

BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

► **5th Grade | Unit 9**

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BIBLE 509

AUTHORITY AND LAW

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LIFEPAC Test |Pull-out

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AUTHORITY AND LAW

God created everything that exists. He put order into His Creation. All creation is **governed by God's authority and the laws** that He built into creation. For example, the planets orbit around the sun according to the laws of gravity and attraction that God established. Our earth experiences day and night and the four seasons of the year, according to the natural order that God built into His Creation. The Bible says, "The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter" (*Psalms* 74:16-17).

God has also established His Law and authority for human beings on Earth. Created in the image and likeness of God, people have been given authority by God. *Genesis* 1:28 says, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." With love and under obedience to God, men and women were to rule the earth.

God also established law and authority within human society. He created the family as the first place and the center of His plan for law and authority within human society. God has also established His authority through civil government on Earth. In this LIFEPAC®, you will learn more about the law and authority that God has established for the family and civil government.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Explain why God is the source of all authority and law.
2. Define the term *laws of nature*.
3. Define the term *divine law*.
4. Describe Jesus' attitude toward the authority of His Father and the Scriptures.
5. Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us to follow God's Law.
6. Know how God delegates authority to parents.
7. List some of the rights and duties of parents and children.
8. Describe some of the effects of obedience to parents and governmental authority.
9. List some of the reasons for the need for government.
10. Describe the way government came into being.
11. List the rights and duties of government and citizens.



1. GOD: THE SOURCE OF ALL AUTHORITY

God is the source of all authority in the **universe**. To say that someone has *authority* means that he has the power to enforce obedience. It also means that he has the right to command or to act. Since God created everything that exists, and since He is all-powerful, God has the **ultimate** authority over all creation. Along with His authority, God has established certain laws to help govern and guide His Creation. These laws are given to provide order and peace to God's Creation and to govern it according to His plan of love. You will learn more about God's authority and laws in this section of the LIFEPAC.

Jesus Christ has also been given all authority, both in heaven and on Earth. *Matthew 28:18* says, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Although Jesus has such authority, as the Son of God He is still obedient to God the Father. In His obedience to God the Father, Jesus is a model of what it means to be under the authority of God and to obey God's laws! As a young child, Jesus also gave an excellent example of being obedient to His mother, Mary and His step-father, Joseph. We will examine some aspects of Jesus' life of obedience to God and His earthly family in this section of the LIFEPAC.

The Holy Spirit also has an important role in helping to fulfill God's laws. Through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, Christians can lead the new life that God wants them to live. You will learn more about the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this section of the LIFEPAC.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain why God is the source of all authority and law.
2. Define the term *laws of nature*.
3. Define the term *divine law*.
4. Describe Jesus' attitude toward the authority of His Father and the authority of the Scriptures.
5. Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us to follow God's Law.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAAC.

ambition (am bish un). Strong desire to succeed or to gain fame or honor.

atone (ə tōn). To become reconciled in harmony; to make up for lack of payment.

authority (u thōr u tē). The power to enforce obedience; the right to command or to act.

consequences (kon su kwens uz). Results produced by a cause or necessarily following from a set of conditions.

devout (di vout). Active in worship and prayer; religious.

divine (di vīn). Having to do with God; sacred.

divine law (di vīn law). God's Law for man, revealed through natural revelation and supernatural revelation, or the Bible.

eternal (i tērn ul). Always was and always will be; having infinite duration; everlasting.

eternal law (i tērn ul law). The eternal plan of God to guide and govern the purpose of His Creation.

govern (guv ərn). To exercise continuous sovereign authority over.

hibernate (hī bērnāt). To spend the winter in sleep or inactive condition.

interventions (in tēr ven shunz). Things which occur, fall, or come between points of time or events.

law (law). Binding custom or practice of a community.

laws of nature (lawz of nā chər). Physical laws observed in and determined by nature.

limitation (lim u tā shun). Where something must end or does end, as power, strength, or knowledge.

seal of approval (sēl uv u prū vul). A mark or sign made with a stamp. It means that something is "approved."

