*Section 7 – This Section

Adult circumcision is unnecessary – Galatians 5:2-6 God will judge those who don't keep the Torah (law) – Galatians 5:7-10 Don't fight over the misapplied laws – Galatians 5:11-15

Section 8

Misapplied man-made laws are not from God – Galatians 5:16-18 The Holy Spirit gives life – Galatians 5:19-25 Live like the Messiah Yeshua – Galatians 5:26-6:4 **Section 9**

Keep God's commandments – Galatians 6:6-6:10 Guard the Torah (law) – Galatians 6:11-13 Be a new person (born again) – Galatians 6:14-16a Closing – Galatians 6:16b-18

Let's begin with a little review. To skip the review, go to down to the explanations for section 7 on page 5 starting with Galatians 5:2.

In our introduction to Galatians, we began by identifying some of the problems associated with modern theology. One of the biggest mistakes in theology is to start with some preconceived idea about what the Bible is saying or to take the Bible out of its Jewish or Israelite context. It is important to understand that the Bible contains Jewish issues, especially the letters written by Shaul (Paul). If we take the New Testament out its context, we simply will not understand the Bible in the way it was originally intended.

As we read the Bible, we should be asking ourselves, "what is the Jewish issue here?" Sometimes we have to wait until we are able to understand what the Jewish issue was. Remember, Yeshua (Jesus) was Jewish and so were all the early believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

We talked about what the word gospel meant in Galatians – namely, messianic message. Some words meant something specific to the believers back then like the words; apostle, brethren, or set apart. We have to understand what the listeners would have understood. Shaul says he is a messenger (apostle means God's messengers; there are many both in the Old Testament portion and New Testament portion¹), and he begins by telling them in Galatians that some have turned away from the gospel (messianic message) that he has been proclaiming.

Sections 1-3, Galatians 1:1-2:21 Review

In Galatians chapter 1, he tells us he received revelation from Yeshua (Jesus). Some people believe this is talking about everything he has written. I'm sure Shaul shared what God wanted him to share in his letters. The question is, could he have been referring to a specific revelation? He immediately begins talking about when he persecuted the believers in the Messiah. Shaul did that before he had an encounter with Yeshua on the way to Damascus. In Acts, Shaul tells the story about his encounter with Yeshua. Yeshua told Shaul on the way to Damascus, "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the

¹ Not only did God send out His messengers in the Old Testament portion, but Yeshua sent out 12 and then 70. Shaul was also an apostle (messenger) and he said that God gave apostles, pastor, teachers, evangelists etc. to help the believers in the Messiah grow. So, there are many messengers/apostles not just a select few.

things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you;" Acts 26;16-18 NKJV.

We found out that the whole first two chapters of Galatians is about accepting the Gentiles as believers in the Messiah. Yeshua sent Shaul to the Gentiles it says. And, the revelation he is talking about in Galatians chapter 1 is his encounter with Yeshua on his way to Damascus. Shaul and Barnabas were given the right hand of blessing to go to the Gentiles in Galatians chapter 2. Shaul talks about Kefa (Peter) withdrawing himself from eating with the Gentile believers and then others doing the same when some of the circumcision (actually, they are Torah breakers) came in. Torah breakers are those who subtract or add to the Torah inappropriately – they are breaking the Torah (Deuteronomy 4:2). Kefa should not have withdrawn himself from the Gentile believers; they were not idolaters.

There were those in Yeshua's time that held a hard line towards allowing Gentiles to believe in the Jewish Messiah. We see this in the Jewish writings. The great Jewish teacher Hillel (who died at the beginning of the 1st century AD) thought it was okay for a Gentile to become Jewish, but the great Jewish teacher Shamai would chase them away with a stick. So, there were mixed beliefs about the Gentiles being allowed to become Jewish.

