

## THE FINGER OF GOD

- **“When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God” (Ex 31:18).**
- **“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger” (John 8:3-6)**

The expressions “written in stone” and “not written in stone” mean the exact opposite. Something “written in stone” cannot be changed while something “not written in stone” can be changed. It is interesting that the “finger of God” is associated with both.

The laws Moses received on Mt. Sinai were written in stone. Not one jot or tittle could be altered or changed. God commanded Moses: **“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you” (Deut 4:2)**

What Jesus wrote on the ground, by contrast, is gone forever. It was not permanent. It was not “written in stone”. It was temporary! It was written in the dust. Scholars have speculated what was written, but no one really knows. What Jesus wrote in the dust is gone!

Earlier in his gospel, John offered a similar contrast: **“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17)**. The sacrifices made under the Law of Moses provided an **“annual reminder of sins” (Heb. 10:3)** but offered no grace. That was the very nature of the Old Covenant. It was cold, rigid, inflexible, and without mercy. That law was a constant reminder all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.. Remember! When the Law written in stone was given 3,000 died (Ex. 32:28). Please consider:

- The Law was given to make men guilty (Rom. 3:19).
- The Law was given to bring wrath (Rom. 4:15).
- The Law was given that the trespass might increase (Rom. 5:20).
- The Law was given to arouse our sinful passions (Rom. 7:5).
- The Law was given to empower sin (1 Cor. 15:56).
- Remember! Apart from the Law sin is dead (Rom. 7:8).

But God promised through Jeremiah that He would write a new and different kind of Law. This new Law would not be written in stone, but rather in the minds and hearts of believers. In this regard it is important to remember that God created man out of dust, not stone (Gen. 2:7). **“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Heb 10:16-17)**

The Law of Moses was crystal clear about what should be done to a woman caught in the act of adultery. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees were absolutely correct when they said to Jesus: **“In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women” (John 8:5)**.

Priests under the Law were forbidden to show mercy. Jesus, by contrast, is a merciful and faithful high priest: **“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Heb 4:15-16)**

REMEMBER! LIFE COMES FROM DUST, NOT FROM A STONE!