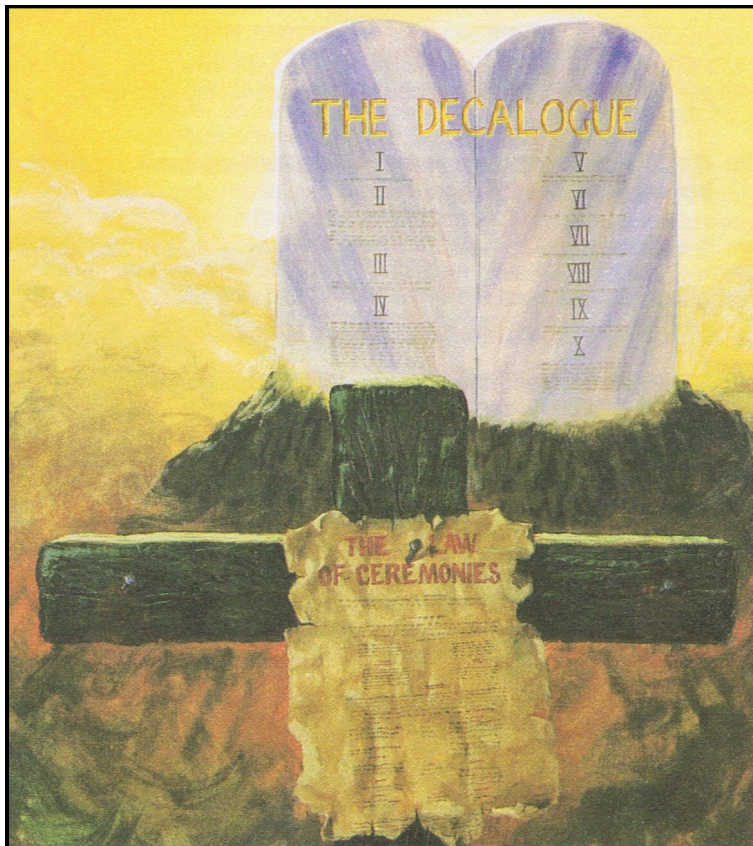


learned in this lesson that God's law cannot be changed. In the next couple of lessons we will examine in detail this purported attempt to change God's eternal, changeless law. Daniel 7:25 says he "shall intend to change times and law." How has the little horn done this?




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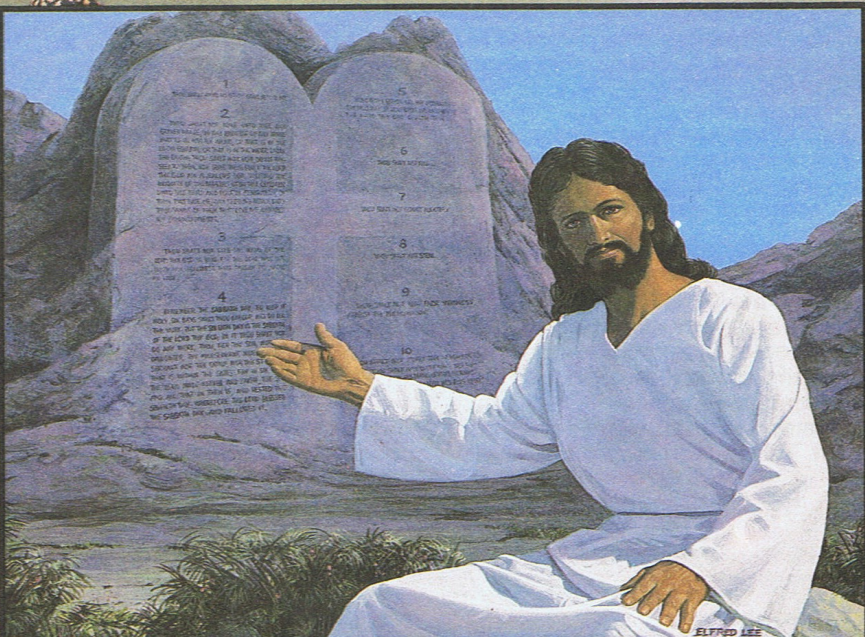
22. Are you thankful that God has an eternal and changeless law? Are you thankful that He saves us by grace and then gives us power to keep His law through our relationship with Him?

