

- Q40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?
A40. **The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.**

Romans 2:14-15, 10:5

DQ1: What did God reveal to man so that he may be obedient to Him?

DQ2: What is the moral law?

DQ3: Why was the moral law needed?

Notes:

We can readily agree that we need to be obedient to God and keep His commands. And, we have looked at how our obedience brings pleasure to God and how such obedience defines us as God's people. God, however, does not desire thoughtless, heartless, robotic obedience of His people. The Ten Commandments provide a very concrete ways in which God's people must be obedient to God. We call this instruction the moral law.

Clearly, the moral law provides insight into how God's people must live. Interestingly, however, the moral law did not come into existence immediately following the creation of man. In the Garden of Eden, God did not pronounce many laws into existence. Instead, God pronounced one absolute rule. We know the rule as the covenant of works or covenant of life. Read Genesis 2:16-17; we have already studied the covenant of works in depth previously. That's it! God created man so that He could have an on-going relationship with man. For this reason, God infused in man certain attributes, characteristics and personalities of God. God desired man to enjoy being together, walking together and sharing together the beauty and glory of His creation. But, man could not handle such an amazing privilege given to him. Instead, man felt over-burdened by God's lavish love toward him and fell from the paradise when he broke the covenant of God.

It is to the fallen man that God pronounced the moral law in order that God's chosen people may be distinguished from those who were not God's people. The sin-drenched and hardened heart of man required the harshness of the demands of the moral law. The actions of sinful man deserved the restrictiveness of the moral law. The moral law is so restrictive that man became enslaved to it. There is no freedom or redemption in the moral law. This does not mean that there is a problem with the moral law. The purpose of the moral law is to determine the rightness of man's heart and behavior.

Were there laws before the moral law? Yes, of course. Such laws were not written down in words or in stone. This is because such laws, before sin entered the world, were written in the hearts of people. The Bible calls it conscience which acted as a reliable guide and standard to man. After man fell, his conscience no longer was a reliable guide or standard by which to know and test God's will. Man's conscience became corrupt and tarnished. (Romans 1:21, 25, 28) This is why God gave man the moral law in order to give a concrete standard by which he must live.