

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Sept 2017 Exodus 1-4 Reluctance
- 2) 10 Sept Exodus 5-10 Confrontation
- 3) 17 Sept Exodus 11-12 Liberation
- 4) 24 Sept Exodus 13-14 Victory
- 5) 01 Oct Exodus 15-18 Sufficient
- 6) 08 Oct Exodus 19-24 Commanded**
- 7) 15 Oct Exodus 25-31 Equipped
- 8) 22 Oct Exodus 32-34 Rebellion
- 9) 29 Oct Exodus 35-40 His Presence
- 10) 05 Nov Leviticus 1-7 Set Before
- 11) 12 Nov Leviticus 8-15 Set Apart
- 12) 19 Nov Leviticus 16-22 Set Free
- 13) 26 Nov Leviticus 23-27 Set Futures

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	Comments
Exodus 19:1-25	<p>God Uses Shock & Awe on Mt Sinai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. "I bore you on eagles' wings" is a metaphor how God seemingly swooped His people from harm's way in Egypt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The term "eagles' wings" DOES NOT necessarily equate to America coming to Israel's rescue as often portrayed by modern prophecy pundits. 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 (Joel 3:2; 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, 2-22. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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?
Exodus 20:1-26	<p>10 Commandments vs 10 Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's commandments address how we should treat Him (I, II, III, IV); how to treat others (V, VI, VII); how we should behave ourselves (VIII, IX), and how we should think (X) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 of your heart, and others as yourself"..... 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.

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Special Note on Commandment IV – Keep the Sabbath <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sanctification of the 7th Day is universal to all mankind 2. The 7th day rest began in Genesis, before the Law – so it has applicability to all – Jew & non-Jew (Sabbath was made for man's benefit).....Gen 2:2; Ex 20:11; Mark 2:27 3. HOWEVER, God established a unique covenant with the Jews, which had legalistic restrictions to test their loyalty:Ex 31:15-17; Dt 5:15; 8:2 e.g., Pick up a stick and die!.....Ex 35:2,3; Num 15:32-36 4. Non-Jews were allowed to keep the Sabbath as well for the purpose of receiving God's blessings ... Isaiah 56:5,6 5. In the New Testament, Jesus changed some rules: Mt 12:8; Mk 2:27-28; 7:19; Lk 6:5; Rom 14:20 6. Principle of the Sabbath is still valid today. It is still good (physically and mentally recuperative) to have a day each week to rest & focus on God, BUT we are not under legalistic restrictions as the Jews were. We are at liberty to work or refrain from work on the Sabbath and to worship on any day of the week Rom 14:5-6 ♦ Special note on Commandments I-VII. Death Penalty. Break any one of these commandments and one received the death penalty. Capital punishment for murder is understandable (life for life), but why execute someone for having an idol, cussing, missing church, disobeying mom or dad, or having sex outside of marriage? Remember: These commands and their consequences were part of a one-of-a-kind covenantal agreement between God and Israel and Israel's succeeding generations to make them a holy people – set apart for God's purpose. These commands and their consequences were not applicable to other nations or people groups. BUT: If a nation, such as America, opted to live by these 10 Commandments (even without invoking the death penalty upon breaking one or more of these commands), they would experience a stable society based on fair and equitable treatment & justice, respect for life and property, and having fear of God brings God-ordained blessings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv20. "Do not be afraid" and, yet in the same passage, we are to "fear God." How do we do both of these?.....Prov 16:6 ♦ Do not be afraid → Have confidence, Hold your head up, Don't worry, Take courage, Be positivePs 27:14; 31:24 ♦ Fear God → Respect, revere, esteem, obey immediately • vv21-23. The people stood at a distance (possibly ½ mile away, per Josh 3:4), while God spoke to Moses from Heaven through a thick cloud (try to figure that one out). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why does God hide himself? Isaiah 1:15; 45:15; 57:17 ♦ Consider this. There are a lot of factors at play here. The Jews are being obstinate, even idolatrous. God is ready to destroy them and start over with just Moses. God hides Himself for several reasons – predominately for sin (Deut 31:17; Isa 1:15; 54:8), but also for testing (Job 13:24) ♦ God may be a God who hides himself at times, especially from the wicked who see no profit in serving Him (Mal 3:14), but God does reveal Himself to those who diligently seek Him (1Chron 28:9; Heb 11:6), and God will reveal himself to all nations one day (Ezek 39:7). • vv24-26. Altars were places of remembrance. Special note: The altar was to have a ramp and not steps for modesty purposes since the priests had to wear special underwear or die (try to figure that one out, too) .. Ex 28:42-43



