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## Christ, the Law, and Israel

By Taylor Braswell January 10, 2024

### TODAY'S READING: John 1

At the beginning of this chapter, John points us to the fact that Jesus is fully God. Christ has always existed as a person of the Trinity, and this is why John points to creation in Genesis. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always existed in eternity past, present, and future. (For more on the Trinity, I recommend *Delighting in the Trinity: An introduction to Christian Faith* by Michael Reeves.) John then points us to John the Baptist in verse 6. Just like John the Baptist, you and I were created to reflect the light to others. We are not the light, but our purpose in life is to point others to Christ.

In verse 10, John turns our attention to Israel. John says that although the world was made through Christ, the world did not know him. Although God chose the Jews and used their lineage to bring about the birth of Christ, they rejected Him. I hear and read a lot of people talking about Jews and the nation of Israel as if they are saved because they are “God’s people.” Church, anyone who rejects Christ is not saved. John says in verses 12 and 13 that you are child of God, not because you are born in the nation of Israel or you descend from Jews, but because you believe in Christ! Paul speaks similarly in Romans 9 when he says not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel. Only Jews who believe Christ is the Messiah will be saved.

We need to pray for Israel just like we pray for all those who do not believe in Christ. “God’s people” are those who believe in Christ and nothing else makes you a child of God. When John says Christ is full of “grace and truth” in verse 14, he is talking about the law. John wants Israel to understand that Christ is the fullness of grace that the law was meant to point them to. God gave Israel the law to protect them and to show them that they could not fully keep His commandments. The law was grace because it was good for Israel, but

it could never offer grace for violating God's law. Although shadows of grace could be seen in the law, such as events like the Passover which pointed to Christ, Jesus' coming fulfilled the law perfectly and now the light shines fully! The shadows of the law are covered by the light of Christ.

**PRAYER:** God, thank You for speaking the world into existence and sending Your Son to be the light of the world. Open the eyes of Jews all over the world to see the truth of the gospel. Thank You, Jesus, for keeping the law perfectly and forgive me when I fail to keep Your commandments.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** John 3

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