

# A Matter of Life and Death

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Proverbs 6: 23.



"For the commandment is a lamp,  
And the law a light;  
Reproofs of instruction  
are the way of life."  
Proverbs 6: 23. NKJV



# I. Introduction

Are we really  
appreciating  
God's law?

Is the commandment  
considered today as a  
lamp or as a yoke?





“It is forbidden to kill;  
therefore all  
murderers are  
punished unless they  
kill in large numbers  
and to the sound of  
trumpets.”

Voltaire



"Adultery is not a crime, it's an amusement."

Kathleen Winsor,  
"Forever Amber"



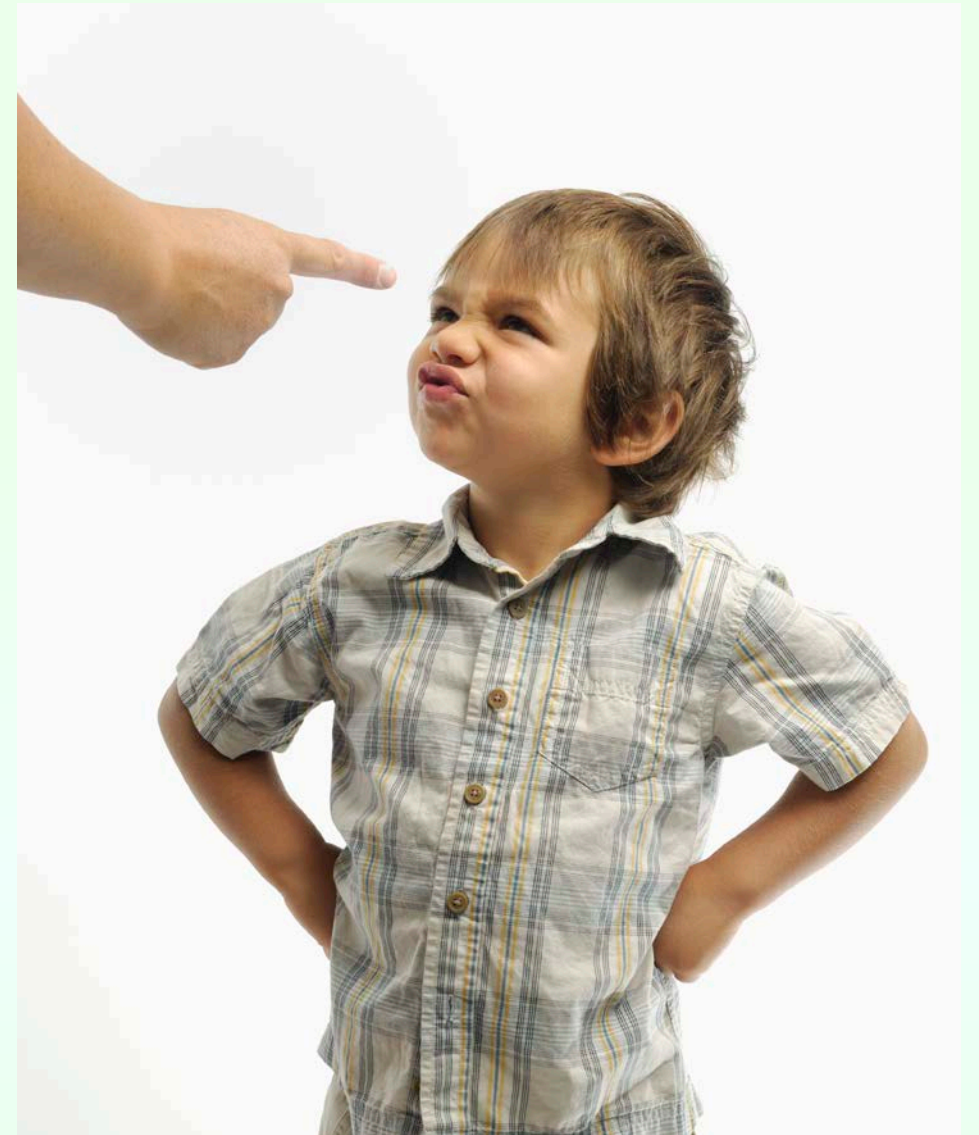


“Business is war. I go out there, I want to kill the competitors. I want to make their lives miserable. I want to steal their market share. I want them to fear me and I want everyone on my team thinking we're going to win.”