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# PROPHECY SEMINAR



CAN THE LITTLE HORN  
CHANGE GOD'S LAW?

As we have studied the book of Daniel,  
three areas of vital concern have been  
brought to our attention.

1. There is a great controversy going on  
between Christ and Satan. One of the



central issues in this controversy is over how people worship God. The book of Daniel has revealed to us that the rise and fall of empires doesn't just happen. God is in control of human events. The last conflict to come upon planet Earth will be similar to the conflict that came to Daniel and the Hebrews in ancient Babylon. It will be a conflict over how people worship God.

2. The book of Daniel has predicted a major apostasy from the truth of God's Word. Ancient Babylon has become symbolic of mighty spiritual Babylon in the book of Revelation. In Lesson 9 we learned that Daniel predicted the rise of the little horn that would lead the church to mix truth with error, paganism with Christianity. Daniel's prediction has been proven correct; there has been a major apostasy from the Word of God in Christendom (Daniel 7; 2 Thess. 2: 1-7).

3. Daniel has also revealed to us that God's people will be able to resist the apostasy and stand victorious with Jesus Christ in the great controversy because they have built a deep, personal, abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Daniel 6 emphasizes the importance of Christians taking time with God in Bible study and prayer. We must know what God's Word says and must have a deep, personal relationship with Christ or we will never make it through the final events of earth's history.

The little horn emerges as one of the chief antagonists in this great controversy, because it is the instrument through which apostasy has entered the Christian church. We will soon see that Satan, through the little horn, has endeavoured to sever the relationship between God and His people. Satan well knows that if we have a deep relationship with God and are well-fortified with Bible truth, we will not be overcome by his attacks. Ingeniously, he has used the little horn power to attempt to make changes in God's law that have to do with our relationship with God. This lesson will reveal whether or not the little horn can change God's law. The next lesson will give the astonishing revelation of just how the little horn has attempted to change the law of God.

#### 1. What specifically would the little horn think to change? Daniel 7:25

"And shall \_\_\_\_\_ to change \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Changing God's law is impossible, and yet, amazingly, the little horn power thinks that it has such great power that it can actually change God's law. Please notice that the text does not say it will do it, but only that it thinks it can do it. Note also that it would think to change not just the law, but the times and the law. One of the key thoughts we have noticed already in Daniel is the need to take time with God. Now we see that the little horn would attempt to change the times, the very area that deals with people taking time to build a relationship with God.

#### 2. How many commandments are in God's law? Exodus 34:28

command to love God in Deuteronomy 6 immediately follows the giving of the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5, indicating clearly that love was to be the motive for obedience to God even in the Old Testament.

#### 19. Was Old Testament religion a legalistic religion? Micah 6:8.

"What does the LORD require of you, but to do \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, and to walk \_\_\_\_\_ with your God?"

NOTE: This is surely not evidence of a legalistic religion, but a life of obedience that springs out of a loving relationship with God.

#### 20. Was the new birth experience also an Old Testament experience? Ezekiel 36:26, 27

"I will give you a new \_\_\_\_\_...I will put My \_\_\_\_\_ within you and \_\_\_\_\_ you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

NOTE: Here again, the very elements of gospel religion are presented. In order to serve God, people must receive a new heart. The Holy Spirit would live in this new heart, and it would be the Holy Spirit living and dwelling in the people that would cause them to obey their Heavenly Father.

God has only one plan of salvation. In both Old and New Testaments, God always saves people solely by grace through faith and never by works. Works and law keeping, in both Old and New Testament, were always the result of a relationship with God, and never a means to obtaining that relationship.

