

Living under Kingdom Law?

Ezekiel 40-48

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- I was born and raised here in the United States of America and live now in the State of New Jersey. And thus I am familiar with the customs, the way of life, the laws that govern this land.
- **All of us were born and raised in the Age of GRACE!**
 - **The dispensation of the Law had done its job.**
 - Galatians 3:19-25-- *“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”*
 - The Mosaic Law defined sin.
 - It transformed sin into a punishable offense
 - It was the tutor that brought us to Christ
 - **Jesus Christ ushers in a new era, the Age of GRACE**
 - John 1:17-- *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*
 - Galatians 3:24-25-- *“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”*
 - During this age of Grace, we are free from sin’s power, free to worship God in Spirit and in truth. We are no longer under the worship requirements of the Mosaic Law.
 - During this age of Grace, God has temporarily set aside working primarily with the Jews to call out a people from all nations, languages, ethnic groups to form the Church, made up of believing Jews and Gentiles
 - The Age of Grace does not end with the rapture of the church, but rather at Christ’s Second Coming at the end of the tribulation. For many will come to faith in Christ during the tribulation period.
- **At Jesus’ Second Coming, He will usher in a new dispensation, the Kingdom Age!**
 - **The Kingdom that Jesus establishes will definitely be Jewish in nature.**
 - The **regathering of the Jews** to the land in fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham.
 - Jesus Christ will enter into a **New Covenant** relationship with Israel which includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers.
 - Jeremiah 31:33-34-- *“will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*
 - Ezekiel 36:25-27 -- *“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”*

- Jesus Christ will establish a **Davidic Kingdom** on earth in fulfillment of the promise to David, the prophecy of Isaiah, and the message to Mary.
 - 2 Samuel 7:16-- *"that your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."*
 - Isaiah 9:6-7-- *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."*
 - Luke 1:32-33-- *"will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*
- The Gentile nations will fade into the background as Israel takes center stage in the Kingdom.
- **Jesus Christ will rule His kingdom "with a rod of iron."**
 - Revelation 19:15-- *"He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron."*
 - Psalm 2:8-9-- *"Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."*

Living under Kingdom Law? Is this a return to the Law of Moses?

A. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS to Aid Our Understanding.

1. **Both Kingdom Law and the Mosaic Law are GOD'S LAW!**
 - a. **As the Law of God, the Mosaic Law was good.**
 - Romans 7:12-- *"the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."*
 - b. **The problem with the Mosaic Law was that it relied upon human effort to obey it.**
 - Romans 8:3-- *"the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh."*
 - c. **During the Kingdom Age, all believers will be indwelt by the Spirit** thus enabling them to obey God's law.
 - d. **We today fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law through faith in Christ.**
 - Romans 8:4-- *"the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*
 - e. **Since the Mosaic Law and Kingdom Law have the same author we should expect some similarities.**
2. **Jesus Christ, in His sermon on the Mount, lays down some of the rules for Kingdom living and its relationship to the Law of Moses.**
 - a. **Certain aspects of the Mosaic Law will not pass away but will be part of Kingdom Law.**
 - Matthew 5:17-20-- *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."*

- b. **The moral imperatives found in the Mosaic covenant are for all ages.** What is deemed sin in the Old Testament is sin now in this Age of Grace and will be considered sinful in the future Kingdom Age.
- Matthew 7:12-- *"Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."*

B. SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS regarding the Ceremonial Laws, the festivals, holy days, the priesthood, and sacrifices. *Will that part of the Mosaic covenant be included in Kingdom Law?*

1. **Similarities between the Mosaic law and Kingdom Law.**

- a. **The central focus on an altar** on which blood is sprinkled, and on which are offered burnt and trespass offerings.
- Ezekiel 43:18-- *"Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: 'These are the ordinances for the altar on the day when it is made, for sacrificing burnt offerings on it, and for sprinkling blood on it.'"*
- b. **Reinstitution of the Levitical Priesthood** with the sons of **Zadok** performing priestly duties.
- Ezekiel 43:19-- *"'You shall give a young bull for a sin offering to the priests, the Levites, who are of the seed of Zadok, who approach Me to minister to Me,' says the Lord GOD."*
- c. **Prescribed rituals for cleansing** the altar, the Levites who minister, and the temple itself.
- Ezekiel 43:20-27-- *"'You shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the rim around it; thus you shall cleanse it and make atonement for it. Then you shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and burn it in the appointed place of the temple, outside the sanctuary. On the second day you shall offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering; and they shall cleanse the altar, as they cleansed it with the bull. When you have finished cleansing it, you shall offer a young bull without blemish, and a ram from the flock without blemish. When you offer them before the LORD, the priests shall throw salt on them, and they will offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. Every day for seven days you shall prepare a goat for a sin offering; they shall also prepare a young bull and a ram from the flock, both without blemish. Seven days they shall make atonement for the altar and purify it, and so consecrate it. When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you,' says the Lord GOD."*
- d. **The regulations governing life, dress, and diet** of the priestly order in Ezekiel 45:15-31
- e. **The observance of the New Moon and Sabbath**
- Ezekiel 46:1-- *"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.'"*
- f. **The offering of a daily sacrifice on the altar.**
- Ezekiel 46:13-- *"You shall daily make a burnt offering to the LORD of a lamb of the first year without blemish; you shall prepare it every morning."*
- g. **Observance of the Passover with modifications**
- Ezekiel 45:21-24-- *"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. And on that day the prince shall prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. On the seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams without blemish, daily for seven days, and a kid of the goats daily for a sin offering. And he shall prepare a grain offering of one ephah for each bull and one ephah for each ram, together with a hin of oil for each ephah."*

- h. **Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles with Gentile participation.**
- Zechariah 14:16-- *"it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."*
2. **Glaring Differences and Omissions which make the two systems of Law distinct.**
- a. **Major change in the priestly selection, taken only from the line of Zadok and not from the entire Levitical line.**
- 1) **The whole Levitical line was set aside because of their apostacy in the past.**
 - Ezekiel 44:10-14-- *"And the Levites who went far from Me, when Israel went astray, who strayed away from Me after their idols, they shall bear their iniquity. Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, as gatekeepers of the house and ministers of the house; they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them. Because they ministered to them before their idols and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity, therefore I have raised My hand in an oath against them," says the Lord GOD, "that they shall bear their iniquity. And they shall not come near Me to minister to Me as priest, nor come near any of My holy things, nor into the Most Holy Place; but they shall bear their shame and their abominations which they have committed. Nevertheless I will make them keep charge of the temple, for all its work, and for all that has to be done in it."*
 - 2) **God chooses the line of Zadok because of their faithfulness to him.**
 - Ezekiel 44:15-16-- *"But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood," says the Lord GOD. "They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge."*
- b. **Major Omissions**
- 1) **Artifacts missing from the temple** which were essential for worship under the old covenant.
 - a) **Ark of the Covenant**
 - Jeremiah 3:16-- *"Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the LORD, "that they will say no more, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore."*
 - b) **No pot of manna, no Aaron's rod that budded, no stone tablets of the Law, no Cherubim over the Ark because there is no Ark.**
 - c) **No Mercy Seat**
 - d) **No golden lampstands, no veil that separated the Holy place from the Holy of holies.**
 - 2) **No Holy of Holies in the Millennial temple**
 - 3) **No High Priest**
 - 4) **The very core of the whole Levitical system-- the "Day of Atonement" is missing.**
 - Leviticus 16:29-31-- *"This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever."*