



## Does The Bible Matter? - Week 2

### OVERVIEW

In this message of the series *Does It Matter?*, we will answer the question, “Does the Bible matter?”

### DISCUSSION

- What was your experience reading the Bible growing up? How did you start reading the Bible?

The Bible is unique in comparison with every other book in existence. It covers hundreds of topics with continuity. It was written over 1,500 years by 40 different authors. It was written by people from every walk of life – from statesmen to fishermen, kings to commoners, philosophers to poets. And it was written in different places – from palaces to dungeons. The Word of God was written across three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe, and written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Also, The Bible is unique in its survival through persecution.

**Isaiah 40:8:** *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.* Jesus said in **Matthew 24:35:** *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”* The Bible is eternal, unchangeable, and trustworthy.

#### 1. Is the Bible reliable?

- A. Archeology supports Scripture.
- B. Ancient secular authors attest to Scripture.
- C. Old Testament prophecies foretell Christ’s coming.

Old Testament Prophecy: **Micah 5:2:** *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*

New Testament Fulfillment: **Matthew 2:1:** *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king...*

Not only is the Bible reliable, it is relatable. The Bible helps us know God, find direction for our lives, grow our relationships, and much more! When we regularly engage in God’s Word, it puts us in a position to thrive. There are many great Bible reading plans at [SteveRobinson.com/YouVersion](http://SteveRobinson.com/YouVersion).

- Do you currently have a Bible reading plan? If so, how has it helped you grow?

#### 2. Is the Bible relevant?

**2 Timothy 3:16:** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* The Bible is not only relevant because it is drawn from people in different walks of life but also because it’s God-inspired. We should always remember that the central premise of the Bible is the significance of Christ and His salvation. However, many misconceptions exist about the Old Testament Law and what applies to us today.

## Three Components of the Law in the Old Testament:

### A. The Ceremonial/Sacrificial Law

This is also known as the Levitical law and is found in the book of Leviticus. Many examples in the Old Testament describe various sacrifices offered in the Tabernacle, and later the temple, to atone for sin so that worshipers could approach a holy God. There was also a complex set of rules for ceremonial purity and cleanness. It vividly conveyed that human beings are spiritually unclean and can't go into God's presence without purification. This law was ultimately fulfilled by the sacrifice that only Jesus could make at the cross. His blood makes us perfectly clean, and we can now approach God with confidence.

- Why do you think the Bible is still relevant for people today?
- How can understanding the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law by Jesus help us better understand God's love and forgiveness?

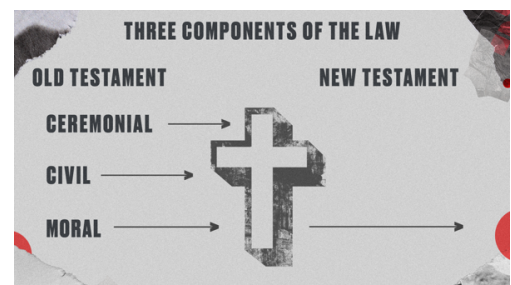
### B. The Civil Law

This is the law set in place for the governing of the nation of Israel and is found primarily in the book of Deuteronomy. This is also known as the political or jurisdictional law. Since we no longer live in Ancient Israel, the Civil Law of Ancient Israel does not apply to us today.

### C. The Moral Law

The Moral Law is primarily found in Exodus 20 and also spelled out in other chapters in both the Old and New Testament. It is a clear reflection of the nature, will, and character of God – and how we relate to Him and others. They are direct commands and still apply to us today. We don't obey these laws in order to get saved because Jesus saves us, but they show us our need for Christ and our inability to obey them in our own strength. But, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can obey God's Moral Law and live a life that's God-honoring, God-pleasing, and enjoyable. At the cross, two components of the law were either fulfilled or repealed, while the Moral Law still applies to us today.

- How does the Moral Law, as outlined in Exodus 20 and other parts of the Bible, reflect God's character and our relationship with Him and others?
- Why do you think the Moral Law still applies to us today, even though we are saved by Jesus' sacrifice?
- Give an example of how the Holy Spirit has helped you keep God's commandments.



## LIFE CHALLENGE

**Hebrews 9:13-14:** *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* When He died on the cross, the veil in the temple tore from the top to the bottom, removing any separation from us and God. There was no need for sheep to be sacrificed anymore. The price had been paid, and the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb had been accomplished. Is there anything in your life you feel is separating you from God? Ask God to reveal this to you and receive His love.