

The 3 BIBLICAL AGES & LAW

TEXT: **Hebrews 1:1-2** In the Past God Spoke at Various times and in different ways to the Fathers by the Prophets

Intro. We are Going to cover 3 main ideas:

1. Overview of the 3 Biblical Ages
2. God's Law and the Gentiles (non-Jews) During the Patriarchal AGE
3. ALL men Are NOW are under the LAW to CHRIST (Gentiles & Jews)

I. OVERVIEW OF THE 3 AGES (HOW GOD DEALT WITH MANKIND)

- A. **Patriarchal Age:** Time Period From creation of World until the time of Christ.
 1. "Patriarchal" – Appears that God dealt with heads of families – **Gen. 18:17-19**.
 2. Its the idea is that the fathers to hand down "the way of the Lord" to their children
 - a. God dealt directly with men (**Heb. 1:1**).
 - b. God made His will known to men in different ways (Speaking directly to, dreams/visions, Angels and prophets).
- B. **Jewish Age:** Time Period from Giving of law of Moses to law of Christ
 1. National law – APPLIED Only to Israel – **Exodus 34:27-28; Deut. 5:2-3 (Rom. 9:4)**.
 2. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** ceased when law of Christ came into effect.
- C. **Christian Age:** Time Period from giving of gospel of Christ to end of world
 1. Applies to ALL Men - **Matt. 28:18-20 (Acts 1:8; 2:1ff)**.

(CHART – SHOWING HOW 3 AGES RELATE)

II. GOD'S LAW AND THE GENTILES (non-Jews)

- A. **Men have always been under Divine Law – Rom. 5:12-13**
 1. Only men who are under law, sin.
 2. All men sin - **Rom. 3:23**; Inhabitants of the Earth has sinned- **Isa. 24:5**
 3. Therefore, all men are and have been under divine law.
- B. The Law was **Revealed** by God
 1. *Men lived by FAITH in each of these different AGES as Revealed in Hebrews 11* and faith comes from hearing word of God **Rom. 10:17**
EXAMPLES of that:
 - a. Abel: (**Gen. 4:3-5**) - **Heb. 11:4**; (**Rom. 10:17**).
 - b. Enoch: (**Gen. 5:24**) – Walked with God **Heb. 11:5** – Well-pleasing to God.
 2. *Men have been condemned by God in each of these AGES,*
EXAMPLE of that:
 - a. Men of Noah's day: **Gen. 6:5** (Hearts set on evil – A standard of righteousness present that they refused, cf. **6:9 ...Noah was Blameless**).
 3. Man *learned* God's will:
 - a. Abimelech (**Gen. 20:1-7**): God told him thru a dream not to have Abraham's Wife (**20:6**)
- C. The Law was **not Written** (like the Jews) – **Rom. 2:14-15**.
 1. Nevertheless, God's law was *revealed* to man
 2. **Rom. 1:18-21; 24-25; 28; 32**: God revealed Himself & His will to the Gentiles:
 - a. **1:19** – God's will had been *known*
 - b. **1:21** – They *knew* God, but didn't serve God (**Isa. 24:5**).
 - 1) **1:25, 28** - They *rejected* God & His *truth*, refusing to keep Him in their *knowledge*.
 - 2) **1:32** – *Knew* God's ordinances against sin (deserved death), yet practiced sin & consented with those who sinned!

D. We Can't Know What God Wants Without Divine Revelation

(as opposed to being born knowing specifically what is right and wrong...

.....other than perhaps having a sense that things like Murder or stealing are wrong)

1. **Jer 10:23** – **Not in Man to direct self**

2. **Proverbs 14:12** – “There is a way that seems right to a Man but its end is the way of death.”

E. What Does the New Testament Say?

1. **1 Cor. 2:10-13, 16** Revealed by the HS located in NT

2. **Eph. 3:3-5** Some of the things revealed before were a Mystery

III. ALL MEN ARE NOW UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST - Eph. 1:20-23

A. Christ **Rules** All Men **with** His **Gospel**.

1. **John 17:2** - Authority over all flesh.

2. **Matt. 28:18-19** – All “*right to rule*” heaven & earth.

3. **Mark 16:15** – Preach *gospel* to the *whole creation*. (His authority over all men is made known by the gospel.)

4. **Hebrews 1:1-3** – The word of His power upholds all things; How God speaks to us today.

5. **Acts 17:30-31** – By Christ (gospel), God commands all men everywhere to repent.

Conclusion

1. Since the Creation, All Men have been under divine law

2. Since Acts 2, all men are under the Gospel (Law) of Christ.

3. Only the gospel will save sinners – **Rom. 1:16**.