

5-19-2024 – What'd James say – Part 12 – Are we criticizing God (pt 2)?

James 4, verses 11-12

¹¹ Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. ¹² God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

3 words that we like to combine into one topic....and that is dangerous.

- 1. Law**
- 2. Covenant**
- 3. Sacrifice**

We have been taught in church that Jesus did away with the Law.....He replaced the Old Covenant.....He became the ultimate sacrifice.

Only one of those is completely correct scripturally.

One of those is completely WRONG scripturally.

And one of those is partially correct, but presented wrong scripturally.

Mitzvah (Law) – it means a commandment or instruction from God

In Matthew 5 – verses 17 -19, Jesus says:

¹⁷ "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹ So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Abolish means to tear down or destroy.

Accomplish or fulfill means to fully preach or to preach it up.

We have the wrong words here – accomplish or fulfill indicate that something is completed.....that’s not what Jesus says!!!!!!

¹⁷ “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. **I did not come to tear down the instructions of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to fully preach their purpose.** ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s **instructions** will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹ So if you ignore the least **instruction** and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s **instructions** and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Covenant – means promise.

Law means instruction – Covenant means promise.

Hebrews 8:13

¹³ When God speaks of a “new” covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

That word Covenant DOES NOT EXIST IN THE GREEK MANUSCRIPTS. It was added by scholars.

Ber-eeth – it means an “alliance” – “in union with” – or a “pledge” - You will hear Christians say it’s a contract....but it’s more appropriate to say it’s a promise from God --- or an alliance with God.

Ber-eeth appears 284 times in the Old Testament

Gen 6:18 ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

Gen 9:8,9

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,

Gen 9:11 - ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Gen 9:14-16 - ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the **everlasting** covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Gen 15:18 – ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give[Ⓜ] this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Gen 17:2 - ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."

Gen 17:4 - ⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

Gen 17:7 - ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Romans 11:11 - ¹¹ So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root[Ⓜ] of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Deuteronomy 7:9 - ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

He keeps it with those who love Him and keep His commandments....His Mitzvah's....His instructions...His laws.....

Psalms 105:8-11 He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

Psalms 111:5 - He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

Judges 2:1 - 2 Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, '**I will never break my covenant with you,**

Psalms 89:34 - **I will not violate my covenant**

Daniel 9:4 - ⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Daniel just restated Deuteronomy 7:9 – verbatim

Galatians 3:13-14 ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit^(e) through faith.

Hebrews 8:6

⁶ But as it is, Christ^{Ἰη} has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

There is no word Old there – it was added....

Hebrews 8:7

⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Covenant – not there again.... – added

Hebrews 8:8-12 restate Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

RECAP:

- 1. Jesus is the new sacrifice – the only sacrifice for our sins – when we fall short of God's instructions.**
- 2. Jesus came to fully preach and fully explain what the instructions mean.**
- 3. Jesus came and expanded the already incredible promises that were made to many before Him. Because He came, we get those promises as Gentiles, AND we get a better promise – a renewed promise – the Holy Spirit living in us!**