**Kevin O'Leary**



"Always obey your parents -  
when they are present."  
Mark Twain





“Every one of us is,  
even from his  
mother's womb, a  
master craftsman of  
idols.”

John Calvin





“If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law.”  
Winston S. Churchill



# II. Context





# Book of Proverbs - Structure glimpses of the first nine chapters (1:1 – 9: 18)

## Beginning of the section (chapter 1)

<b>A</b>	1: 7	The Fear of the Lord
<b>B</b>	1: 8 - 9	Education of the son (TORAH and MUSAR)
<b>C</b>	1: 10 - 19	Companionship with sinners leads to HADES

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## End of the section (chapter 9)

<b>A'</b>	9: 10 - 11	The Fear of the Lord
<b>B'</b>	9: 7 – 9. 12	Education of the wise and of the mocker (MUSAR)
<b>C'</b>	9: 13 - 18	Companionship with foolish women leads to HADES

# Book of Proverbs - Structure glimpses of the first nine chapters (1:1 – 9: 18)

## **Repetition of Important Words**

(at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the section)

<b>B</b>	1: 8 - 9	Education of the son (TORAH and MUSAR)
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<b>B</b>	6: 20	Education of the son (TORAH and MUSAR)
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<b>B</b>	9: 7 – 9. 12	Education of the wise and of the mocker (MUSAR)



# Book of Proverbs - Structure glimpses of the first nine chapters (1:1 – 9: 18)

## Foundational Statement for the Biblical Education

“My son, hear the instruction of your father,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother.” (1: 8)

HEAR

SHEMA ISRAEL, Capacity of listening, TEACHABILITY

DISCIPLINE

MUSAR, Instruction of your father, OBEDIENCE

BIBLE

TORAH, Law of your mother, REMEMBERING

# Book of Proverbs - Structure glimpses of the first nine chapters (1:1 – 9: 18)

## **Repetition of the Foundational Statement for the Biblical Education**

“My son, keep your father’s command,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother.” (6: 20)

KEEP

NATSAR

‘KEEP’ ISRAEL, After listening, time to act, PERFORMANCE

COMMAND

MITSWAH

Teaching of your father, REAPPROPRIATION

DO NOT FORSAKE

NATASH

Never give up on your mother’s education, FAITHFULNESS



## Proverbs 6: 20 – 22.

"My son, keep your father's command

REAPPROPRIATION

and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

FAITHFULNESS

Bind them always on your heart;

INTERNALIZATION

fasten them around your neck.

VISIBILITY

When you walk, they will guide you;

GUIDANCE OF THE LAW

when you sleep, they will watch over you;

PROTECTION OF THE LAW

when you awake, they will speak to you."

