

I. God’s Moral Culture Then: The Patriarchs

1. Abel was a moral example of proper worship ([Heb. 11:4](#); cf. [Gen. 4:4](#)).
2. Enoch was a moral example of how to please God ([Heb. 11:5-6](#); cf. [Gen. 5:21-24](#)).
3. Noah was a moral example of unquestioning obedience to God ([Heb. 11:7](#); cf. [Gen. 6:5, 9](#); [2 Pt. 2:5](#)).
4. Job was a moral example presented to the prince of immorality—Satan ([Job 1:8](#)).
5. Abraham was a moral example from an immoral family ([Heb. 11:8-16](#); cf. [Jos. 24:2-3](#)).
6. Lot was a moral example in a city of immorality—Sodom ([2 Pt. 2:7-8](#); cf. [Gen. 19:14-25](#)).
7. And many more could be given!

II. God’s Moral Culture Then: The Children of Israel

1. The children of Israel were to obey God to be His special, moral people ([Ex. 19:3-6](#)).
 - a. The children of Israel were to be three things to God:
 - i. A peculiar treasure i.e., valued property ([Ex. 19:5](#)).
 - ii. A kingdom of priests ([Ex. 19:6](#)).
 - iii. A holy nation ([Ex. 19:6](#)).
2. The children of Israel received the covenant or God’s moral Law ([Ex. 20:1-17](#)).
 - a. These commandments were to set them apart from the idolatrous nations surrounding them ([Dt. 7:1-6, 11](#); cf. [Dt. 14:1-2, 21](#)).
 - b. The covenant **and** their obedience to it set them apart from the other nations ([Dt. 26:16-19](#); cf. [Dt. 28:9](#)).
3. Sadly, in Israel’s history instead of influencing the nations around them for morality they desired to be like the nations around them ([1 Sam. 8:1-5, 19-20](#)).
 - a. They lost their moral influence when they capitulated and conformed to the world.

- b. This got started when they did not do what God instructed them to do with the seven nations of the Promised Land ([Jdg. 1:21, 27-35, 2:1-3](#)).
- 4. Over time, due to their immorality, both Israel and Judah would be carried away into captivity.
 - a. Northern kingdom of Israel ([2 Kgs. 17:1-23](#)).
 - b. Southern kingdom of Judah ([2 Kgs. 25](#)).
- 5. Thankfully, there were moral men who helped bring Judah back to God’s standard of morality.
 - a. Men like Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, Joshua, Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi.
 - b. God always has a righteous, moral, remnant ([1 Kgs. 19:18](#); cf. [Rm. 11:4](#)).

III. God’s Moral Culture Now: The Church of Christ

- 1. Christ eventually came into the world through the tribe of Judah and established His church.
 - a. He promised to build it and did ([Mt. 16:18-19](#); [Ac. 20:28](#)).
 - b. The church, ever in the mind of God, is the epitome of God’s moral culture today ([Eph. 3:9-11](#)).
 - c. She is the very body of Christ ([Eph. 1:20-23](#)).
- 2. The church of Christ is to influence the immoral for morality.
 - a. Salt of the Earth ([Mt. 5:13](#)).
 - b. Light of the world ([Mt. 5:14-16](#); [Php. 2:15](#)).
 - c. Cleansed ([Eph. 5:25-27](#)).
 - d. Transformed ([Rm. 12:1-2](#)).
 - e. Called out ([1 Pt. 2:9](#)).
 - f. Separate ([2 Cor. 6:14-7:1](#)).
- 3. If the church of Christ ceases to be moral, then like Israel she becomes part of the problem.
 - a. We have more of the world in the church than we do the church in the world!
 - b. It has, can, and does happen ([Rev. 2:14, 20, 3:15-17](#)).
 - c. Thus, we must make sure we are being God’s moral culture in this immoral world!