specifically (spi sif u klē). Particularly; definitely; in a special way.

ultimate (ul ti mut). Extreme, utmost, or maximum.

universe (yü nu vèrs). The whole of existing or created things regarded collectively; everything there is.

virtuous (vèr chü us). Good, moral, or righteous.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

God Is The Creator



Read Genesis 1:1–2:3

The first verse in the Bible is very important in understanding why God is the source of all authority and law. *Genesis* 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” As Creator, God had authority to cause the universe to come into being. Furthermore, God formed and fashioned the world. He was free to form it and order it the way He wanted it to be. God established order in His Creation. Let’s consider some of the **consequences** of God’s ordered creation of all that exists.

Rights of the Creator. Since God freely created everything that exists, He has the *rights* of a creator. This is one of the consequences of God’s creation of the universe. God was free to create the universe in any way that He wanted. God saw all possible worlds that He might create, and He freely chose to create a particular one: the one in which we now live. Because God had the rights and freedom of a creator, He had a *divine plan* for the universe. His divine plan is made known in the creation that He has made. His divine plan has also been revealed to us in the Scriptures and in His Son, Jesus Christ. Having made the universe the way He wanted it, He also has the right to do with it as He pleases.



| Pottery is shaped according to the potter’s plan.

An example might help you to better understand the rights of a creator. Have you ever seen a potter at work? A potter is a person who takes a wet piece of clay and fashions a vessel or object of some sort. We call the finished material “pottery.” Before he begins to mold the clay to make pottery, a potter considers what kind of object he wants to make. He develops a *plan* for the object and how he wants to make it. Then he begins to take the wet clay and fashion it. The pottery doesn’t tell the potter what to do. The potter

has the rights and freedom of a creator to form the clay in whatever way he wants. The way he wants to do it is his *plan*. As the potter begins his creation, the plan of the potter becomes realized in the piece of pottery that he is making. The potter’s plan then becomes “built into” the finished piece of pottery. The pottery is shaped according to the potter’s plan, and it only takes one shape. It has no other shape other than the one the potter wants. Once the pottery is formed, we can better understand the potter’s plan in what he has made.

Once the pottery is formed, the potter also has the right and freedom to do with it as he pleases. He is free to add to it, reshape it, paint it, or destroy it. Therefore, the potter not only had the right of the creator to make what he wanted, but he also has the right and freedom to do with his creation what he wants to do with the finished work.

In a similar way, then, God not only had the right of a creator to fashion the universe according to His plan, but He also has the right to do with His Creation whatever He wants.



Answer these questions.

1.1 Why is God the source of all authority and law?

1.2 What are three ways that God has revealed His divine plan to us?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.3 In what two ways does God have the “rights of a creator?” (You may use the example of a potter to explain your answer.)

