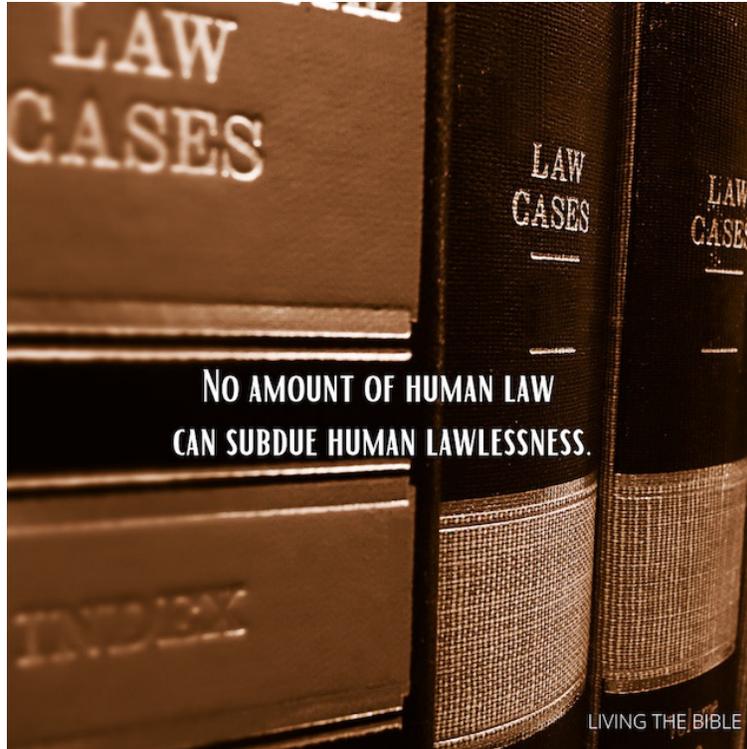

THE BLESSING OF LAW AND ORDER

EXODUS 18:13-27



Even at the best of times, this world is chaotic and disordered. We crave harmony and peace don't we? **But it's** so rare and brief. That's why a functioning legal system is such a blessing from God. It's one of the ways in which he defeats chaos and disorder in our world and lives and creates harmony and peace in our world and lives. I want to help you become a co-worker with God in this great work of restoring law and order in your life and those around you. Let's look at Exodus 18:13-27 to see how God does this with the Israelites.

- **WE PRODUCE LAWLESSNESS AND DISORDER (13-18)**
- **GOD PROVIDES LAW AND ORDER (19-27)**

LEARNING

WE PRODUCE LAWLESSNESS AND DISORDER (13-18)

When the Israelites came out of Egypt, they were united and orderly (Ex. 13:18). Given all they'd been through and all that God had done for them, we might have expected this to last. But it didn't. Soon there was chaos and disorder, fighting and arguing among the people.

Moses therefore was spending all day every day judging all the disputes of Israel (13-14). Jethro, his father-in-law, was watching this and basically said, "What do you think you're doing?" Moses replied, "**The people come to me to inquire of God; when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws**" (15-16).

Jethro appreciated Moses's efforts but said, "**You're attempting the impossible. What you're doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone**" (17-18). There was way too much lawlessness for one man to deal with.

NO AMOUNT OF HUMAN LAW
CAN SUBDUE HUMAN LAWLESSNESS.

Is there any hope of law and order in this world?

GOD PROVIDES LAW AND ORDER (19-27)

God used Jethro to reform the justice system in three ways. First, he instructed Moses to seek the help of God by bringing the cases to God. **“You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God”** (19). Second, Moses was to proactively teach the people about God’s law and what it meant for their lives. **“You shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do”** (20). Third, Moses was to delegate easier cases to other just men to judge (21-22). **“If you do this,” Jethro assured him, “God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace”** (23).

**GOD RESTORES HARMONY AND PEACE
BY REINFORCING LAW AND ORDER.**

LOVING

God worked through Jethro to replace chaos and order with harmony and peace. He did that through the blessing of more law and more lawgivers. In the New Testament, God worked through Jesus to replace chaos and disorder with harmony and peace. He did this at the cross by punishing the law-giver in place of law-breakers like us. The cross was the only place of perfect justice the world has ever seen. Though it looked like chaos and disorder, God was making harmony and peace through it all.

LIVING

Join with God in the great work of replacing chaos and disorder with harmony and peace by proclaiming the great law-keeping, law-upholding, law-satisfying, and law-liberating work of Christ on the cross.
