



READING SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Week 4

READING LAWS TOGETHER

Reading American Law

The Scopes Monkey Trial

Tennessee v. John T. Scopes

July 1925 -- Dayton, TN

The court convicted Scopes of teaching

evolution,

in violation of the Butler Act

John T. Scopes



Clarence Darrow, Wm. J. Bryan



Tennessee v. John T. Scopes

On appeal, the Tenn. Supreme Court set aside the case. On what grounds?

-- free speech?

-- establishment of religion?

-- amount of the fine (\$100)?

-- must “cherish science”?

-- “evolution” too vague?

Underlying Assumptions

-- due process

-- representation, trial by jury

-- details matter / loopholes

-- precedents

-- constitutionality

The LAW is the law.

Reading Biblical Law

Statutes, Ordinances, Words, Commandments

No Law is an Island

Read a law in its immediate context

Read other topically-related laws & teachings

Read topically-related stories

- Do they apply the law? Without modification?
- Do they seem to ignore the law?

Exhibit A

The Levirate Law

The Brother-in-Law Law

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Leviticus 20:21

-- Let's assume these laws do not contradict.
What details need to be clarified?

The Brother-in-Law Law

Genesis 38

Ruth 3-4 (especially 4:3-12)

-- In what ways does each example deviate from the law?



Applying Biblical Law

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Do Tamar & Judah 'fulfill' the levirate law?

Do Ruth & Boaz 'fulfill' the levirate law?

Compare how they applied this law to real life with the way we apply laws to real life.

Underlying Assumptions

Do these examples reflect a 'legalistic' or 'strict' attitude toward the law?

What seems to guide the people in the way they apply the law?

Exhibit B

Marriage Laws Regarding Foreigners

A Few Laws Regarding Foreigners

Deuteronomy 7:1-4

Exodus 34:11-16

Deuteronomy 21:10-14

Deuteronomy 23:3-4

Leviticus 19:33-34

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Assuming these laws paint a consistent picture, what details need to be clarified or explained?

Marriages with Foreigners

Not OK

1 Kings 11:1-13

Nehemiah 13:23-29

Ezra 9:1-3; 10:1-4



Marriages with Foreigners

OK

Ruth 4:9-15

Matthew 1:5

Genesis 41:50-52

Numbers 12:1

2 Samuel 3:3; 15:7-8

2 Samuel 11:3, 6-13; 23:39

Underlying Assumptions

Do these examples reflect a 'legalistic' or 'strict' attitude toward the law? What guides the way they apply the law?

As a nod to next week (Reading Prophets), notice that Micah does not ask: "*What does the Law require?*" But, "*What does the Lord require?*"

Summing Up

We do not live under the OT Law; but
*the principles used by Biblical characters when
they applied OT laws to their lives should inform
us as we strive to apply Biblical laws and
commands to our lives.*



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- Title slide
 - Photo of adults studying: StoryBlocks
 - Photo of Bible open to 1 Kings 8–9: Freelmages
- Other slides
 - J.T. Scopes -- Saturday Evening Post
 - Darrow, Bryan -- NYT/AP
 - “Landscape with Ruth & Boaz,” by Joseph Anton Koch