There is a commandment in the Torah not to form close relationships with unbelieving idolatrous Gentiles. The command is to not form a relationship so that you and your family doesn't also become idolaters. "Do not make a covenant with the people living in the land ... then they will invite you to join them in eating their sacrifices;" Exodus 34:15 CJB. Not associating at all with Gentiles is an extra non-biblical law. The Gentile believers in Yeshua were not idolaters. Those of the "circumcision" were those who were following the extra misapplied laws at that time. Moshe said, "In order to obey the mitzvot" (commandments) "of ADONAI your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it;" Deuteronomy 4:2 CJB. These Torah breakers were keeping the Gentiles from believing in the Messiah Yeshua.

Those who are of the "circumcision" (incorrectly called Judaizers) are those who were pushing the extra laws that some of the Jews were following in the time of Yeshua. They should more correctly be called people who were disobedient to the Torah and followed man-made commandments (or **Torah breakers**). Remember, that Isaiah said that their man-made worship is useless (Isaiah 29:13). It only makes sense doesn't it; man can make up lots of things, but it is God's words that count. It is incorrect to think of these people as keepers of the law.

The Gentiles that Kefa was eating with were believers who were learning the Torah. They were not idolaters. In the context of the Gentiles accepting the Jewish Messiah in Acts, "For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Shabbat;" Acts 15:21 CJB. The Gentiles were to learn and practice the Torah and Kefa should have been okay eating with them.

Galatians 2:14-21 refers to not living by the extra misapplied laws. This is what they would have understood Shaul as saying. In the last verse of Galatians chapter 2, the Complete Jewish Bible translates Galatians 2:21 CJB as, "For if the way in which one attains righteousness is through legalism, then the Messiah's death was pointless." Legalism in this case refers to the extra non-biblical laws we are not required to keep. And, like I've said previously, some of them should not be kept and are sinful because they break the Torah. Yeshua said the same thing in Matthew 15.

If you read the context of Matthew 15, Yeshua said that those who make up laws that supersede the Torah are wrong. "Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition;" Matthew 15:6 NKJV. Those that say all the law is done away with will be judged someday. "These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. ...While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage;" 2 Peter 2:17, 19 NKJV. Some say we are set free from the law of righteousness. Noah was a righteous man; he did what was right and the world that lived without God's laws was destroyed.

Section 4, Galatians 3:1-3:18 Review

In chapter 3 of Galatians, Shaul (Paul) begins by making points about the extra misapplied laws. Yeshua died for both Jew and Gentile and it wasn't the misapplied laws that gave us the Holy Spirit. The misapplied laws don't perfect us, but the Holy Spirit can help us. One of the purposes the Messiah came was to get rid of the extra misapplied laws. Do those who lead you do miracles through a manmade religious system or by the Holy Spirit?

Abraham had faith and lived right (was righteous) before he was circumcised, so why can't the Gentiles live right? Our faith makes us children of Abraham and the faith of the Gentiles also makes them right with God when they live right. God prophesied to Abraham that the world would be blessed through him and that included the Gentiles. All believers in the true God are blessed through Abraham.

The scriptures say that those who don't keep the law (the Torah) are cursed. No one is made just by only doing laws without faith. A person who lives justly also must have faith. Doing laws doesn't require faith and those who do the law will receive its benefits.

But we are cursed for adding man-made laws. The Messiah has delivered us from being cursed because of our adherence to man-made laws. His death on a tree was a substitute death that released us from the religious system of man-made laws which caused us to be cursed. Since the man-made laws were keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers, both Jew and Gentile can now realize the blessing of Abraham through Yeshua the Messiah and receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by our faith.

Legal agreements cannot be changed and a promise was made to Abraham that the whole world would be blessed though him – this blessing came through the Messiah Yeshua. Because it was an agreement made to Abraham it cannot be annulled and the Mt. Sinai law did not annul it. The promise has become in effect with the coming of the Messiah and cannot become voided. The promise given to Abraham didn't come from the law, but was given to Abraham.

Section 5, Galatians 3:19-4:7 Review

Then beginning in Galatians 3:19, Shaul (Paul) says we needed the law to keep us from sin until the Messiah came. The law is not against what God promised because the law can give life and right living can come through the law.

