

were necessary for understanding God's message, God would have caused that information to be included in the Bible.

The Bible tells of commands given to various persons at various times. It includes many general commands as to the type of people that we should be, and lists the moral commands that we should obey. When it gives specific commands relating to material objects or actions, these may relate to a particular situation, and apply whenever that situation is present.

Application may be dependent upon circumstances.

We can say categorically that there are no commands or teachings in the Bible that are culturally conditioned in the sense of being based upon the beliefs or attitudes of the people of the time. Yet there are many instances where the Lord related His command to a situation or to particular circumstances. There were particular commands related to the situation of the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings. Other commands were given that would be applicable to the situation of Israel when settled in the land of Canaan. Many of these had as their object the building of a wall of separation to preserve the knowledge of God from contamination by heathen surroundings. After the atonement was accomplished, when God desired that the knowledge of the Lord be no longer mostly kept within one nation, but that it be carried to the whole world, Paul said, "The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17-30). In a new situation many of the old commands no longer apply. God said to Peter, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:15).

At Sinai God gave the Israelites a very detailed ceremonial law. Many types and symbols were presented to represent the great truths of His being