

A New Code of Laws

Government, in whatever form it takes, has certain necessary departments. However, in some important respects the government of Christ will differ greatly from the current human regimes. Repudiating their past education, the survivors of the troubles at Christ's return, will *"come from the ends of the earth and say: 'Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit' "* - **Jeremiah 16:19**. Unlike the current system, the new one will be God-centred - God created the universe, not a "big bang"; God created all life forms, they did not spontaneously "evolve". Man did not descend from the apes, he was made in the image of God, and he will be shown how to develop those God-like qualities of character that will qualify him for everlasting life on this beautiful earth.

The new infrastructure in which mankind will live is summarized in **2 Peter 3:13** - *"according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens"* - i.e., government - *"and a new earth"* - i.e., the people - *"in which righteousness dwells"*. The government of Christ and his faithful will be righteous - teaching and promoting God's way of integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness and fairness. The law of God will replace all national constitutions - *"many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house' - temple - 'of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go the law"* - Heb., *torah* - *"and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem"* - **Isaiah 2:3**.

One of God's "ways", economically, is that he hates the concentration of wealth by a few, to the impoverishment of the many - *"Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land!"* - **Isaiah 5:8**. Under the government of Christ, *"they shall sit every man under his" own "vine and under his" own "fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid"* - **Micah 4:4**. This points to a great change from the highly urbanized way of life we know, where it is not uncommon for many millions to be crammed into a few megacities, outside of which is a sparsely populated hinterland. Ownership of the land and resources of exurbia are all too often concentrated among the wealthy investors.

But under the government of Christ, *"out of Zion shall go the law"* - **Isaiah 2:3**. This ultimately will be God's law, and not anything cooked up by mortals. Paul called God's law over Israel in the past, *"holy and righteous and good"* - **Romans 7:12**. This being the case, it is reasonable to expect that many features of the law of Moses will be re-instituted in the Millennium. One of these was the land law. When Israel entered the land under Joshua the land was apportioned among all the families of the nation - **Joshua 13-19**. With a very few exceptions, the land could not be sold outright - it could only, in effect, be leased until the year of Jubilee, which occurred every fifty years. In that year, a family having fallen on bad times and forced to sell the estate, recovered ownership of their land automatically and at no cost.

Not only so, but *"If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest relative shall come and redeem what his brother has sold"* at any time - **Leviticus 25:25**. Such laws will prevent many evils now well known. It will stop the amassing of large estates. It will keep the land in its original distribution among the mass of the people. It will reverse the current trend, of the general population becoming more and more impoverished, while the number of millionaires and billionaires increases. It will bring to an end those fearful inequalities that are the scourge of modern life, while a small number live in aristocratic opulence, some of their fellow citizens must attend food banks for survival.

The effect of only this one aspect of *"the law which shall go out of Zion"* will revolutionize the way of life for all. Next time, God willing, we will look at a few details.