#### 21. Does God, His law, or His plan of salvation ever change? Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 5:17

"I am the LORD, I do \_\_\_\_\_ change." "Jesus Christ is the same \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: What great news this is! Our God doesn't change. What He said in Old Testament times is the same that He says in New Testament times. The plan of salvation is more fully revealed in the New Testament, but it is not different. The relationship of law and grace is the same in both Old and New Testaments. God's law is as eternal and changeless as God Himself. To change God's law would be to change the character of God, and God has declared He does not change. What assurance there is in this for the Christian! We do not serve a fickle God who changes with every whim that comes along, but one who can be counted on to deliver.

In spite of all these scriptural assurances of the changelessness of our God, Daniel 7 reveals the incredible news that the little horn would attempt to alter that which God Himself has declared unalterable - His holy law. We have

clear that people are not saved by law-keeping; they are saved solely by the blood of Jesus Christ. He cleanses, and then He provides the power to live a life of obedience. God's holy law shows people their need of cleansing, but it cannot cleanse. Only Jesus can.

**16. How then are people saved? Ephesians 2:8, 9**

"By \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved through faith,.... Not of \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: The New Testament is crystal clear. People are saved solely by what Jesus Christ does for them (grace). Law-keeping and good works are the result of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, but never a means to obtaining that relationship.

## OLD TESTAMENT SALVATION

The New Testament makes clear that God saves people by grace and expects them to live a life of obedience because they have a relationship with Him. Many people have not realized that the Old Testament teaches exactly the same concept. In both testaments, God's people are saved by grace, and then, because He has redeemed them, they will keep His law.

**17. Did God give the Ten Commandments to Israel before or after He redeemed them from Egypt? Exodus 19:4, 5; Exodus 20:1, 2**

"I bore you on eagles' wings and \_\_\_\_\_ you to Myself. Now \_\_\_\_\_, if you will indeed \_\_\_\_\_ My voice. ...I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

NOTE: Notice how clearly God spells it out. The reason why Israel was asked to obey was an outgrowth of the fact that God had already redeemed them. Nowhere does Scripture give any indication that God ever asks people to obey as a condition to redemption. He first of all redeems them, and then He asks for their obedience.

**18. What Is the Old Testament motive for obeying God? Deuteronomy 6:4, 5**

"You shall \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD your God."

NOTE: Most Christians will quickly notice that this commandment to love God is the same one Jesus repeated in Matthew 22:37. The second great commandment of Jesus, to love your neighbour, is also an Old Testament commandment, found in Leviticus 19:18. These two great summations of the law that Jesus gives are actually Old Testament commandments. The

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**3. What is so special about these Ten Commandments? Exodus 31:18; 32:15,16**

They were written with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; the writing was the writing of \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: The Ten Commandments are the only part of the Bible that God, Himself, wrote with His own finger. The rest of Scripture was written by the prophets as God communicated with them. The Ten Commandments were of such vital importance that God wrote them with His own finger on tables of stone. This indicated their permanency. Very quickly, we can see the great presumption of the little horn. It has attacked and attempted to change the one part of the Bible that God Himself wrote. In attempting to change God's law, it has attacked God Himself!

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments are a transcript of the character of God. They reveal to us what God is like. God's law is thus a reflection of Himself. To attempt to change God's law would actually be an attempt to change God.

**4. What Is the first commandment? Exodus 20:3**

"You shall have \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ before Me."

**5. What does the second commandment prohibit? Exodus 20:4-6**

"You shall not make for yourself a carved \_\_\_\_\_ ... You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ down to them."

**6. What does the third commandment say? Exodus 20:7**

"You shall not take the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD your God in vain."

NOTE: These first three commandments have upheld the supremacy of the true God, the uniqueness of the true God, as the only One worthy of our worship, honour and respect.

