

## **MORAL LAW = PRECEPTS = STATUTES = FEASTS OF WHICH WE ARE COMMANDED TO KEEP FOREVER**

The **law of God** existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the **principles** of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them his **law**. It was not then written, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah. {ST June 10, 1880, par. 7}

The **Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden**. After God had made the world, and created man upon the earth, he made the Sabbath for man. After Adam's sin and fall, nothing was taken from the **law of God**. The principles of the ten commandments existed before the fall, and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall, **the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts** (*the sacrifices*) **were given to meet man in his fallen state**. {1SP 261.2}

A system was then established requiring the **sacrificing** of beasts, to keep before fallen man that which the serpent made Eve disbelieve, that the penalty of disobedience is death. The transgression of **God's law** made it necessary for Christ to die a sacrifice, and thus make a way possible for man to escape the penalty, and yet the honor of **God's law** be preserved. The system of sacrifices was to teach man humility, in view of his fallen condition, and lead him to repentance, and to trust in God alone, through the promised Redeemer, for pardon for past transgression of his **law**. **If the law of God had not been transgressed, there never would have been death, and there would have been no need of additional precepts to suit man's fallen condition**. {1SP 261.3}

In consequence of continual transgression, the **moral law** was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses **religious precepts** which were to govern the everyday life. **These statutes were explicitly given to guard the ten commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon man in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law**. {RH May 6, 1875, par. 10}

"And **ye shall keep it a feast** unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be a statute for ever* in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month." Lev 23:41

"**Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments**, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong *thy* days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, **for ever**." Deut 4:40

When the Jews rejected Christ they rejected the foundation of their faith. **And, on the other hand, the Christian world of today who claim faith in Christ, but reject the law of God are making a mistake similar to that of the deceived Jews. Those who profess to cling to Christ, centering their hopes on him, while they pour contempt upon the moral law, and the prophecies, are in no safer position than were the unbelieving Jews. They cannot understandingly call sinners to repentance, for they are unable to properly explain what they are to repent of.** The sinner, upon being exhorted to forsake his sins, has a right to ask, What is sin? **Those who respect the law of God can answer, Sin is the transgression of the law.** In confirmation of this the apostle Paul says, **I had not known sin but by the law. Those only who acknowledge the binding claim of the moral law can explain the nature of the atonement.** {ST March 14, 1878, par. 1}

**In these last days there is a call from Heaven** inviting you **to keep** the **statutes** and ordinances of the Lord. The world has set at naught **the law of Jehovah**; but God will not be left without a witness to his righteousness, or without a people in the earth to proclaim his truth. {ST Feb 3, 1888, par. 5}

The closing words of **Malachi** are a prophecy regarding the **work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ**. This prophecy is introduced with the admonition, "**Remember ye the law of Moses** my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, **with the statutes and judgments**." {SW March 21, 1905, par. 1}