We have become free from slavery to sin and are now slaves of God. We were guarded by the Torah which kept us for faith in the Messiah. The law was our guide to help us live like the Messiah so we could live justly by faith. We believe and receive the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is our guide to help us apply the Torah. We are children of God because of our faith in the Messiah Yeshua. We have been immersed in the Holy Spirit so that we can follow the Messiah and imitate Him. All can believe

in the Messiah, Jews, Greeks, slaves, or free people. We are a group of believers in the Messiah; all need to believe in the Messiah.

We are heirs through the Messiah, heirs of Abraham's promise, and helped by the Holy Spirit. We were under our guardian the law until a set time (from God the Father). We were slaves to the worldly manmade laws and not to our Father God. God sent His Son into the world born of a woman and into a system of law that included man-made laws. God purchased those under the slavery of the system of misapplied man-made laws and made us His adopted children. Through His adoption, God gave us the Holy Spirit and our hearts no longer call out as slaves to misapplied laws, but to our dear Father God.

Shaul says he labored so we can live like the Messiah lived. His labor brought about their rebirth so they could follow God's commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit. Shaul says he wonders about them; do they want to follow a system of man-made laws; do they want to give audience to those who teach these man-made laws?

Abraham had two sons; one was from a slave, Hagar, and the other was a from a free woman, Isaac. The one that was from the slave was not the child of promise, but the one from the free woman was the child of promise. Shaul says he is using symbolism. The one covenant has led to a system of manmade laws and to bondage which Shaul refers to as Hagar. Hagar corresponds to the religious system of man-made laws in Jerusalem which produces bondage in its followers.

The heavenly Jerusalem does not teach a system of man-made laws, but laws from God and is our true mother. This is our true future inheritance. We are the family of Isaac and the true children of promise. The one who persecuted the believers of the past were those of the flesh. Just like it was back then, so it is today. Those who follow fleshy man-made laws persecute the true believers born again of the Spirit. The scriptures say to cast out the bondwoman with her son; don't be part of the system of manmade laws and don't listen to those who are trying to impose them on you.

We are not a Jewish family (brethren – his context was Jewish) from the slave, but of the free; so, don't be followers of man-made laws, but instead follow God's commandments. Be firm then not to follow misapplied man-made laws. The Messiah has made us free from the system that made us slaves, so don't be tangled up with the laws that enslave us.

Section 6, Galatians 4:8-5:1 Review

Before the Gentiles believed, they served man-made idols (He writes not just to Gentiles, but to all the believers in Galatia. Galatians 1:2, 3:28). They know better so how come they are returning to things made by man, the misapplied man-made laws that are bringing them into bondage. Now that they know God better, why are they desiring to do things that bring them into bondage again? They were observing man-made laws regarding days, months, seasons, and years. He wonders if his work has been in vain. They should be like him; he no longer observes man-made laws.

They accepted Shaul as a messenger of God even though he had trouble seeing (Galatians 4:15) and they received significant blessings from him. Continue to accept me he says. We should always be zealous to keep God's commandments, but there are some who want you to accept them. He is being stern with them. Do they want to follow a system of man-made laws?

Shaul begins using symbolism. Abraham had two sons, one from a slave and the other free. The slave was not the child of promise, but the free one was. The Mount Sinai covenant has led to a system of misapplied man-made laws centered in Jerusalem which is after Hagar, the son of the slave. The

heavenly Jerusalem which doesn't teach a system of man-made laws is our true mother and the child of promise. We have our future inheritance in the mother of the free woman and are a Jewish family of believers (brethren refers to his Jewish family; he was Jewish) as from Isaac, the son of promise.

Those who are sons of the slave persecuted the true believers and it is still true today, the followers of man-made laws persecute those who follow God's commandments by the power of the Holy Spirit. Shaul says cast out the son of the bondwoman. We are not to be Jewish believers from the slave, but from the free which don't follow misapplied man-made laws, but God's commandments. Be firm, the Messiah has freed us from the extra commandments of men; don't be tangled up with the misapplied laws that enslave us.

The summaries at the end of each section are not intended to be a translation, but intended to integrate the correct understanding from the text. I used the New King James Version to study Galatians because I can see a corresponding English word translated from each Greek word used in the Greek text (the Greek text is made by consensus from manuscripts and then translated into English).² This allows me to find the ancient context which is immersed in a Jewish biblical context.