**7. What does the fourth commandment require of people? Exodus 20:8-11**

"Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ day, to keep it holy."

**8. What specifically are people to keep as the Sabbath day? Exodus 20:10**

"The \_\_\_\_\_ day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God."

NOTE: In this commandment, people are asked to spend one day each week in contemplation of their Creator and Redeemer, building a relationship with Him. This is the one commandment in which God asks people to take time to build a relationship with Him. While people must spend time with God every day in Bible study and prayer, this commandment asks them to go beyond the daily devotional time and spend one day a week in intensive relationship-building. How wonderful God is to make certain that we have time for building a solid relationship. We have a wonderful God who wants to become intimately acquainted with each of us. That's why He gave us this special time weekly as specified in the fourth commandment.

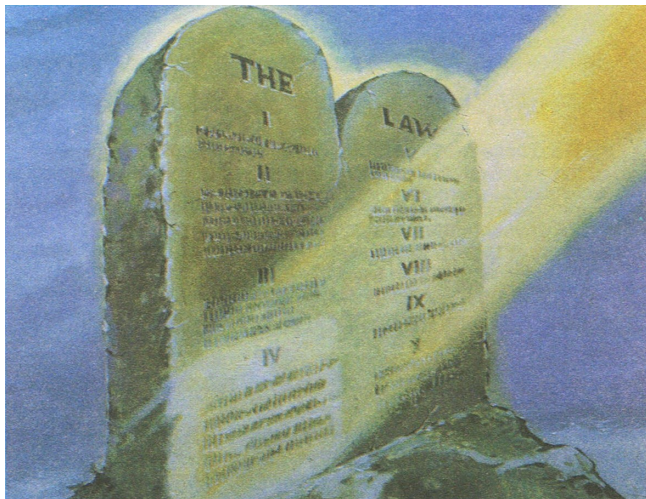
**9. What commandment did God give to protect the family? Exodus 20:12**

"\_\_\_\_\_ your father and your mother."

NOTE: This world of sin has erased much of what has come to us from the Garden of Eden. In fact, there are only two blessings left from that perfect paradise dwelling: the Sabbath and the home. Commandments 4 and 5 were given to protect these sacred legacies of our Eden home.

**10. What moral standards does God IoW In the last five of the Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:13-17**

- a. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."
- b. "You shall not commit \_\_\_\_\_."
- c. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."
- d. "You shall not bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness."
- e. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."



As amazing and incredible as it may seem, Daniel 7 predicts that the little horn will attempt to change these very Ten Commandments. Obviously, it has to be a very subtle change, because an open attempt to attack God's law and change it would promptly be met with resistance by Christian people.

## LAW AND GRACE

One of the subtle ways that Satan has sought to discredit God's law today has been through the suggestion that since we are saved by grace, we no longer need to keep God's law. Is salvation by grace a license to sin? What does the Bible say about this?

**11. What is sin? 1 John 3:4**

"Sin is \_\_\_\_\_."

**12. Which law its lit that points out sin? Romans 7:7**

"I would not have known sin except through the \_\_\_\_\_  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: God's law points out, or reveals, sin. In quoting the tenth commandment, Paul indicates that the law involved is the Ten Commandment law.

**13. Is grace an excuse for sin? Romans 6:1, 2**

"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? \_\_\_\_\_ not."

NOTE: A person saved by the grace of God will live an obedient life. Grace is not an excuse for breaking God's law. In fact, the opposite is true. A person saved by grace no longer wishes to dwell in sin or to live in disobedience to God's law.

**14. What Is the purpose of God's law? Romans 3:20**

"By the law is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: The law does not save, it reveals the sinner's need of salvation. The law does not justify, or cleanse, it only shows our need of cleansing. It is God's great mirror, reflecting the sinner's need of cleansing and redemption (James 1:23,24)

**15. How only can the Christian be cleansed? 1 John 1:7**

"The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

NOTE: Only through Jesus can people receive cleansing. The Bible is very