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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The 7 Laws of Noah

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching examines the modern concept of the Noahide Laws and asks whether it has any biblical basis for believers today. According to mainstream rabbinic Judaism, all people are only required to observe seven universal laws, while the remainder of the Torah—including the Sabbath, biblical festivals, and dietary instructions—is intended only for the Jewish people. The teaching begins by acknowledging that while this view exists within Jewish tradition, it must be evaluated by the authority of Scripture rather than by later religious tradition. It also points out that salvation is found only through grace by faith in Messiah Yeshua, not through observing either seven commandments or the whole Torah.

The lesson then examines the Torah to determine whether God ever established two different standards of obedience—one for Jews and another for Gentiles. Numerous passages demonstrate that the sojourner was commanded to keep the Sabbath, observe Passover, celebrate the biblical festivals, and participate in worship according to the same statutes as the native-born Israelite. Repeatedly, Scripture declares that there is one law and one ordinance for both the native-born and the foreigner who joins himself to YHWH. The teaching concludes that the Torah consistently presents one covenant standard for all who follow the God of Israel.

The teaching also addresses the claim that these commands applied only to Gentiles who formally converted to Judaism. By examining the Hebrew word *ger* and its Greek translation *proselutos* in the Septuagint, the lesson argues that this claim cannot be sustained. The Septuagint itself uses *proselutos* to describe ethnic Israelites in certain passages, demonstrating that the term does not always refer to a formal Jewish convert. Isaiah 56 further strengthens this conclusion by inviting foreigners to keep the Sabbath and hold fast to God's covenant without using the term *proselutos*. These passages reveal God's desire for all nations to draw near to Him through faithful obedience.

Finally, the lesson considers whether Acts 15 supports the Noahide concept. After reviewing both the biblical context and historical evidence, the teaching concludes that the modern doctrine of the Noahide Laws did not exist in the first century and therefore could not have influenced the Jerusalem Council. Instead, the apostles continued teaching the same pattern found throughout Scripture: God desires both Jew and Gentile to walk in faithful obedience to His commandments. The teaching concludes that believers should build their faith upon Scripture rather than later Jewish or Christian traditions, recognizing that God's instructions are for all who belong to Him through Messiah.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Noahide Laws originate from later rabbinic tradition rather than Scripture.
- Salvation comes only through grace by faith in Messiah Yeshua.
- Scripture teaches one standard of obedience for both Jews and Gentiles.
- The Torah repeatedly includes the sojourner in God's commandments.
- The Sabbath, festivals, and worship were intended for all who join themselves to YHWH.
- Isaiah 56 invites foreigners to keep God's covenant.
- The Hebrew and Greek terms for "sojourner" do not require formal conversion to Judaism.
- Acts 15 does not establish the modern Noahide doctrine.
- The Noahide system developed centuries after the New Testament period.
- Scripture, not religious tradition, is the believer's final authority.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Salvation is by _____ through faith in Messiah Yeshua.
2. Scripture teaches one _____ for both the native-born and the sojourner.
3. The sojourner was commanded to keep the _____.
4. Isaiah 56 invites _____ to join themselves to YHWH.
5. God's final authority for believers is the _____.

6. The teaching concludes that God's commandments are for both _____ and Gentile believers.

Challenging

1. The Hebrew word _____ is commonly translated as sojourner or stranger.
2. The Greek word _____ in the Septuagint does not always refer to a formal convert to Judaism.
3. Isaiah 56 uses the term _____ to describe foreigners who join themselves to YHWH.
4. The teaching explains that the modern Noahide doctrine developed after the _____ century.
5. Acts _____ does not establish a separate standard of obedience for Gentiles.
6. Yeshua commanded His disciples to teach _____ nations everything He commanded.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to test religious traditions by the Scriptures?
2. How do the Torah's repeated references to the sojourner shape our understanding of God's covenant?
3. Why do you think Isaiah specifically invites foreigners to keep the Sabbath and hold fast to God's covenant?
4. How does this teaching challenge the idea that God has different standards of obedience for Jews and Gentiles?
5. What can we learn from the historical development of the Noahide doctrine about relying on later traditions?
6. How should believers balance salvation by grace with faithful obedience to God's commandments?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Grace
2. Law
3. Sabbath
4. Foreigners
5. Scriptures
6. Jew

Challenging

1. Ger
2. Proselutos
3. Allogenes
4. Fourth
5. 15
6. All