- a. _____

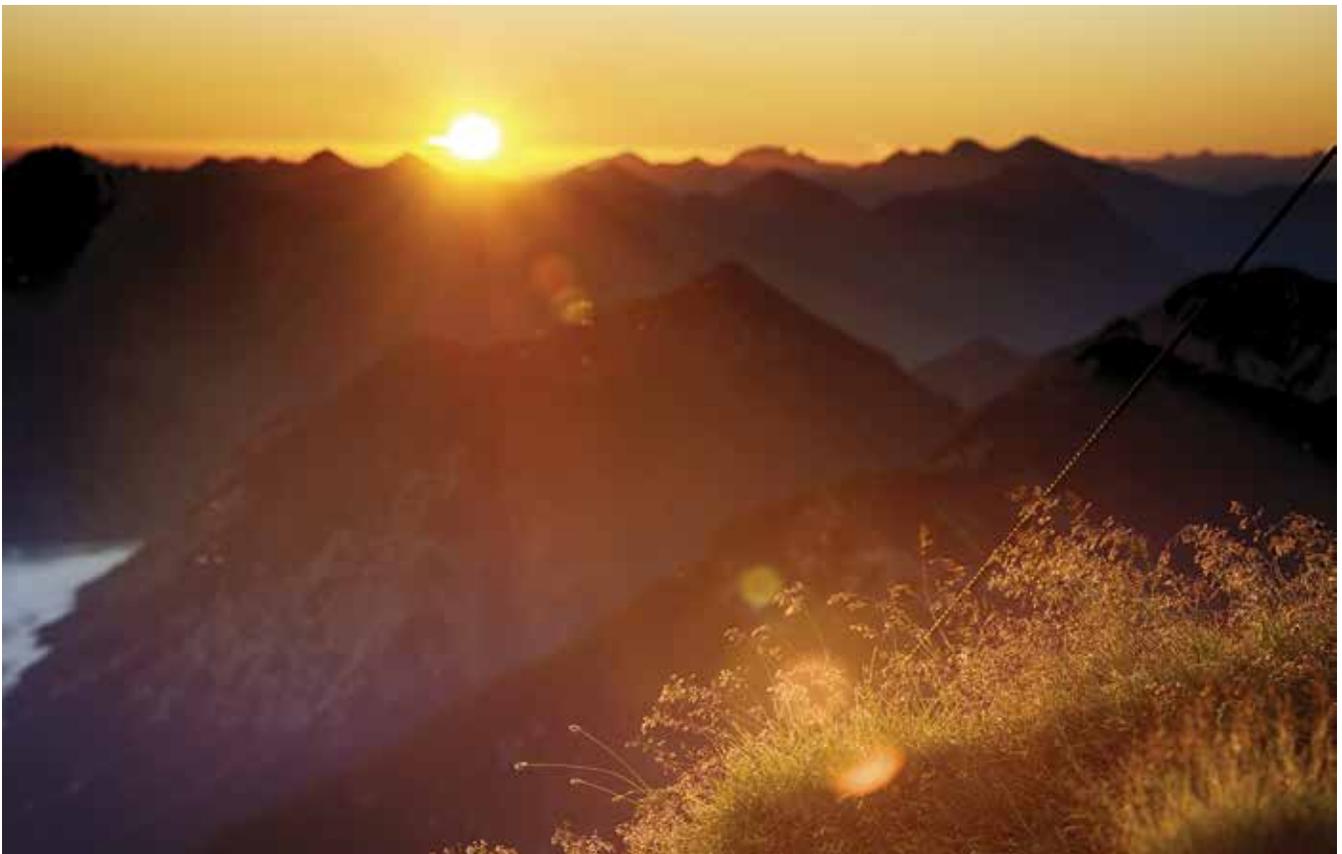
- b. _____

Eternal law. God is **eternal**. This means that God has always been, and He always will be. He has always existed, and He will always exist. When God created the universe, He had a plan for it. Since God is good, His plan of creation was good. God wanted His Creation to share in His goodness and to reveal His glory. In order to achieve His purpose for Creation, God has always had an **eternal law** to guide and govern the purpose of His Creation. This law is called *eternal law* because God is eternal, and whatever God knows and wills is as eternal as He is. It is *eternal law* because, like all law, it contains rules and order established by God to bring about the good and harmony of creation and achieve God's purposes.

The *eternal law* of God can be divided into two parts: (1) **laws of nature** and (2) **divine law**. You will learn about each of these in the next two parts of this section of the LIFEPAK.

Laws of nature. The *laws of nature* are part of God's eternal law. By these laws of nature, God's authority in the natural order of creation is expressed. The earth, sun, moon, planets, and stars are all governed by these laws of nature.

God set in motion the laws of nature when He created all these bodies in the universe. By these laws of nature, God governs the universe and keeps it in being. For example, we know that the planets of our solar system revolve around the sun in set paths and times that remain the same. Their orbits are governed by the *laws of nature*. The rotation of the earth around its axis, giving us day and night, is also fixed according to the laws of nature.



| Laws of nature were established by God to govern the created universe.