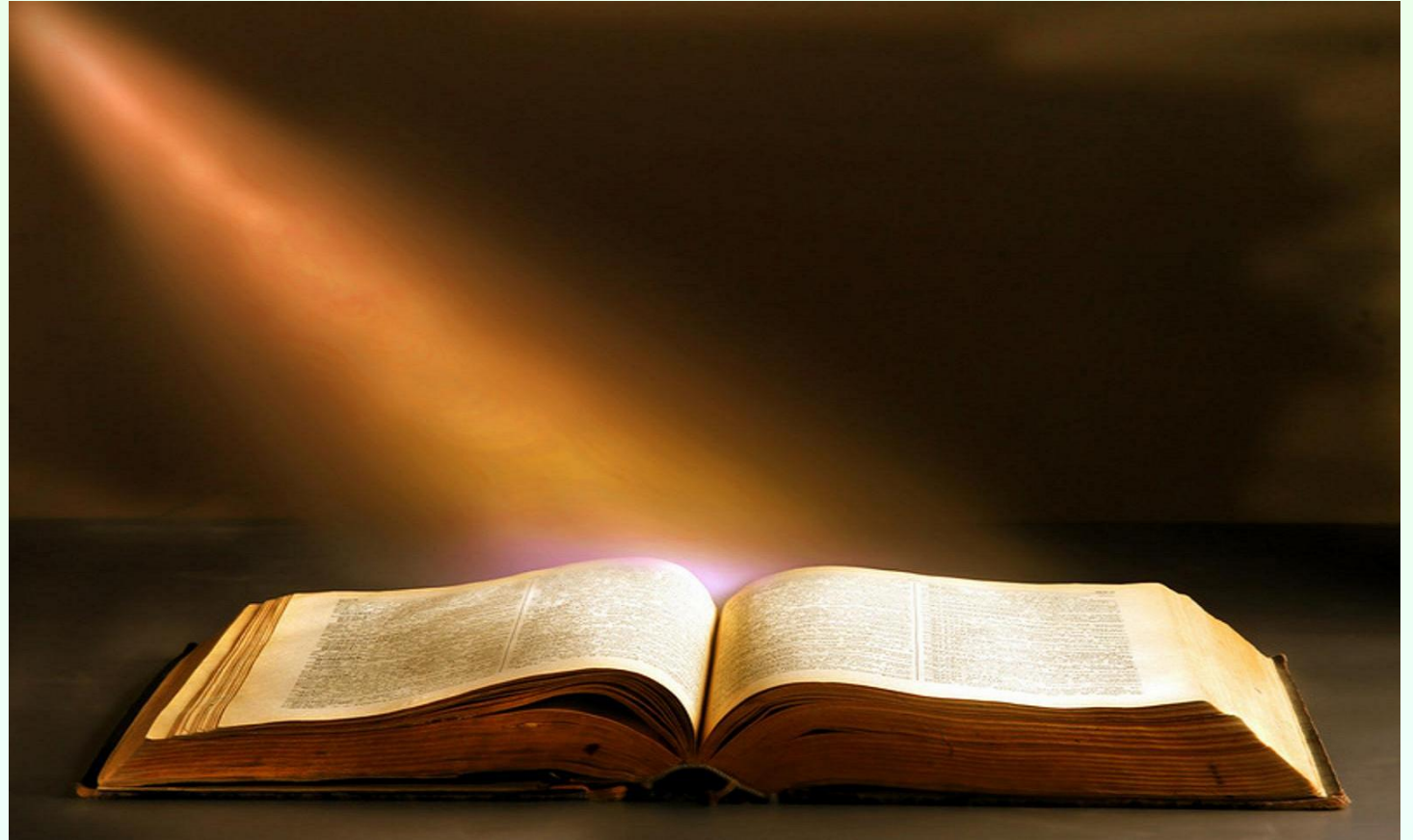
LAW AS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is only when Proverbs 6: 20 – 22 becomes the reality in our lives, that we can have the blessings of 6:23.

When we accept to reappropriate our parents' teaching, to stay faithful to the Bible (at that time the Torah, 5 books of Moses were the Holy Scriptures), to internalize the commandments in our heart, to make them visible in our every day activities, that the law will become light to our paths.



# III. The Law and the Light





1. Keeping the  
commandment will  
not leave us in the  
darkness

“For the commandment  
is a lamp”

The spiritual darkness is  
the result of placing  
human wisdom as an  
ultimate reference for  
this planet.



“The prevailing spirit of our time is one of infidelity and apostasy... Human theories are exalted and placed where God and His law should be. Satan tempts men and women to disobey, with the promise that in disobedience they will find liberty and freedom that will make them as gods. There is seen a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God, of idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation. Men have allowed their minds to become so darkened and confused by conformity to worldly customs and influences that they seem to have lost all power to discriminate between light and darkness, truth and error...