Here is a possible good way to use this resource:

Read the scripture for that part

Read the Explanation

Answer the questions at the end (answers are provided).

*Some of us have learned Galatians without its context and don't understand it properly. Memorize some of the points of context so you can remember what the sections are really about. Be able to explain them to someone.

Adult Circumcision is Unnecessary – Galatians 5:2-5:6	
Explanation	New King James Version
Galatians 5:2	Galatians 5:2
Truly, I Shaul (Paul) say there is nothing to be profited by adult male	2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you
circumcision because God has excused adult males from circumcision	that if you become
because of the extreme danger involved.	circumcised, Christ will
	profit you nothing.
The Holy Spirit must have told the early believers that adult males did	
not need to become circumcised because of the extreme danger	
involved with adult circumcision. They could be fully accepted into the	
Jewish family of believers without circumcision. Their male sons	
though still needed to be circumcised (Galatians 5:11). The extra	
wording above needs to be added to explain how they were applying the	
Torah.	
Titus did not get circumcised in Galatians chapter 2 because of the	
danger involved with circumcision. Remember, Yeshua taught that	
laws could be superseded to save lives. Yeshua said in Luke 14:5 CJB,	
"Which of you, if a son or an ox falls into a well, will hesitate to haul	
him out on Shabbat?" Yeshua is referring to the command from the	

² Of course, the translators also readjust the word order as the Greek text does not translate exactly as the English translation. Also, they try to make for an easy word flow by substituting repetitive words in the Greek to give the translation a better feel, but they don't tell us what the contextual issues were.

Torah to help an ox when it is in trouble (Deuteronomy 22:4) even though it is Shabbat, a day of commanded rest. The Torah commands us to save lives.	
Taking care of ourselves, our animals, and others is a commandment of the Torah. Taking extreme chances with our health is against the Torah. There were some Jews that would not accept the Gentiles because they were not circumcised. They were wrongly putting pressure on those who weren't circumcised. There were a lot of God-fearers in the time of Yeshua. God-fearers were Gentiles who kept the law, but did not get circumcised because of the danger involved. False teachers were keeping people out of the believing community by their wrong teaching concerning circumcision.	
Galatians 5:3	Galatians 5:3
Shaul affirms that all adult men who become circumcised are	3 And I testify again to
transgressors; they are to keep the whole Torah and the Torah teaches to save lives.	every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole
The word debtor can also be translated transgressor. ³ They are not	law.
keeping the whole Torah because the Torah commands us to save lives	
which supersedes dangerous adult circumcision.	
Galatians 5:4	Galatians 5:4
You are estranged from the Messiah if you try to live justly by these	4 You have become
extra laws that God says we shouldn't keep. You have then fallen from	estranged from Christ, you
God's favor.	who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen
Since adult circumcision is excused by the Torah, some who were doing	from grace.
it were applying the Torah incorrectly. The Greek word for grace can	Hom grace.
also be translated favor.	
Galatians 5:5	Galatians 5:5
We have received the Holy Spirit and expectantly hope to live right by	5 For we through the Spirit
faith.	eagerly wait for the hope
	of righteousness by faith.
The word for hope can also be translated to expect. ⁴ Righteousness	
means to live right.	
Galatians 5:6	Galatians 5:6
For living in the Messiah Yeshua, circumcision does nothing to	6 For in Christ Jesus
strengthen us nor uncircumcision, but faith effectively working by	neither circumcision nor
benevolent love does.	uncircumcision avails
	anything, but faith working
	through love

 ^{3 &}quot;g3781. ὀφειλέτης opheiletēs; from 3784; an ower, i. e. person indebted; figuratively, a delinquent; morally, a transgressor." – Strong's Enhanced Dictionary.
4 "g0553. ἀπεκδέχομαι apekdechomai; from 575 and 1551; to expect fully:— look (wait) foreign." - Strong's Enhanced

Dictionary.

The word translated "avail" can refer to ability, doing good, or strength. ⁵	
Circumcision or uncircumcision then does nothing for our abilities (to	
do good). Love and faith help us.	

