

Episode #327 We Establish the Law 3: Jethro's Proposal

I. There are many different ideas and teachings about the law, and there is a great deal of confusion about it. Many remain in ignorance of what the Bible really says about the law. Paul said in Romans 3:31, "We Establish the Law." With proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. Last time we saw that we must keep two lines of truth in the Bible clearly separated in our minds: the truth regarding God's work with the nation of Israel, and the truth regarding the rest of the nations. If we fail to keep these two lines of truth in mind, we will always be confused.

III. Jethro's proposal.

A. Jethro, the priest of Midian (Exodus 3:1,) comes to Moses with his wife Zipporah.

Makes sacrifices for him (Exodus 18:7-12.)

B. Exodus 18:13-20. Jethro does not approve of Moses' wearing himself out, proposes a new way of doing things.

C. Exodus 18:21. 78,600 men in Israel who fear God, are of the truth, and hate covetousness, before God ever said "thou shalt not covet."

1. This is true even after 2,500 years of no law! Just because Exodus is our second book, this is a long time with no law.

2. Abraham Lincoln: "In regards to this great Book, I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong." Yet for 2,500 years there was no law recorded in the Bible, and yet there were still men who knew right from wrong, hating covetousness!

3. God has given us a conscience, enlightening every man. John 1:9.

D. Exodus 18:22-23. If God so commands you. Some (Scofield) have suggested this was a worldly-wise organization that God did not honor. But if Moses followed Jethro's advice, he must have consulted God about it first. (v.24)

IV. Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. This is what we are seeking to do. Some have suggested that we would not know what right and wrong are if it were not for the law. Yet the law was given 2,500 years or so after creation, and yet the things it forbade were still wrong before it was ever given. These things were wrong before the law was ever given, and they are still wrong. We can learn from these things, but we should not think that without the law there is no right and wrong.