

February 5/Day 36

Exodus 19

Verses 1-6

- How long have the Israelites been on the road at this point?
- In yesterday's reading, when Moses met up with Jethro, they were camped at the mount of God. Could this be the same mountain where Moses met with God in the burning bush? Today the passage states they were camped in front of the mountain, in the wilderness of Sinai.
- Where did Moses meet with God?
- What would be the benefits of Israel's obedience to God?
- What specifically were they to obey? What specifically were they to keep?

Verses 7-9

- What did the elders and all of the people of Israel say in verse 8? Remember this.
- Why was the LORD going to come to Moses in a thick cloud?

Verses 10-15

- Consecrate means to separate and to be holy. Remember, He said they would be a holy nation.
- What do you think the washing of their garments would signify?
- On what day would the LORD come down onto Mount Sinai? Have you noticed how many times we've encountered "third day" in the Scriptures already?
- What was the purpose of the boundaries and what would happen if people crossed it?
- Why do you think they were not to touch it? Just think about it. And if someone did, the others couldn't touch him. Why? Just meditate on it.
- How would the people know when to approach the mountain?
- Why do you think they were not to go near a woman during their time of consecration? Think about what the word means.
- It's okay to have questions, Scripture will build on these principles.

Verses 16-17

- Why did all the people in the camp tremble?
- Who met God on the third day?

Verses 18-25

- Why was there smoke? Do you remember the flaming torch and smoking oven from Genesis 15?

- How did the mountain respond when the LORD descended upon it?
- Why do you think God wanted Moses to go back down to warn the people again about the boundaries?

Exodus 20

Verse 1

- To follow is what we commonly refer to as the giving of the Ten Commandments.
- Notice how the LORD introduces Himself first, then lays out His expectations clearly.

Verses 2-3

- The First Commandment.
- Does this indicate we will encounter other gods (little -g) in our lives?

Verses 4-6

- The Second Commandment.
- We are not to make an image to worship or serve.
- God is jealous for us. This **does not** mean He is jealous of us and wants to be us (that is the definition of envy, not jealousy, though we use it this way in our culture). This **does** mean we belong to Him and will not share us, our worship, or our affection with another god. In the same way, our spouse is our spouse and we wouldn't want them sharing their affections with another.
- Notice the word "iniquity" is used here. Iniquity is a very specific kind of sin. Iniquity is serving God our way, rather than His way.
- Iniquities which are visited on our children to the third and fourth generation are commonly referred to as generational curses. They can be broken.
- "Hate" here can be translated "turned against".
- By contrast, what does He show to those who love Him and keep His commandments? Is it possible to love God apart from obeying Him?

Verse 7

- The Third Commandment.
- Many people believe this verse is about using curse words. While it is true the verse denotes taking His holy name seriously and using it with honor and reverence, it goes deeper than curse words. Anytime we claim to be believers yet walk in disobedience we are taking His name in vain. Anytime we claim to be believers yet look at others with contempt or refuse to show compassion, we are taking His name in vain. Anytime we refuse to accept His truths and apply them to our lives we are taking His name in vain.

Verses 8-11

- The Fourth Commandment.
- Keeping the Sabbath was ordained in creation. God worked for six days and rested from His work on the seventh as an example to us.
- The Sabbath is a picture of our resting from our works because Jesus has completed the work on the cross. Jesus said, “It is finished!” and He sat down.
- As believers, we are warned in the book of Hebrews about failing to enter this rest, and it is due to unbelief.
- Notice the Sabbath rest was a day of rest from our work and has nothing to do with the day of the week on which we worship as an assembly. We are to worship Him in Spirit and truth, continually. There will be more on this later, though.
- God blessed the day and made it holy. Do you know this is where our word, holiday, comes from? It’s a holy day, a holiday from work.

Verse 12

- The Fifth Commandment.
- Honor means “respect”. I have heard preachers say people die young because they didn’t obey their parents. Look at the verse, it’s about their days being prolonged in the land. It’s not about a long life in general, it’s about the land, which we will see they were run out of many times and even today, they do not occupy all the land.

