

THE RULE OF LAW: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Numbers 15:13 All that are born of the country shall do these things after this manner, in offering an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. **Numbers 15:14** And if a stranger sojourn with you, or whosoever be among you in your generations, and will offer an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; **as ye do, so he shall do.** **Numbers 15:15** **One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.** **Numbers 15:16** **One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.**

Numbers 15:27 And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering. **Numbers 15:28** And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him. **Numbers 15:29** **Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.**

The rule of law: A Biblical concept!

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Numbers 9:14 And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: **ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.**

Leviticus 16:29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, **whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:**

Exodus 12:49 **One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.**

Leviticus 24:22 **Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.**

What exactly does this mean?

1. There are laws!

This sounds kind of funny but many countries both past and present have no laws / no laws that anyone follows. Life is very uncertain, prone to the whims of... power.

2. There is one set of laws!

This is both a **teaching** and an **assumption** in the Bible.

Alfred the Great (848-899)

King of the West Saxons 871 – 886

Kings of the Anglo – Saxons 886 – 899

Issued a long domboc (law codes)

The bases of his laws were:

- **Scripture**
- **Offa – King of the Mercians**
- **Aethelbert of Kent**
- **Meditation**
- **Mercy**

Laws grounded in Scripture & the same laws applied to all persons!

Rich or poor

Friends or enemies

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by **one** Spirit are we all baptized into **one** body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one** Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: **but Christ is all, and in all.**

Most countries do **not** follow this.

The USA has always struggled to follow what the Declaration clearly states / assumes!

Rule of Law (IMO):

A goal

An ongoing process

A struggle

Not a place / perfect system

3. Those laws are obviously derivative!

Laws do **not** fall out of the sky! They come from somewhere!

USA (until recently):

- Magna Carta (Libertatum)
- English common law
- Biblical law / teaching
- Case law
- Natural Law

This consisted of two kinds: enlightenment natural laws & the laws built into nature!

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, **By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?**

Matthew 21:24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. **Matthew 21:25** The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? **Matthew 21:26** But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. **Matthew 21:27** And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

We all recognize the chaos of modern America & the West:

- Rejects God's laws
- Rejects God's world
- Rejects English common law → & therefore our history

4. Those laws are well - known to all!

5. Those laws are established prior to their enforcement!

(no retroactive laws)

6. Those laws are agreed upon prior to their enforcement!

7. Those laws are enforced fairly & equally

Characteristics:

Generality

Publicity

Consistency / predictability

Equality

Certainty

Transparency