalem, killed 10,00000 Jews and set the Jerusalem Temple on fire. Remaining Jews were dispersed into different parts of the world.

Though the Israelites received the Law according the will of God, observed it not. Time to time they got the punishment for the same. The

life of Israelites during the Dispensation of the Law teaches that Man/woman cannot be saved by observing the Law. All are sin and equally worthy to be punished according to the Law. Therefore let's trust in Jesus the only savior who carried the punishment of everyone's sin.

Questions

1. Though the Israelites received the Law according the will of God, observed it not. Prove.
 2. The span of age which determines the Dispensation of the Law.
 3. The thing which is possible by the Law.
 4. What is the way of escape for the violators of the Law?
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