Explanation Summary of Galatians 5:2-6 Adult circumcision is unnecessary – Galatians 5:2-6

Galatians 5:2

Truly, I Shaul (Paul) say there is nothing to be profited by adult male circumcision because God has excused adult males from circumcision because of the extreme danger involved.

Galatians 5:3

Shaul affirms that all adult men who become circumcised are transgressors; they are to keep the whole Torah and the Torah teaches to save lives.

Galatians 5:4

You are estranged from the Messiah if you try to live justly by these extra laws that God says we shouldn't keep. You have then fallen from God's favor.

Galatians 5:5

We have received the Holy Spirit and expectantly hope to live right by faith.

Galatians 5:6

For living in the Messiah Yeshua, circumcision does nothing to strengthen us nor uncircumcision, but faith effectively working by benevolent love does.

God will judge those who don't keep the Torah (law) – Galatians	
5:7-10	
Explanation	New King James Version
Galatians 5:7	Galatians 5:7
They ran well (by accepting the truths taught by the Messiah when they	7 You ran well. Who
first believed). Who hindered them from not keeping the truth of the	hindered you from obeying
Torah the way it should be understood?	the truth?
Galatians 5:8	Galatians 5:8
Those who persuaded them to not obey the Torah have not	8 This persuasion does not
been sent by the Messiah Yeshua (who called them).	come from Him who calls
	you.
It was the Messiah who called them to faith in Him.	
Galatians 5:9	Galatians 5:9
Just as leaven expands a loaf of bread, listening to those who don't obey	9 A little leaven leavens
the Torah will expand wrong teaching.	the whole lump.
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⁵ g2480. ἰσχύω ischyō; from 2479; to have (or exercise) force (literally or figuratively):— be able, avail, can do (- not), could, be good, might, prevail, be of strength, be whole, +much work." - Strong's Enhanced Dictionary.

Galatians 5:10	Galatians 5:10
Shaul trusts that they will stay faithful to the Torah; God will judge	10 I have confidence in
those who don't keep the Torah, no matter who they are.	you, in the Lord, that you
	will have no other mind;
	but he who troubles you
	shall bear his judgment,
	whoever he is.

Explanation Summary of Galatians 5:7-10 God will judge those who don't keep the Torah (law) – Galatians 5:7-10

Galatians 5:7

They ran well (by accepting the truths taught by the Messiah when they first believed). Who hindered them from not keeping the truth of the Torah the way it should be understood?

Galatians 5:8

Those who persuaded them to not obey the Torah have not been sent by the Messiah Yeshua (who called them).

Galatians 5:9

Just as leaven expands a loaf of bread, listening to those who don't obey the Torah will expand wrong teaching.

Galatians 5:10

Shaul trusts that they will stay faithful to the Torah; God will judge those who don't keep the Torah, no matter who they are.

We are freed from the misapplied laws; don't fight over them –	
Galatians 5:11-15	
Explanation	New King James Version
Galatians 5:11	Galatians 5:11
My fellow Jews, since I teach that male babies are to be circumcised,	11 And I, brethren, if I still
why are people still persecuting me?	preach circumcision, why
	do I still suffer
Shaul adds a snide (mocking) remark; Probably the offense of Yeshua's	persecution? Then the
death on a stake has been done away with.	offense of the cross has
	ceased.
Galatians 5:12	Galatians 5:12
Shaul makes a bitterly sarcastic remark wishing those who are	12 I could wish that those
misapplying the Torah by teaching adult circumcision would cut off	who trouble you would
their own.	even cut themselves off!
Galatians 5:13	Galatians 5:13
You, my fellow Jewish believers have been called to be free from the	13 For you, brethren, have
misapplied laws. Remember not to sin, but lovingly serve each other.	been called to liberty; only
	do not use liberty as an
Brethren always refers to the Jews. They were called Nazarene Jews	opportunity for the flesh,
back then.	but through love serve one
	another.

