

“Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.” Psalm 119, 97

## **A BIBLICAL APPROACH TO (HUMAN) RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND THE LAW**

Often the Old Testament Law is thought to be obsolete for a Christian today. As Jesus fulfilled the law, there seems to be no gain in dealing with the 613 rules we read in the books of Moses.

The aim of this Mini-session is to discover the Mosaic Law as a beneficial source for our personal relationship with God as well as for our understanding of what could be a helpful legislation for our societies and an inspiration for our understanding of Human rights.

The following questions can be a help for dealing with Old Testament Law.

### ***General approach***

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- What was the objective of this law?
- What kind of situation was it trying to prevent and to promote?
- What kind of people would have benefited from or been protected by this law?
- What kind of people would have been restrained by this law?
- What values or norms or principles are embodied in this law?

### ***The law as a revelation of Gods Character***

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- What anthropology lies behind this law?
- What does this law teach us about God character and about His concerns?

### ***Application to our modern context***

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- What kinds of situations or people in our society are comparable to those in the Old Testament Law?
- How should the principles found in the Law be applied in practical life today – in my own life, in the church, in wider society?

### ***The Old Testament Law and human rights***

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- Looking at today's Declaration of human rights: Are there similar rights in Old Testament Law?
- Which laws do try to prevent and promote the same values as the human rights do? Is there a concern to guarantee (a) human dignity (b) right to a fair trial (c) right to respect for private and family life (d) right for life (e) religious freedom (f) right to property (g) social fundamental rights?