Passage	Comments
Exodus 21:1-36	<p>Just Punishment, Restitution, Compensation – Except for Slaves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-6. 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. • vv7-11. 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 • vv12-14. Capital punishment for murderers – no question • vv15-17. He that strikes/curses his parents shall die; and he that kidnaps someone shall die – again, no questions asked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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, unruly, obstinate child? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Detention Center <input type="checkbox"/> Orphanage <input type="checkbox"/> Gramma's house <input type="checkbox"/> Bribe or coddle them <input type="checkbox"/> Invoke biblical discipline? • vv18-19, 24-36. Just compensation for injuries sustained, and not outlandish monetary settlements as we see today • vv20-21. 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 pre-meditation since they are his livelihood • vv22-23. 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
Why were Slaves Treated Strangely in the OT?	<p>God's laws for the Jews were just that – laws for the Jews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ When was the last time we stoned anybody for not coming to church? NT Saints see this as a principle or a command without having a covenantal Do or Die consequence <p>Slaves were treated differently when it came to rape, marriage, divorce, and capital punishment, Lev 25:44-46; Ex 21:7-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape/Marriage/Divorce. Slaves may be raped, married, divorced with little recourse Ex 21:8,10,11; Lev 19:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Male slaves were set free without their family Ex 21:3-4 ♦ 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 exacted 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
Exodus 22:1-31	<p>Treatment of Virgins, Widows, Orphans, Strangers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-15. 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? • vv16-17. Bed a young lady and you must take responsibility and get married and/or pay a dowry • vv18-20. 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 • vv21-24. God sends the sword on nations (war and economic woe) who afflict their weak members (widows, orphans, the poor, foreigners). What nations are under such judgment? Can we even discern such judgment or is it speculation? • vv25-27. 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ignore it <input type="checkbox"/> Join in <input type="checkbox"/> Walk away <input type="checkbox"/> Stress the good

Passage	Comments
Exodus 23:1-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv29-30. Is it appropriate for NT saints to "delay" their giving? • v31. Other nations didn't mind eating "road" kill. How did the Jews become "holy" or set apart by living more hygienically? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> They live longer? <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanliness is next to godliness? <p>Lying, Bribery, and False Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Watch out for mobs. Moses tangled with mob malcontents for 40 years. He won most challenges with God's help, but lost one crucial battle (Waters of Meribah). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Are there church mobs today? What kind of damage can they do? How do you get a mob of malcontents w/in the church behave biblically? What if the mob has biblical reasons for contention (e.g., immorality among leaders)? • vv4-9. More laws on being neighborly, honest, and just. Note. God warns that He will step in if the righteous are killed, but He doesn't state when or how Ps 35:17; 94:3 • vv10-12. The Sabbath restrictions – Do not sow the 7th year and do not work the 7th day, had a desired benefit - GRACE: The poor were given a reprieve to eat more during the 7th year; and slaves & animals even had a day of rest mandated • v13. "Concerning Everything – Be on Guard for Idols!" What are our idols today? <input type="checkbox"/> Money <input type="checkbox"/> Possessions <input type="checkbox"/> Health • vv14-19. Jewish men went to "church" 3x a year to keep a feast (unleavened bread, feast of harvest, & of ingathering) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The first fruits of the land shall be brought to God's house ♦ Why not boil a young goat in its mother's milk? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibly to avoid a sense of cruelty 2. Possibly to avoid a typical practice of heathen rituals 3. The animal had to be weaned before being sacrificed • vv20-23. "I send a messenger before you" is often taken to mean "the Angel of the Lord" – which is possibly a Christophany or a physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit who the Israelites constantly provoked..... Deut 9:7; Heb 3:7-8 • v24. "...you shall utterly overthrow them" – IOW, destroy them utterly. Are we given such command today to annihilate people groups? NO – NO – NO. This was specific only to the Jews as they marched into their Promised Land • vv25-28. If the Jews "served the Lord" they would not have illnesses in the land, they would live long, and conquer all their enemies. If NT saints are grafted into the Jewish heritage, are these promises for us today? Simple answer is NO since these promises are/were tied to the Promised Land • vv29-33. God's war strategy – No Rush to Victory. Why couldn't or wouldn't God eliminate the beasts before they became too numerous for the Jews to handle? Remember: God prefers to work within the natural laws He has created
Exodus 24:1-18	<p>The Blood of the Covenant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. They worshipped at a distance. The distance was ½ mile per Josh 3:4. Do we worship God from a distance today? • vv4-6. 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. • vv10-12. 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 • vv13-18. 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. IOW, 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**

NEXT WEEK: Exodus 25-31. The significance of the Ark, priestly garbs, and temple artifacts.

John the Baptist lost his head because Marriage lost its importance