

Exodus 23:20-36 GOD's Law explained and applied pt 2

I. In chapter 20:1-17 GOD gives HIS Law: the ten commandments.

- A. From that point GOD declares HIS statutes: how the ten commandments apply to everyday life.
 - 1. GOD explains how HE is to be worshipped and also how sin is to be atoned for: through blood sacrifice, the innocent animal slain on behalf of the guilty sinner.
 - 2. Which all points to the ultimate Bond-slave, JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS the Lamb of GOD WHO takes away the sin of the world.
- B. Last time we made it through chapter 23:19, where GOD expanded upon HIS commandment, "You shall not bear false witness".
- C. And also, unlike man's laws which only deal with evildoers, GOD's Law commands us to do good, especially to the vulnerable.

Exodus 23:4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. 5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

- D. This is GOD's Law of kindness - even to an enemy.

- 1. Which is part of JESUS' golden rule.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- 2. And doing good to those who hate us will disarm them and possibly change their minds about us.

Exodus 23:9 "Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

- 3. Several times throughout these chapters GOD reminds them of their oppression as an encouragement to never oppress anyone.

- E. Then GOD commanded Israel to give themselves and their land its Sabbath rest.

Exodus 23:10 "Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, 11 but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove. 12 Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

F. And GOD also commanded Israel to gather together 3 times a year to observe three annual feasts:

1. Passover and feast of unleavened bread,
2. Pentecost,
3. The feast of Tabernacles / booths / ingatherings.

G. And then finally, this interesting law.

Exodus 23:19 The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

H. Today the Jews won't even eat a cheeseburger!

II. Vss 20-33 GOD promises protection, provision, and HIS presence

20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

A. There are many, including myself, that this Angel / Messenger of the LORD is JESUS.

B. A theophany, an appearance of JESUS in the Old Testament.

21a Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions;

C. Don't provoke HIM with outright rebellious sin, or else.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

21b for My name is in Him.

D. And truly GOD's NAME is in HIM, for the Name, JESUS, means GOD IS Salvation.

22 But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off. 24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.

E. Don't build fancy museums to showcase their statues.

1. Instead, turn false gods to dust!
2. And back in vs 13 the LORD commanded that they were to not even mention the names of other gods.

Exodus 23:13 “And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.

3. Lest someone become curious and be led by the devil into false, self-destructive worship.

25 “So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. 26 No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

- F. Israel never realized this promise fully, because they failed to obey the LORD fully.

1. But yet GOD’s WORD will be fulfilled, including these promises.

2. And they will also be fulfilled in us; soon and very soon!

Isaiah 11:6-10 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

27 “I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.

- G. I am amazed at how small a thing like a wasp or hornet can send a full grown man running away screaming like a little girl!

1. But the damage a hornet can do is no joke!

2. GOD promised to send in swarms of hornets to drive out the inhabitants from the land HE had previously given to Abraham.

3. So GOD drove out those Canaanites squatters with hornets!

29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. 31 And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

- H. This was the region promised by GOD, which Israel never came close to occupying.

1. This is what Israel occupied at their zenith, under Solomon's reign.
2. This is what Israel occupies today.

I. But again, GOD's WORD will come to pass, soon and very soon!

32 You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

J. Today the pressure is on the church to compromise, make covenants, agreements, with the world.

1. One Christian leader and sought after speaker recently declared his full endorsement of homosexuality.
2. "Countless hours of prayer, study, conversation and emotional turmoil has brought me to the place where I am finally ready to call for the full acceptance of Christian gay couples into the church,"
3. I read this statement to my wife who said, "Who or what was he praying to?"

K. The big issue isn't even about homosexuality -

1. It's about what it's always been about - the authority of the WORD of GOD, the Bible.
2. In the garden of Eden the devil asked Eve, "Has GOD indeed said...?"

L. Clearly the Bible declares that homosexuality, heterosexual sex before marriage, adultery, and looking at another with lust are all sins.

