

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD'S LAW #1 (IN THE BEGINNING)

### A. There has never been a period of time when man was not accountable to the will of his Creator.

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**1 Pet 3:20 (People of Noah's time)** – who formerly **were disobedient**, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved (**which implies the others were lost**) through water.

**Acts 17:30-31 (Period of blatant idolatry in the absence of Divine revelation)** – Truly, these **times of ignorance (which does not excuse them from judgment)** God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which **He will judge the world** in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

**What was it that brought on this ignorance? (Rom 1:28)**

**Rom 1:24-32** – Therefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness**, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, & worshiped & served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason **God gave them up to vile passions**. For **EVEN (correlating, connecting, adding an unnatural sin to a natural sin)** their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, & receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting**; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

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[**Tonight** we're going to begin a short series on man's accountability to God's law. **Our** purpose will be to show that God's laws regarding sexual morality in the holy covenant of marriage has remained constant or unchanged from the beginning. **And** when those laws are violated, men become guilty of the sin of adultery.]

## I. IN THE BEGINNING

**A. By creating male & female to be naturally attracted** to one another God insured the propagation of the human race & its rapid expansion throughout the world.

1. But this volatile situation had to be regulated, which God did by means of His expressed will (**Gen 2:24; 3:16-19**).
  
2. Violation of His will whether deliberately or unintentionally is called sin, & it is punishable by death.

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**Rom 5:12-14** – Therefore, just as through one man **sin entered the world, & death through sin**, & thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 **Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses**, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

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### B. A closer look at the passage above:

#### 1. Death resulted from sin; “**death through sin**” (5:12).

a. What type of death? Body or Spirit?

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> death (spiritual separation from God) occurred the **moment** they ate....
  
- 2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> death (physical death) occurred **because** they were denied access....

- b. Therefore, you & I died the same 1<sup>st</sup> death as Adam the day we committed our first sin.
- c. Paul speaks of that day “for him” (Rom 7:9).

## 2. *“Death spread to all men, because all sinned”.*

- a. It doesn’t say...”because Adam sinned.”
- b. **BEFORE** we became Christians we all died (spiritually) because of our sins.
- c. Since sin is lawlessness (1 Jn 3:4), there was a law in effect to which we were all accountable before we became Christians—the law of Christ.

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**Heb 1:1-2** – God, who at various times & in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son** (His word is law: Rom 8:2; Gal 6:2), whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds

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[Sin was in the world even before the Law of Moses (Rom 5:13). **And** that’s the period of time we want to focus on. **Could** man or did man violate God’s marriage laws (laws relating to sexual morality), even before the law was written at Sinai? **YES!** **And** to build that case, we will begin by showing how God issued His laws before Sinai.]

## II. GOD'S LAW BEFORE SINAI

### A. **Abel**: the 1<sup>st</sup> of God's prophets killed in this world.

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**Luke 11:50-51** – the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world...51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar & the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

**Heb 11:4** – By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, **God testifying of his gifts; & through it he being dead still speaks.**

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1. Because Abel was a prophet, God spoke directly TO Abel, commanding him what to do.
  
2. When Abel obeyed God spoke THROUGH him to us.
  
3. Before Sinai, God's law was given directly *"to the father (Patriarchs) by the prophets"* (Heb 1:1).

### B. **Cain**: a rebel against God's law.

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**Gen 4:6-7** – So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And **if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.** And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

**1 John 3:11-12** – For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as **Cain who was of the wicked one & murdered his brother.** And why did he murder him? Because **his works were evil** & his brother's righteous.

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1. At his punishment, he expressed the fear of capital punishment (**Gen 4:14-15**).
  - a. Where did he get that idea? Capital punishment is not mentioned until later (**Gen 9:6**).
  - b. Answer: God was giving laws “to the fathers by the prophets” (cf. **Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5; Jd 14-15**).

{The violations of God’s marriage law, or laws relating to sexual morality before the law at Sinai}

### C. Noah: the antediluvian world:

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**Gen 6:1-12** – Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, & daughters were born to them, 2 that **the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; & they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.** 3 And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred & twenty years”...5 Then **the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,** & that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, & He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man & beast, creeping thing & birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** This is the genealogy of Noah. **Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.** 10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, & Japheth. 11 **The earth also was corrupt before God, & the earth was filled with violence.** 12 So God looked upon the earth, & indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

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1. Man’s wickedness resulted from marriages of which God did not approve.
  - a. But Noah found grace... (**6:8**); he taught & held to a divine standard of law (**2 Pet 2:5**).

## D. Abraham, Isaac & the Abimelechs:

1. Both Abraham & Isaac at different times lied to the Philistines, each calling his wife his sister.
  
2. Both Abimelechs understood that if anyone had married Sarah or Rebekah it would be a great sin worthy of death.

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**Gen 20:3-9** – But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, & said to him, **“Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.”** 4 But Abimelech had not come near her; & he said, “Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? 5 Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she, even she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart & innocence of my hands I have done this.” 6 And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. **For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.** 7 Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, & he will pray for you & you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you & all who are yours.” 8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, & told all these things in their hearing; & the men were very much afraid. 9 And Abimelech called Abraham & said to him, “What have you done to us? **How have I offended you, that you have brought on me & on my kingdom a great sin?** You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done.”

**Gen 26:10-11** – And Abimelech said, **“What is this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, & you would have brought guilt on us.”** 11 So Abimelech charged all his people, saying, **“He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”**

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3. This shows that God had laws in force (before Sinai) regulating marriage & sexual morality.

## E. Lot: Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19; 2 Pet 2:6-8):

1. Lot was a righteous man, but the inhabitants of the cities were *ungodly*, they engaged in *filthy conduct* & were *wicked & lawless*.
2. Among other sins, they were guilty of violating God's marriage laws (laws relating to sexual morality; **Jude 7**).

#### **F. Joseph: Potipher's wife (Gen 39:6-9)**

1. How could Joseph have known that taking his master's wife would be an act of wickedness, a sin against God, if God had not in some way made known His law?

#### **CLOSING**

##### **A. God has always made his word, will, law know to man in some way.**

1. When men refused it God rejected them (Gentiles or Hebrews).
2. Even God's laws regulating marriage & sexual morality were widely known (Gentiles & Hebrews), & all were accountable to those laws, because violating them led to sin & spiritual death.
3. Sadly, there is an idea circulating today, that men are not accountable to God's marriage laws until they become Christians, but this lesson from the word of God proves otherwise.