When God chooses to interrupt these laws of nature for a special reason, He can do so. That is one of His “rights of the Creator!” It also shows His authority and power over His Creation. We usually call these interruptions of God’s laws of nature *miracles*. They are *supernatural interventions* of God in His created order and the laws of nature. A few of these supernatural interventions of God’s laws of nature are recorded in the Bible. For example, God caused the great Flood to cover the earth (*Genesis*, chapter 7). He divided the waters of the Red Sea so that the Israelites could escape from the Egyptians (*Exodus*, chapter 14). About forty years later, God caused the waters of the Jordan river to pile up so that the Israelites could cross over into the Promised Land. God also caused a supernatural miracle when the sun stood still during the Israelites’ battle with the Gibeonites (*Joshua*, chapter 10). In all of these incidents, God interrupted His laws of nature to perform a miraculous or supernatural event.

The laws of nature also help govern the lives of living things. For example, animals and human beings have certain forces within them that have been placed there by God. Some of these forces have been labeled *instinct*.

Instinct is an inborn pattern of activity common to a given biological species. For example, flying south in the winter is an instinct in some birds. All of the birds of a certain kind fly south in the winter. Many generations of these birds have followed the same routes of flight for centuries. Such patterns of behavior can be said to follow the *laws of nature*. As another example, bears living in cold weather **hibernate** in dens throughout the winter months. This is also part of their instinct. Each species survives the winter with the help of these instincts placed in them by God. Instincts in living things represent *laws of nature* established and kept in being by God.

Divine law. Human beings are a very special part of God’s creation. They are made in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis* 1:26). Man is a *rational* being; that is, he has the power to think and reason. Man also has a free-will to choose good or evil. Because of man’s nature, God established special laws to govern man. God’s law for man is called *divine law*. *Divine law* is part of God’s *eternal law* for human beings.

Divine law, God’s law for man, is revealed to us in two ways. One way is through *natural revelation*. Natural revelation is discovered by man through the things God has made, including man. Through natural revelation, we can know that God exists. The Apostle Paul says in *Romans* 1:19–20, “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Through natural revelation, we can determine some things about God and His will for human beings. We call these things *natural law*. For example, an important part of God’s *natural law* is “to do good and avoid evil.” Another part of God’s natural law is for parents to care for and educate their children. These things can be discovered as man reflects on nature and his own actions. Throughout history, people from many cultures all over the world have discovered these natural laws of God.

A second way that we discover God's *divine law* is through *supernatural revelation*. This is given to us in the Holy Bible! The Bible contains God's divine law for human beings through supernatural revelation and in written form. For example, the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:2–17* and *Deuteronomy 5:6–21*) are *divine law*. God supernaturally revealed these laws to Moses on Mt. Sinai. These divine laws contained in the Ten Commandments show us God's plan, His eternal law, for human beings.