In the beginning, God gave His law to mankind as a means of attaining happiness and eternal life. Satan’s only hope of thwarting the purpose of God is to lead men and women to disobey this law, and his constant effort has been to misrepresent its teachings and belittle its importance. His master stroke has been an attempt to change the law itself, so as to lead men to violate its precepts while professing to obey it. Ellen G. White, Prophets and Kings, p. 178.

## 2. Gradual progression of the light

"For the commandment is a lamp,  
And the law a light."

1 commandment = lamp

The entire Torah = light

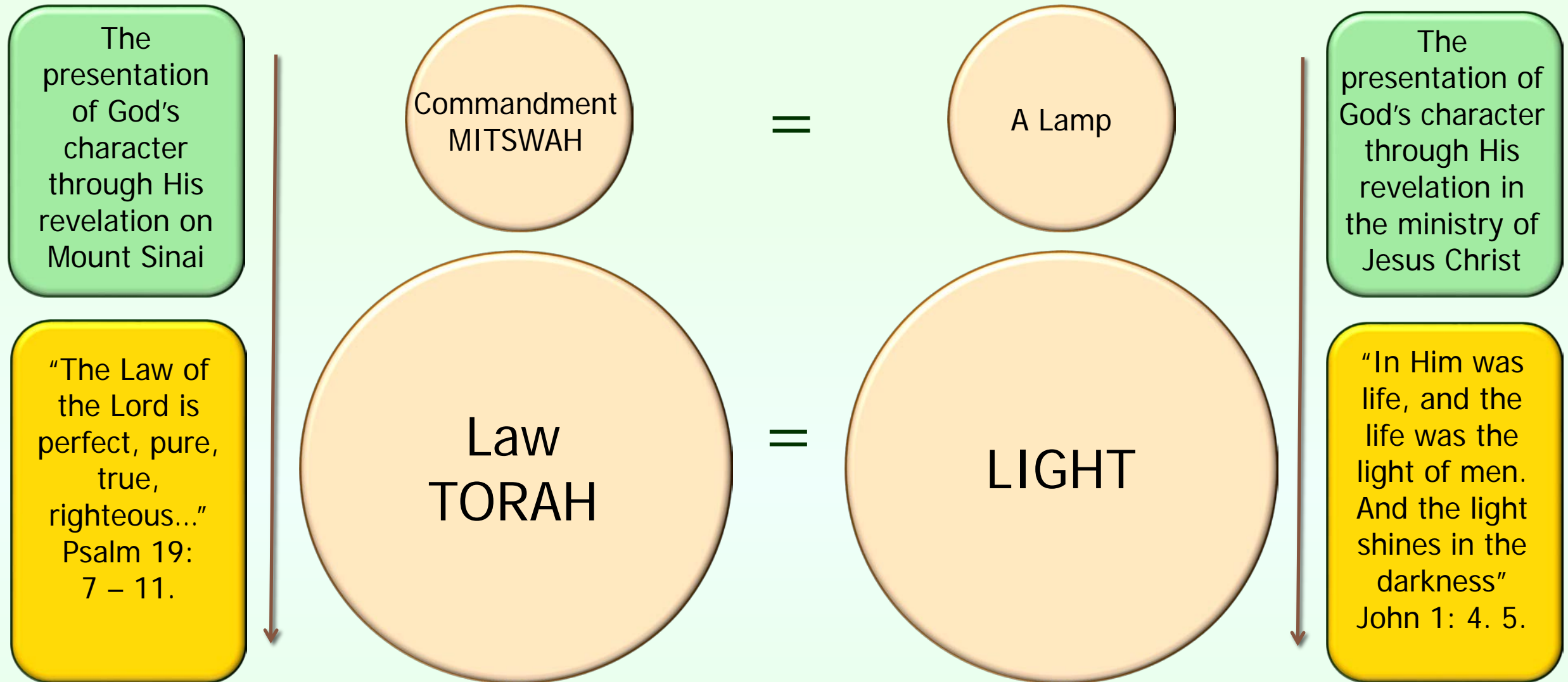
The lamp is enough of light for one room. The  
light is enough of light for the entire planet.

