

# STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND & THE RULE OF LAW

## JER. 29:1-10

606/5 BC – captivity of the upper class & Daniel

598/7 BC – captivity of the middle class & Ezekiel

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People were captives in Babylon

Jeremiah was in Jerusalem

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586 BC – captivity of the lower class & Jeremiah

The majority of the Jews were in captivity and the rest would soon follow.

What were the Jews to do?

Jeremiah gives counsel | God's Word to "Strangers in a Strange Land!"

OPTIONS:		
Give up Check out	Pitch in Live your life / Influence / Pray	Take over

God's counsel:

### 1. Live!

**Jeremiah 29:4** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, **unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;**

**Jeremiah 29:5** **Build** ye houses, and **dwell** in them; and **plant** gardens, and **eat** the fruit of them;

**Jeremiah 29:6** **Take** ye wives, and **beget** sons and daughters; and **take** wives for your sons, and **give** your daughters to husbands, **that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.**

### 2. Influence!

**Jeremiah 29:7** And **seek the peace** of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: **for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.**

The issue comes down to a simple philosophical idea / question: Is it **really better** (regardless of one's beliefs) to live according to God's word?

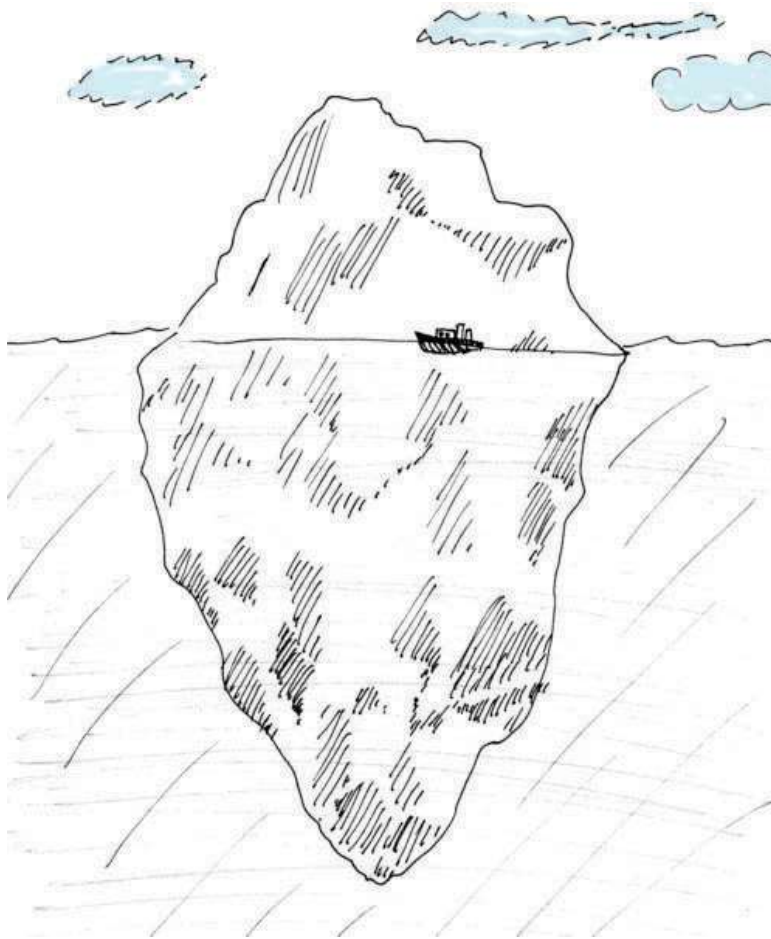
**Deuteronomy 6:24** And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, **for our good always**, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

**Deuteronomy 10:13** To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day **for thy good?**

**Jeremiah 32:39** And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, **for the good of them, and of their children after them:**

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.



## **Thin View | Minimal | At the Waterline**

<b>THE RULE OF LAW:</b>	
<b>1. There are laws!</b>	<b>2. There is <u>one</u> set of laws!</b>
<b>3. Those laws are obviously <u>derivative</u>!</b>	<b>4. Those laws are well- known to all!</b>
<b>5. Those laws are <u>established</u> prior to their enforcement!</b>	<b>6. Those laws are agreed upon <u>prior</u> to their enforcement!</b>
<b>7. Those laws are <u>enforced</u> fairly &amp; equally</b>	

## **Thick View | Medium | Under the Waterline**

### **This would include Process Law:**

**Deuteronomy 17:2** If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, **Deuteronomy 17:3** And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

**Deuteronomy 17:4** And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: **Deuteronomy 17:5** Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.

**Deuteronomy 17:6** At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

**Deuteronomy 17:7** The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.

**Deuteronomy 17:8** If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; **Deuteronomy 17:9** And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: **Deuteronomy 17:10** And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: **Deuteronomy 17:11** According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.

**Deuteronomy 17:12** And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. **Deuteronomy 17:13** And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. **Deuteronomy 19:16** If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; **Deuteronomy 19:17** Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; **Deuteronomy 19:18** And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; **Deuteronomy 19:19** Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. **Deuteronomy 19:20** And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

<b>Democracy requires many underlying assumptions &amp;/ ideas:</b>	
<p><b>A. An independent, impartial judiciary</b>  <b>B. Innocent until proven guilty</b>  <b>C. The right to a fair, public, &amp; speedy trial</b>  <b>D. Proportionate / appropriate punishment</b>  <b>E. Strong &amp; independent legal profession</b></p>	<p><b>F. Lawyer – client confidentiality</b>  <b>G. One set of laws equally applied to all</b>  <b>H. (IMO) Separate executive, legislative, &amp; judicial powers</b>  <b>I. (IMO) Judeo-Christian backdrop / background</b></p>
<p><b>Other issues can't be present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Arbitrary arrests</li> <li>➤ Secret trials → star chambers</li> <li>➤ Indefinite detention without a trial</li> <li>➤ Cruel &amp;/ usual punishment</li> <li>➤ No intimidation or corruption of the electoral process</li> </ul>	

**This would also include Blue Laws | Moral Ideals:**

**Genesis 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

**Matthew 7:12** Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

**1 Peter 2:17** Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

**1 Timothy 5:1** Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; **1 Timothy 5:2** The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

**Thickest View | Maximum | Far Under the Waterline**

<p><b>Exodus 20:1</b> And God spake all these words, saying, <b>Exodus 20:2</b> I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.</p>
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1 <sup>st</sup> TABLE   TABLE ONE:	2 <sup>nd</sup> TABLE   TABLE TWO:
<b>Loving God</b>	<b>Loving People</b>
<u>Exodus 20:3</u> Thou shalt have <b>no</b> other gods before me.	<u>Exodus 20:12</u> Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
<u>Exodus 20:4</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: <u>Exodus 20:5</u> Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...	<u>Exodus 20:13</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> kill.
<u>Exodus 20:7</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> take the name of the LORD thy God in vain...	<u>Exodus 20:14</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> commit adultery.
<u>Exodus 20:8</u> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.	<u>Exodus 20:15</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> steal.
	<u>Exodus 20:16</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> bear false witness against thy neighbour.
	<u>Exodus 20:17</u> Thou shalt <b>not</b> covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**

Exodus 32:15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, **and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand:** the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

Exodus 34:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, **Hew thee two tables of stone** like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, **Which is the first commandment of all?** Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is,** Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:31 **And the second is like,** namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

### Where do Laws come from?

- God and His Word
- Natural Law | The Laws of Nature & Nature's God
- English Common Law
- The Declaration & Constitution.

### 3. Pray!

Jeremiah 29:7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

Ezra 6:10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1 Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;