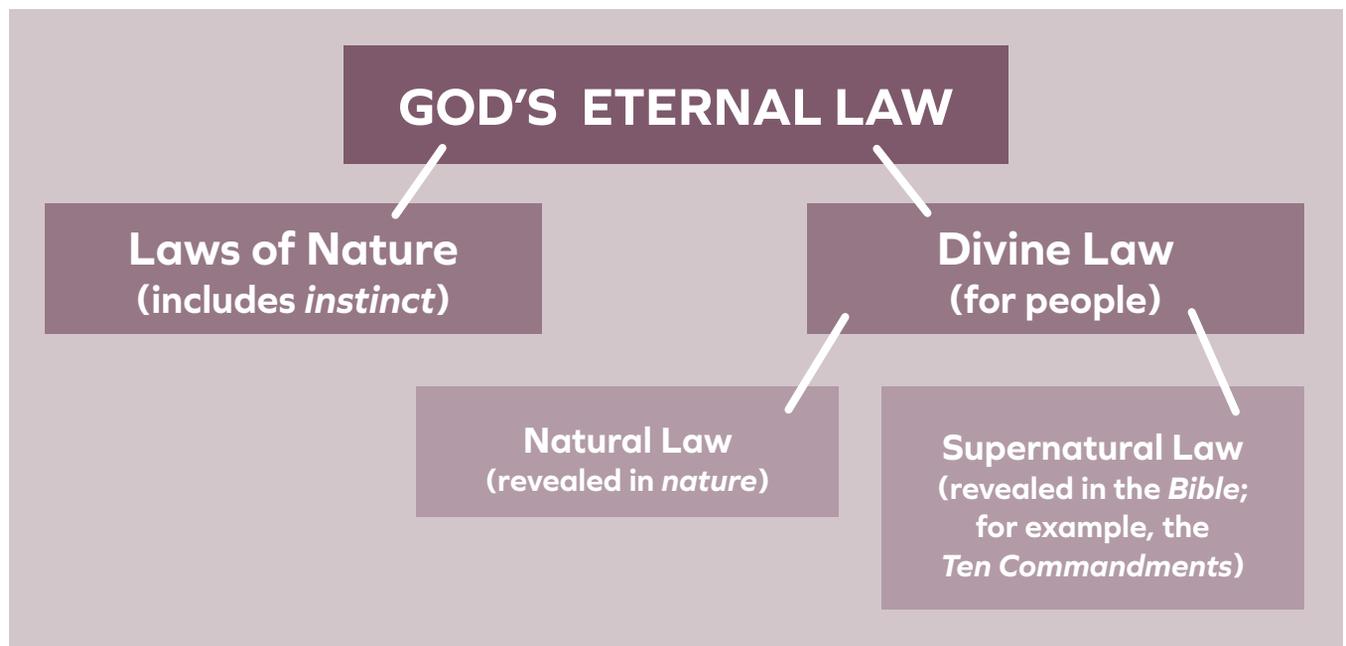
Jesus Christ reveals God's *divine law* to us through His life and teaching. An example would be His "law of love;" that is, love of God and love of neighbor (*Matthew 22:37–40*):

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

We can now summarize God's various laws. God's *eternal law* is His eternal plan that governs the whole universe. It consists of two parts: (1) *laws of nature* and (2) *divine law*. *Laws of nature* help govern the natural order of creation, like the earth, moon, and stars. It also governs living



| The Ten Commandments are part of *divine law*.



| God's various laws

things like plants and animals (for example, “instinct”). *Divine law* is specifically given by God for human beings. Divine law consists of two parts: (a) *natural law* and (b) *supernatural law* (*the Bible*). Natural law can be determined from what God has made. Supernatural law is given to us in the Bible—God’s Word.



Complete these statements.

- 1.4 God has always had a(n) _____ law to guide and govern the purpose of His Creation.
- 1.5 The *eternal law* of God can be divided into two parts: a. _____ and b. _____.
- 1.6 By the laws of _____, God’s authority in the natural order of creation is expressed.
- 1.7 _____ is an inborn pattern of activity common to a given biological species.
- 1.8 God’s law for man is called _____ law.
- 1.9 _____ revelation is discovered by man through the things God has made, including man.
- 1.10 Supernatural revelation is contained in the _____.



Complete these activities.

- 1.11 Give two examples of “laws of nature.”
 - a. _____
 - _____
 - b. _____
 - _____
- 1.12 Give an example of “divine law” contained in the Bible.
 - _____

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|----|--|
| 1.01 | _____ God | a. | meant for good, peace, and harmony of universe |
| 1.02 | _____ authority | b. | always was and always will be |
| 1.03 | _____ God's divine plan | c. | love God and love neighbor |
| 1.04 | _____ eternal | d. | sometimes obeys God |
| 1.05 | _____ rational | e. | contains God's divine law |
| 1.06 | _____ God's laws | f. | created all that exists |
| 1.07 | _____ Jesus Christ | g. | eternal law |
| 1.08 | _____ the Bible | h. | instinct |
| 1.09 | _____ the Holy Spirit | i. | the Counselor who guides Christians |
| 1.010 | _____ "law of love" | j. | model of obedience |
| | | k. | power to think and reason |
| | | l. | has the power to enforce obedience |

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011** _____ According to *Genesis*, men and women were to rule the earth with love and under obedience to God.
- 1.012** _____ All creation is governed by God's authority and the laws that He built into creation.
- 1.013** _____ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus.
- 1.014** _____ God was forced to create everything that exists.
- 1.015** _____ God can interrupt the laws of nature if He wants to do so.
- 1.016** _____ Miracles naturally occur according to the normal order of the universe.
- 1.017** _____ Divine law is God's eternal law for human beings.
- 1.018** _____ As a young boy, Jesus was sometimes disobedient to His parents.