"The path of the righteous is like the morning  
sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.  
But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;  
they do not know what makes them stumble."  
Proverbs 4: 18. 19.

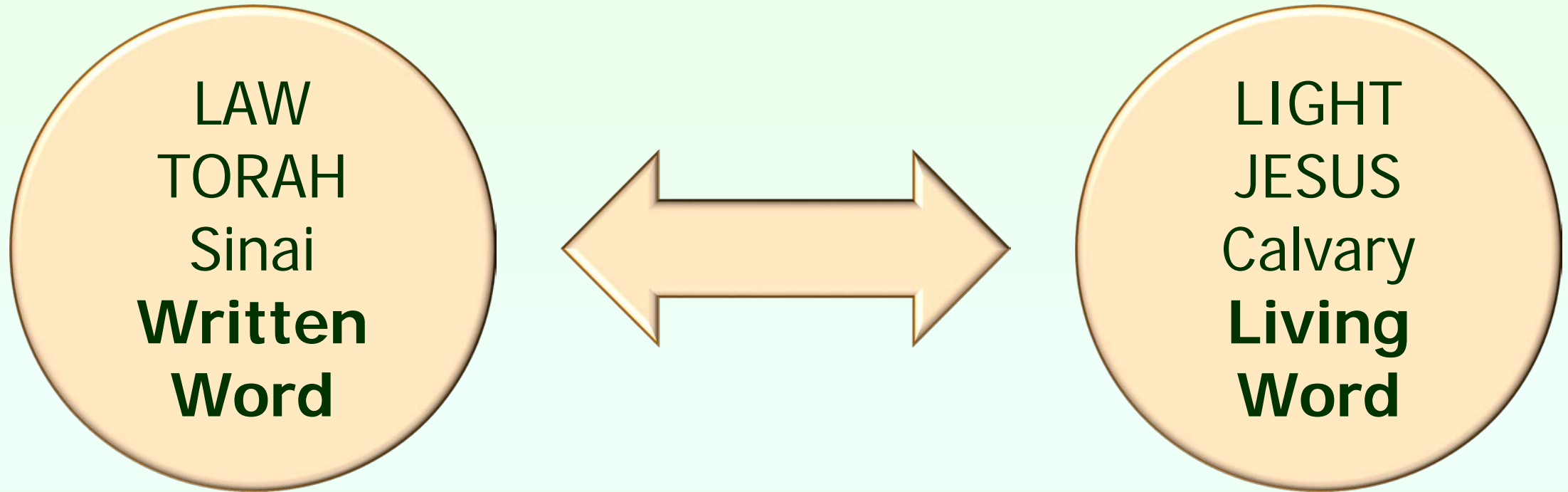




# Growing development on both side of the parallelism, OT and NT



The LAW leads to the LIGHT,  
And the LIGHT leads to the LAW



“The Law points to Christ; Christ points to the Law. The Gospel calls men to repentance. Repentance of what?—Of sin. And what is sin?—It is the transgression of the Law. Therefore the Gospel calls men from their transgression back to obedience to the Law of God.”  
Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, February 25, 1897.





“Those who heed Moses and the prophets will require no greater light than God has given; but if men reject the light, and fail to appreciate the opportunities granted them, they would not hear if one from the dead should come to them with a message. They would not be convinced even by this evidence; for those who reject the law and the prophets so harden their hearts that they will reject all light.” Ellen G. White, Christ’s Object Lessons. p. 265.

