INTRODUCTION

- It took Moses 3 months to march the Israelites to Mt Sinai
- The use of BLOOD emphasizes the seriousness of the covenant agreement between God and Israel...AND the covenant would be CONDITIONAL on their obedience.
- We must have the proper perspective to fully appreciate why God established His Law with His people. The right perspective realizes that Divine Indicatives (who God is) has precedence over Divine Imperatives (what God’s people are supposed to do).

PASSAGE

God Uses Shock & Awe on Mt Sinai

- v4. “I bore you on eagles’ wings” is a metaphor how God seemingly swooped His people from harm’s way in Egypt.
- The term “eagles’ wings” DOES NOT necessarily equate to America coming to Israel’s rescue as often portrayed by modern prophecy puritans. Can God use America in the Last Days? Absolutely, and we have helped Israel to survive in their homeland, but we can only speculate how America might be used by God in the “last days”.
- Remember, biblical prophecy is quite clear that in the last days “every nation” will rise up against Israel (Zech 14:2). So, if Israel needs rescuing again by “eagles’ wings” it stands to reason it will be God and God alone who rescues her – as He did in their exodus out of Egypt.
- vv5-6. If the Israelites would obey God’s commands, then God would make them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (1Pet 2:9). In fact, if they wholeheartedly obeyed, they would have no sick or poor in their midst...Ex 23:25; Deut 7:15; 15:4
- vv12, 22-22. God was very selective who could approach Him. Thanks to Christ, we all now have the privilege to access God’s throne of Grace 24x7.
- Trust but Verify. Notice the dialogue between God and Moses ➔ Moses spoke & God answered with thunder | God called 80-year old Moses to the mountain top, then told him to go back down to warn the people not to follow | Moses (huffing & puffing) reminded God that back in vs 12 he had already warned the people not to even touch the mountain | God, again, told Moses to go down and repeat the warning (it must be important) | ...and Moses complied.
- How long does it take us to absorb God’s warnings?
  - Prime example: How many times do we see the posted max speed limit (good laws of the land), yet we ignore it, or reinterpret it as a suggestion or a minimum speed limit, or make an excuse that everyone is speeding?

10 Commandments vs 10 Suggestions

- God’s commandments address how we should treat Him (I, II, III, IV); how to treat others (V, VI, VII); how should behave ourselves (VIII, IX), and how we should think (X)
- Working backwards from the 10th commandment up, we see that sin begins in the mind (what we covet or lust for)
- These 10 Commandments are summed up in “Love God with all your heart, and all of your life, and all of yourselves”...Lk 10:27
- Special note on Commandment III – Do Not take the Lord’s name in vain: This conveys more than using God’s name in a moment of frustration. It could also mean we are guilty if we half-heartedly worship God, such as when we sing praises to Him with little to no enthusiasm.
Just Punishment, Restitution, Compensation – Except for Slaves

- v1-6. The male slave must leave his wife and kids in possession of their master should the male slave receive his freedom. Marriage did not override prior legal ownership.
- v7-11. Female Jewish slaves, at least had the rights of a wife, unless she did not please her husband somehow (e.g., she did not come into the marriage as a virgin) – then she was to be freed or released without money but not killed, because she was probably abused (raped) prior to marriage.
- v12-14. Capital punishment for murderers – no question
- v15-17. He that strikes/curses his parents shall die; and he that kidnaps someone shall die – again, no questions asked.

This punishment seems harsher than the crimes committed, but family respect is raised to a higher order/priority than what we give it today.

- What do you do with an abusive, unloving, obstinate child? □ Detention Center | □ Orphanage | □ Grammar’s house
- □ Bribe or coddle them | □ Invoke biblical discipline?

- v18-19, 24-36. Just compensation for injuries sustained, and not outlandish monetary settlements as we see today.
- v20-21. The death of a slave did not incur the death penalty, but did incur sufficient punishment to prevent cruelty by slaveholders. After all, a slave owner would not kill his slaves with premeditation since they are his livelihood.
- v22-23. Society once used this passage to justify harsh treatment for abortionists (life for life). Now abortionists are paid big money by society to kill innocent life.