1.019 _____ Jesus put His “seal of approval” on future New Testament writings.

1.020 _____ The right understanding of the Scriptures comes from the Holy Spirit.

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

1.021 Like us, Jesus suffered and was _____ as a human being.

1.022 Jesus taught first of all about the authority of the _____.

1.023 Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus promised that He and the Father would send the _____.

1.024 The Holy Spirit gives Christians the power to _____ about Jesus and the Gospel.

1.025 Christians do not have to follow the _____ Law.

1.026 _____ is a force in some animals that shows forth God’s laws of nature.

1.027 _____ revelation is discovered by man through things God has made.

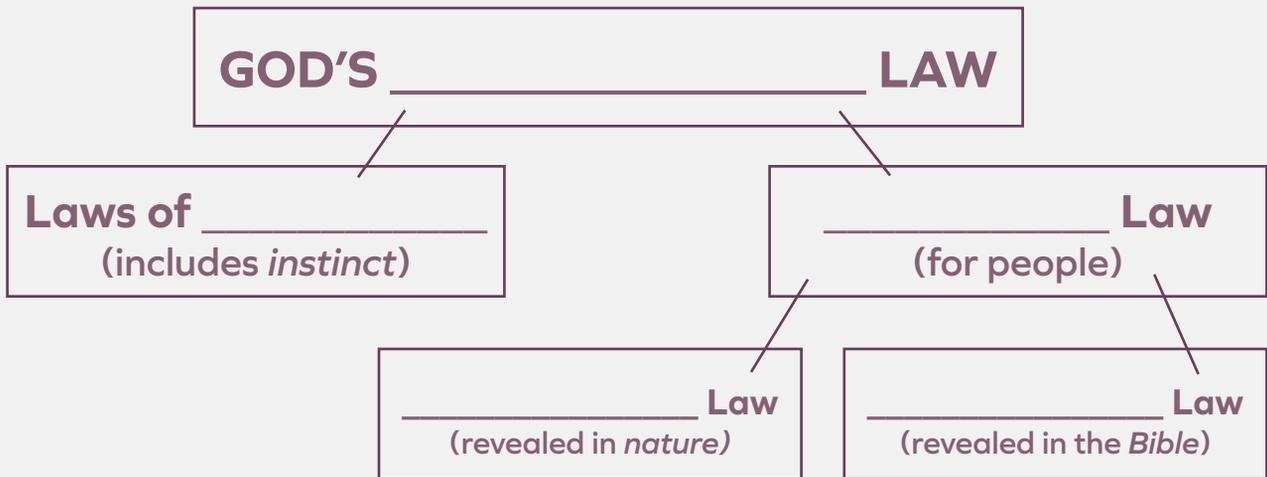
Complete this list (each item, 3 points).

1.028 What are three ways that God has revealed His divine plan to us?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Complete this activity (each answer, 2 points).

1.029 Fill in the blanks on the diagram below, showing the correct relationships and definitions of God’s various laws.



Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.030 Why is God the source of all authority and law? _____

1.031 How does the Holy Spirit help a Christian? _____



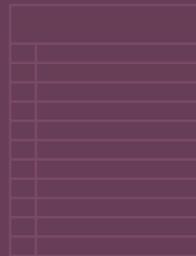
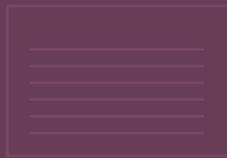
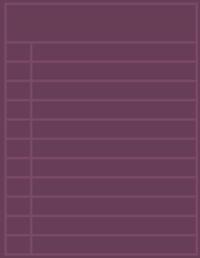
Teacher check:

Score _____

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