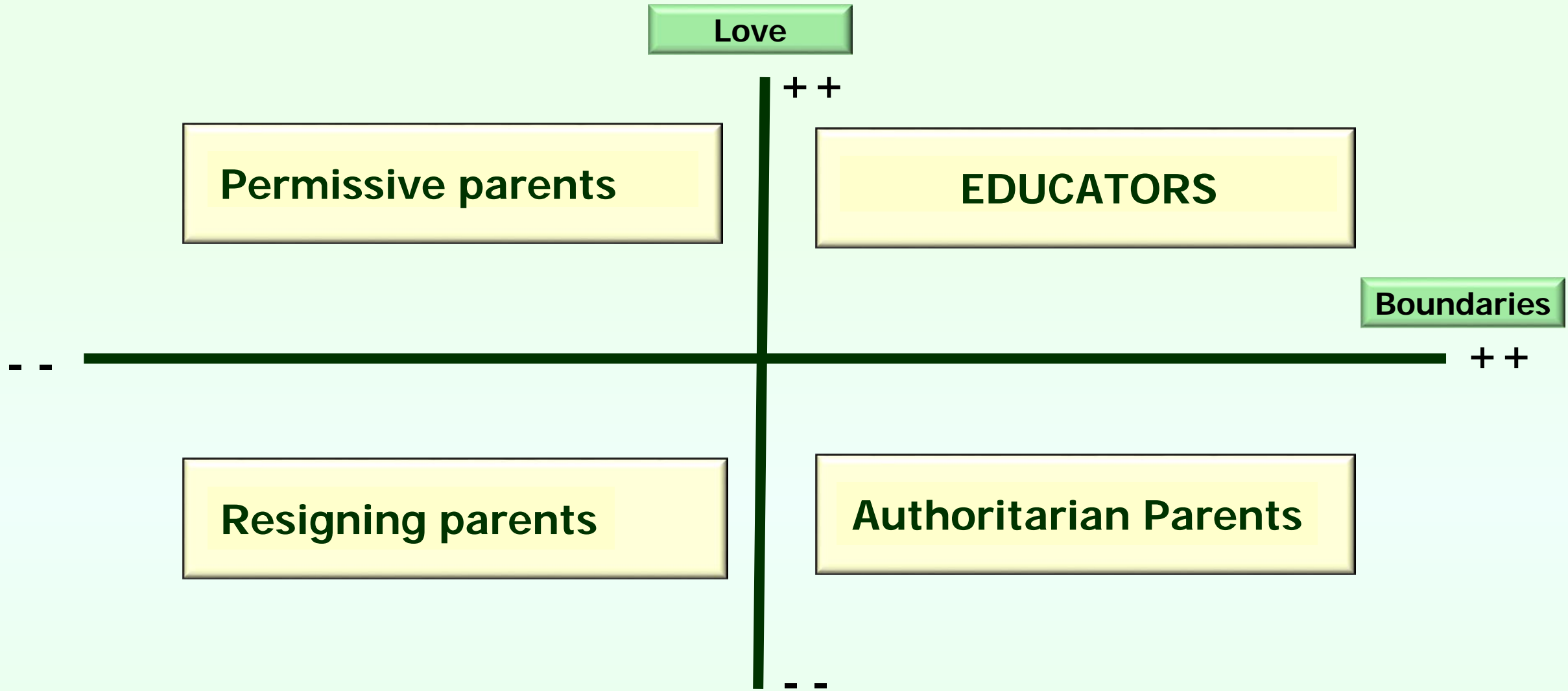
### 3. The discipline is an essential part of the education

“Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”

The Hebrew word ‘MUSAR’ means ‘stick’ It underlines the importance of boundaries, of limits, of a deep knowledge about the forbidden territories.



# Love and Boundaries (MUSAR) as Prerequisites for Education





4. The enlightenment is important, but only if it promotes eternal values coming from a divine inspiration



## Definition of Enlightenment

"Enlightenment is man's release from his self-incurred tutelage. Tutelage is man's inability to make use of his understanding without direction from another. Self-incurred is this tutelage when its cause lies not in lack of reason but in lack of resolution and courage to use it without direction from another. Sapere aude! 'Have courage to use your own reason!'- that is the motto of enlightenment."