Verse 13

- The Sixth Commandment.
- We will see later on, specific ordinances for people who accidentally kill someone, but this is talking about murder.

Verse 14

- The Seventh Commandment.
- Adultery is sleeping with someone while being married to someone else.

Verse 15

- The Eighth Commandment.

Verse 16

- The Ninth Commandment.
- A false witness gives false testimony. Embellishing or exaggerating the circumstances in a testimony against a neighbor also makes it false.

Verse 17

- The Tenth Commandment.

- The Apostle Paul was so moral and he kept the law and all the extra rules the Pharisees added to the law, yet he tells us if not for the Tenth Commandment, he wouldn't have known coveting was wrong. Romans 7:7, "What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."
- The purpose of the law is to show us what sin is. Its purpose is to define sin. Galatians 3:19," Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made." The promise was Jesus. He fulfilled the law and when we receive Him, we have fulfilled the law.

Verses 18-21

- Who saw the thunder and lightning? Who heard the sound of the trumpet? Who observed the smoking mountain? Just Moses? Moses and the elders?
- How did the people respond to witnessing these events?
- Do we depend on others to give us a message from God?
- Why would the people rather hear the message from Moses instead of God?
- What is the application for us? Do we not wish to be accountable?
- According to verse 20, what attitude toward God seems to keep them from sin?
- Do we stand at a distance from God out of fear rather than approaching Him with reverent respect?

Verses 22-26

- What commandment does God repeat in verse 23?
- What kinds of offerings can be made on the earthen altars? What was the purpose of these altars?
- Why were they not to use cut stones? Think about it. Gods of silver and gold would be by the works of man's hands as well.
- In verse 26, they didn't wear pants in those days, they wore tunics and robes. Think kilt.

Exodus 21

Verses 1-6

- We are given the Ten Commandments in chapter 20, so what kind of instructions are these?
- In what year was a purchased slave to be set free?
- The piercing of the ear is a symbol of a bond-servant. One who serves another by his own free will.
- What is pictured in this passage for us?

- This principle may be hard for us, but we will see more about this as we go along. Right now, all we need to know is that these slaves were not foreign people-groups, they were from within the family and house of Israel. If a person finds himself in poor shape financially, he could sell himself off as a slave, but God laid forth a specific outline regarding how he was to be treated and how long he was to serve, and when he was to be set free.

Verses 7-11

- Redeemed means to be “bought back”, to be purchased out of the slave market.
- This is a hard passage but the culture was very different back then.

Verses 12-14

- Notice the distinction between killing someone in a fight versus planning to kill a man. There will be more on this later.

Verse 15

- If a person strikes their father or mother, are they honoring them according to the fifth commandment?

Verse 16

- Did you know kidnapping was a thing in the beginning of time?

Verse 17

- This is not talking about saying bad words, this is about speaking an actual curse versus a blessing on your parents. Is cursing our parents honorable?

Verses 18-25

- Do you think these specific instructions were helpful to Moses as he judged disputes between the people?
- Many people claim the Bible contradicts itself and I have heard this passage as claim to this idea. Here’s the thing: It is said the Bible says “an eye for an eye” then later instructs us to “turn the other cheek”. Is this a contradiction? At first it seems like it is, but the problems is both verses are taken out-of-context. Notice here, the “eye for an eye” is in regard to the governing leaders to decide between two parties when they hold court. An “eye for an eye” is to make a person whole again. When you go to small claims court, they don’t award punitive damages, or outrageous awards, but give you the amount you are out due to someone else’s negligence or damage they did to you. It is to make you whole again because the incident was their fault and not yours. Or if you were in a car wreck and it wasn’t your fault, you didn’t ask to be hit, so you shouldn’t have to pay for your medical bills. However, when we look at “turning the other cheek”, the passage is about how we handle things with

others personally. Two totally different ideas. Keep them in their context and the Bible will never contradict itself.

Verses 26-32

- Would this passage help the courts decide animal cases?

Verses 33-36

- What we are seeing here is a nation's laws being formed.

See you tomorrow.