1. Clearly the Bible declares that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.
2. But is the Bible really GOD's WORD, or can we ignore the clear teaching of Scripture, because we feel it is more loving to accept a person rather than tell them they're in sin and in danger of judgment?
3. If the Bible is the WORD of GOD, then the most loving thing we can do is to warn the sinner that they need to repent of their sin and believe in JESUS - or else they will face HIS wrath.
4. But if we give sinners the impression that it's fine for them to live how they want to, then we have chosen to honor their feelings more so than to honor GOD's WORD.

M. GOD commands us today to not go in with the crowd, to not go with the flow.

1. Our culture has changed, but GOD has not!

[Malachi 3:6a](#) For I am the LORD, I change not;...

2. And neither should HIS people!

3. Remember - only dead fish go with the flow, but a live fish swims against the current!

N. But here's a warning to the Church: the devil has, and always will, tempt us with denying the clear WORD of GOD.

1. Beware of the false gods of "Tolerance", "Acceptance", "Love without boundaries", and "What feels right is right".

2. I pray we would all hear the hiss of the serpent when we are being told to go with the flow and to get with the times.

O. And that we would then heed the voice of JESUS WHO says,

[2 Corinthians 6:17](#) Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

Exodus 24

I. Vss 1-8 The only condition for communion

[1](#) Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. [2](#) And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."

A. Remember, Israel was camped here at Mount Sinai for almost a year - 11 months and 5 days, to be exact.

1. During that time the LORD called Moses to ascend the mountain on several occasions.

2. He was in great shape for 80 years old.

B. But here Moses, with his brother Aaron, whom GOD made the first high priest, and two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, and the 70 elders, were called to ascend the mountain to worship the LORD - but not very high up - to worship from afar.

1. GOD is holy, and must be regarded as holy, and only those who are holy can come into HIS presence.

2. Later on Nadab and Abihu would do an unholy thing - offer up strange fire to the LORD - and it was likely they were drunk when they did it.
3. Therefore fire went out from GOD and consumed them!
4. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their offering, but the HOLY SPIRIT told Peter, and when he confronted them, they were killed instantly!

1 Peter 1:15,16 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

C. Under the old covenant man, at his best, could only worship the LORD from afar.

1. Even the high priest, only once a year, could come into the Holy of holies.
2. And he had to have a blood sacrifice for himself and the people,
3. And if he failed in some way, GOD would kill him!
4. They even attached bells on his garment and a rope around his foot, just in case GOD did smite him.

D. But under the new covenant the LORD invites us to draw near!

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

E. But as GOD demonstrated through Ananias and Sapphirah, the LORD will not tolerate blatant unholiness or ungodliness in HIS presence.

3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."

F. They meant well, but they did fail often.

4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. 6 And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

G. Again, good intentions.

8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

H. The sole basis for drawing near to GOD without being destroyed was the blood of the sacrifice -

1. The blood of the innocent slain on behalf of the guilty.
2. The only basis by which we are saved - the blood of the LAMB.
3. And through HIS shed blood we are forgiven, cleansed, saved, sealed, redeemed, heaven-bound, and can have fellowship with GOD any time we wish!

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

II. Vss 9-11 They saw the LORD from down under

9 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.

A. In the Old Testament when anyone saw heaven they were always under the glassy sea, looking up through it into the throne room of heaven.

1. But in the New Testament, when John is given a vision of heaven, he sees it from a different perspective.

Revelation 4:1-6 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

2. So under the old covenant they saw the throne from down under,

3. But JESUS will raise us up above to be in HIS very presence!

11 But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

B. Why didn't GOD lay HIS hand on them? One reason: the blood!

III. Vss 12-18 GOD calls Moses up to HIMSELF

12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

A. Stone - not parchment, skin, wood, or anything else -

1. But on that which is most permanent.
2. Because GOD's WORD is forever!

Matthew 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

13 So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

B. That didn't work out too well.

15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

C. The giving of the Law was accompanied by terrifying signs,

1. Because the Law is perfect, but we are not.
2. And the soul who sins shall surely die!
3. Therefore it was fitting that the Law be presented in a terrifying manner.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.