Galatians 5:14	Galatians 5:14
All the law is accomplished ⁶ in one word as it says in Leviticus 19:18	14 For all the law is
NKJV, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."	fulfilled in one word, even
	in this:" You shall love
Shaul quotes Leviticus. The Torah (the law, God's instruction) teaches	your neighbor as yourself."
us to love and do what is good.	
Galatians 5:15	Galatians 5:15
Do not wound others with your words or cause others to be destroyed	15 But if you bite and
by fighting over misapplied man-made laws so that there is nothing left.	devour one another,
	beware lest you be
The word bite can mean to wound. ⁷ The word for devour can mean to	consumed by one another!
ruin or destroy. ⁸ Fighting over misapplied man-made laws can cause	
hard feelings and even alienate people. Shaul doesn't want them fighting	
over the misapplied man-made laws. This is a problem even today in	
both Jewish and Christians circles.	

Explanation Summary of Galatians 5:11-15 We are freed from the misapplied laws; don't fight over them – Galatians 5:11-15

Galatians 5:11

My fellow Jews, since I teach that male babies are to be circumcised, why are people still persecuting me?

Shaul adds a snide (mocking) remark; Probably the offense of Yeshua's death on a stake has been done away with.

Galatians 5:12

Shaul makes a bitterly sarcastic remark wishing those who are misapplying the Torah by teaching adult circumcision would cut off their own.

Galatians 5:13

You, my fellow Jewish believers (the sect of Nazarene Jews) have been called to be free from the misapplied laws. Remember not to sin, but lovingly serve each other.

Galatians 5:14

All the law is accomplished in one word as it says in Leviticus 19:18 NKJV, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:15

Do not wound others with your words or cause others to be destroyed by fighting over misapplied manmade laws so that there is nothing left.

 $^{^6}$ g4137. πληρόω plēroō; from 4134. – <u>Strong's Enhanced Dictionary</u>. Strong's says this word can also be translated as accomplished.

⁷ g1143. δάκνω daknō - <u>Strong's Enhanced Dictionary</u>. Strong's says that the word bite can also mean to wound.

⁸ g2718. κατέρχομαι katerchomai – <u>Strong's Enhanced Dictionary</u>. Strong's gives several usages for this word including to ruin or destroy.

Major points to remember from this section

What Jewish ideas does Shaul use in this section?

The added law of adult circumcision is wrong.

Male babies are still to be circumcised.

They were to keep the Torah.

"Love your neighbor as yourself;" Leviticus 19:18.

There are a number of Messianic points in this section. Can you name some?

The Messiah Yeshua did not send those who told them not to obey the Torah; Galatians 5:8.

They were free from the added misapplied laws. "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you;" Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV.

Questions

Can you name the 3 main points Shaul is making in this section?

Adult circumcision is unnecessary – Galatians 5:2-6

God will judge those who don't keep the Torah (law) – Galatians 5:7-10

Don't fight over the misapplied laws – Galatians 5:11-15

Why is adult male circumcision wrong?

Because the Torah commands us to save lives and circumcision is very dangerous. There were a lot of God-fearers (Those who wanted to become Jewish, but were kept from doing so because they didn't want to die from circumcision.) at the time. Some were misapplying the Torah and saying adult males must be circumcised. Male babies are still to be circumcised; Galatians 5:11.

The Holy Spirit helps us to live right. True or False.

True, Galatians 5:5

Those who persuaded them not to obey the Torah have not been sent by the Messiah Yeshua. True or False.

True, Galatians 5:8

Shaul often made strong remarks to get their attention. True or False.

True.

Can you name some of Shaul's strong statements from this section?

He says they are estranged from the Messiah for keeping adult circumcision; Galatians 5:4.

Since he teaches male babies should be circumcised, why is he being persecuted – has that replaced Yeshua dying on a stake for us? Galatians 5:11.

He says those who are misapplying the Torah and telling them to be circumcised would cut off their own; Galatians 5:12.

Do not wound each other by your words; Galatians 5:15.

What does righteousness mean?

To live right.

Shaul does not talk about the Holy Spirit in this section. True or False.

False, he says that those who have received the Holy Spirit hope to live right (hope of righteousness).

What does the word grace mean?

Favor.

Did Noah receive grace?

Yes, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord;" Genesis 6:8.