



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Thinking Further

How God's Law Rules the World

October 29, 2017

Nehemiah 9:32-38 & 10:28-29

“Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our ancestors did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the statutes you warned them to keep” (Nehemiah 9:34).

Scientists and engineers use laws of God to plot the path of a satellite to reach the stars. Scientists, engineers, and doctors use laws of God for successful robotic surgery. Scientists did not invent the laws that keep a space station in orbit or a robot on task. The laws of God are built into the universe God has made. Researchers have discovered the laws of God and engineers have applied them. If existence had evolved simply by chance over a long time, it would be impossible to plan a voyage to Mars or perform successful surgery with confidence, because chance would make repeating tasks unpredictable. Without the laws of God, people could not depend on a light switch working; because if it worked or failed to work, it would be “just by chance.” All “problems” would be “just by chance,” with no solution to seek and find. Because of God's laws, we naturally look for the cause when something goes wrong; so, what about our lives? The history of God's people in the Bible and the prayer of Nehemiah show the often-tragic consequences from repeatedly disobeying the laws of God. Nehemiah confessed that following their political and religious leaders, God's people had ignored God's commands and the laws God warned everyone to keep. Their slavery to foreign kings and much of their suffering resulted from disobeying or ignoring God's laws and refusing to change their behavior. From reflecting on history, we know that many problems have resulted from people ignoring God's laws regarding right and wrong, love and hate.

1. How did Nehemiah describe God in Nehemiah 9:32?
2. Describe the difference between the way God had acted toward His people and the way His people had acted toward God in Nehemiah 9:33.
3. List the type or social status of the people who did not keep God's Law.
4. How were the people treated in the land God gave to their ancestors?
5. What did Nehemiah lead the people to do?

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