God’s laws for the Jews were just that – laws for the Jews

- Some laws are universal – for all nations, for all peoples, for all times – others are not.
- For example: Murder, adultery, theft are universal and timeless laws. However, we break the 4th Commandment all the time (Keep the Sabbath).
- This covenantal commandment was between God and the Jews only — Gen 9:9; Deut 5:15
- When was the last time we sinned anybody for not coming to church? NT Saints see this as a principle or a command without having a covenantal Do or Die consequence.

Slaves were treated differently when it came to rape, marriage, divorce, and capital punishment. Lev 25:44-46; Ex 21:7-11

- Rape/Marriage/Divorce. Slaves may be raped, married, divorced with little recourse — Ex 21:8, 10-11; Lev 19:20
- If a slave was seduced or raped, the perpetrator was not put to death, but had to bring a “guilt offering” to the priest to receive forgiveness for his sin — Lev 19:20-22

Capital Punishment. If a slave was killed by his master, the master was not necessarily killed, but punishment was exactly to minimize abuse to slaves — Ex 21:20,21

Justice. Eye for eye was not mandated for slaves, but slaves were not to be abused — Ex 21:26,27

- Our Western mentality makes it hard for us to grasp why slaves were looked upon as expendable property even for the Jews. But at least Jewish law did provide some justice for slave mistreatment compared to other nations around them.
- It was Judeo-Christian values, not atheism, that took the initiative to demolished slavery in much of the world.

Why were Slaves Treated Strangely in the OT?

Treatment of Virgins, Widows, Orphans, Strangers

- v1-15. Principle of Punitive Restitution – 2x to 5x of cost. Instead of jail time, what would be the outcome if criminals had to pay for their crimes 2x to 5x. Would crime pay?
- v16-17. Bed a young lady and you must take responsibility and get married and/or pay a dowry
- v18-20. Death Penalty for those who are involved with witchcraft, bestiality, and idolatry. The reason for this level of punishment is to prevent society from moral decay — Ex 34:12
- v21-24. God sends the sword on nations (war and economic woe) who affix their weak members (widows, orphans, the poor, foreigners). What nations are under such judgment? Can we even discern such judgment or is it speculation?
- v25-27. Compassionate laws regarding those in debt. What would be the outcome in society if we practiced such grace?
- v28. How do people curse God or curse our political and church leaders today? How do we challenge such behavior?

The Blood of the Covenant

- v1-3. They worshipped at a distance. The distance was ¼ mile per Josh 3:4. Do we worship God from a distance today?
- v4-6. Moses “sprinkled” blood on the altar. This was not a dainty ceremonial sprinkling but involved splashing lots of blood on and around the altar. Sacrifices were never meant to be pretty or dainty, but a horrifying bloody mess to remind us in a small way the horror of our sins.
- v10-12. Unusual manifestations of God — “And they saw the God of Israel...& they did eat and drink” & God wrote the Law & the 10 commandments Himself on the tablets.
- v13-18. Moses was in the mount 40 days/nights, but God was silent the first 6 days. Why? God is not hurried as we are.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- We can’t even get Christians to obey the speed limit, so how do we entice unbelievers to submit to God and be obedient to His morals laws?
- If we do not show unbelievers the way by being an example of willful, cheerful, and humbled obedience even in the small areas, what good are we? Are we salty (able to preserve society’s morals) or saltless? Mat 5:13
- Consider this: God’s commandments, including obeying the good laws of the land (Rom 13:1-5) are not restrictive or negative, BUT they are protective and positive. IOY, they are not a fence keeping us away from fun, but they are a guardrail keeping us from harm. So, we need to obey even in the small areas or expect to pay some consequences.................Prov 28:9


John the Baptist lost his head because Marriage lost its importance.