Immanuel Kant, *An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?*



## **Human enlightenment**

Have courage  
to use the wisdom  
of human beings.

## **Divine enlightenment**

Have courage  
to use  
God's wisdom

"The BIBLE grows more beautiful, as we grow in our understanding of it"

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe





“There's a lovely Hasidic story of a rabbi who always told his people that if they studied the Torah, it would put Scripture on their hearts. One of them asked, “Why on our hearts, and not in them?” The rabbi answered, “Only God can put Scripture inside.”

Anne Lamott, Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith.



"When we use the law as a glass to behold the glory of God, we use it lawfully. His glory is eminently revealed in Christ; but much of it is with a special reference to the law, and cannot be otherwise discerned. We see the perfection and excellence of the law in his life. God was glorified by his obedience as a man. What a perfect character did he exhibit ! yet it is no other than a transcript of the law"

John Newton, Letters, p. 47.

It is not natural for human beings to cherish the law of God. According to Ellen G. White, it is only at the foot of the cross that things change. And this lifelong process is the work of the Spirit writing God's law in the heart of believers.

"The light shining from the cross reveals the love of God. His love is drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith produces a new life in the soul. The thoughts and desires are brought into obedience to the will of Christ. The heart, the mind, are created anew in the image of Him who works in us to subdue all things to Himself. Then the law of God is written in the mind and heart, and we can say with Christ, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God." Psalm 40:8.

Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 175.

# The same quotation describing the process of salvation, step by step

## Starting point: **LIGHT, LOVE**

I delight to do all things according to my will

**1** Light shining  
from the cross

**2** The cross reveals  
the love of God

**3** Cooperation with  
God ("not resisting")

**4** Living very closely  
to God

**5** At the foot  
of the cross

**6** Repentance  
of sins

**7** Faith

**8** The Spirit produces  
A new life in the soul

**9** The thoughts and  
desires obey God's will

**10** The heart, the  
mind, are created  
anew in Christ's image

**11** Christ works in us  
to subdue all things  
to Himself

**12** The law of God  
is written in the  
mind and heart

## Ending point: **LAW, LOVE**

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God."



# V. Conclusion



“The lesson books used should be of a character to bring the law of God to the attention. The Bible should be made the foundation of education. In this work the light and strength and power of the truth will be magnified. Youth from the world, whose minds have not been depraved by habits of sensuality, will connect with these schools and will there be converted... This kind of missionary work, I am instructed, will have a most telling influence in extending the light and knowledge of truth.”

Ellen G. White, Child Guidance, p. 310.



“The love is the measure of the law. You lose love, and the law turns out to be an oppression tool. You keep love, and the law becomes an expression of freedom.”  
(DS)



## Take care of your lamp

"A lamp is very often a sign of life, and when it goes off, it is the metaphor of death"

Andre Lelievre, Alphonse Maillot, Commentaire des Proverbes, vol. III, p. 144.





“Christ has bought us with a dear price, but yet He will recompense our service to Him. We may feel sad and weep over our poor service to Him who has given us such unmeasured evidences of His interest in and love for us. But the recompense will not be in exact proportion to the amount of work done, but in accordance with the motive and the love which prompted the doing of the work. The recompense will be of grace. His own abundant mercy will be displayed not because we have done anything worthy, but on account of His unmeasured love. Christ will say to the faithful, sincere worker, “Well done, good and faithful servant... And even now angels of God take cognizance of our works of love and righteousness and we shall not be forgotten even in this life. In keeping His commandments there is great reward. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165. Christ lays no more upon His servants than He gives them strength to perform. He will not cast them off in their adversity. When heart and flesh fail He will be the strength of their heart and their portion forever.”

Ellen G. White, Daughters of God, p. 233.

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