



Lesson 30 – The Law Given to Israel

Based on Exodus 19 to 24.

Soon after the encampment at Sinai, Moses was called up into the mountain to meet with God. Alone he climbed the steep and rugged path and drew near to the cloud that marked the place of Jehovah's presence. Israel was now to be taken into a close and peculiar relation to the Most High, to be incorporated as a church and a nation under the government of God.

- 1) What message did Moses give to the people from the LORD?

Exodus 19:4-6 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I _____ you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar _____ unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation...

- 2) What was the reply from the elders of Israel?

Exodus 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will _____. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Thus, they entered into a solemn covenant with God, pledging themselves to accept Him as their ruler, by which they became, in a special sense, the subjects of His authority.

- 3) What did God tell Moses as he ascended the mount?

Exodus 19:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick _____, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever...

When they met with difficulties in the way, they were disposed to murmur against Moses and Aaron and accuse them of leading the hosts of Israel from Egypt to destroy them. The Lord would honor Moses before them, so that they might be led to confide in his instructions.

- 4) What was everyone commanded to do?

Exodus 19:10-11 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and _____ them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the _____ of all the people upon mount Sinai.

During these intervening days all were to occupy the time in solemn preparation to appear before God. Their person and their clothing must be freed from impurity. And as Moses should point out their sins, they were to devote themselves to humiliation, fasting, and prayer, that their hearts might be cleansed from iniquity.

- 5) What other preparations were made?

Exodus 19:12 And thou shalt set _____ unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to _____:

- 6) What happened on the third day?

Exodus 19:16-17 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were _____ and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp _____. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. **Exodus 19:18-19** And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in _____: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount _____ greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Hebrews 12:21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly _____ and quake:)



7) And then?

Deuteronomy 33:2-3 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of _____: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he _____ the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.

The thunders ceased; the trumpet was no longer heard; the earth was still. There was a period of solemn silence, and then the voice of God was heard. Speaking out of the thick darkness that enshrouded Him, as He stood upon the mount, surrounded by a retinue of angels, the Lord made known His law.

8) How did the LORD introduce Himself to the people?

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of _____.

Jehovah revealed Himself, not alone in the awful majesty of the judge and lawgiver, but as the compassionate guardian of His people:

9) What is the point of the Law?

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as _____.

The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all.

10) What is the first commandment?

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other _____ before me.

Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.

11) What is the second commandment?

Exodus 20:4-6 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any _____ of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not _____ down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my _____.

The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man's conception of God. The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were lowered, so would man become degraded.

12) What is the third commandment?

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in _____; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him.



13) What did the Psalmist say about it?

Psalms 111:9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and _____ is his name.

14) What is the fourth commandment?

Exodus 20:8-9 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it _____. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10-11 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt _____ do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD _____ the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The Sabbath is not introduced as a new institution but as having been founded at creation. It is to be remembered and observed as the memorial of the Creator's work. Pointing to God as the Maker of the heavens and the earth, it distinguishes the true God from all false gods. All who keep the seventh day signify by this act that they are worshipers of Jehovah. Thus, the Sabbath is the sign of man's allegiance to God as long as there are any upon the earth to serve Him. The fourth commandment is the only one of all the ten in which are found both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It is the only one that shows by whose authority the law is given. Thus, it contains the seal of God, affixed to His law as evidence of its authenticity and binding force.

15) What did Isaiah tell us later?

Isaiah 58:13-14 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing _____ pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking _____ words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

God has given men six days wherein to labor, and He requires that their own work be done in the six working days. Acts of necessity and mercy are permitted on the Sabbath; the sick and suffering are at all times to be cared for; but unnecessary labor is to be strictly avoided.

16) What is the fifth Commandment?

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be _____ upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person. God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents is rejecting the authority of God.

17) What is the sixth commandment?

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not _____.

All acts of injustice that tend to shorten life; the spirit of hatred and revenge, or the indulgence of any passion that leads to injurious acts toward others or causes us even to wish them harm is prohibited.

18) What is the seventh commandment?

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit _____.

Purity is demanded not only in the outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart.

19) What is the eighth commandment?

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not _____.



It condemns theft and robbery. It demands strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life. It forbids overreaching in trade and requires the payment of just debts or wages. It declares that every attempt to advantage oneself by the ignorance, weakness, or misfortune of another is registered as fraud in the books of heaven.

20) What is the ninth commandment?

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear _____ witness against thy neighbour.

An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood.

21) What is the tenth commandment?

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not _____ thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbors'.

The tenth commandment strikes at the very root of all sins, prohibiting the selfish desire, from which springs the sinful act. He who in obedience to God's law refrains from indulging even a sinful desire for that which belongs to another will not be guilty of an act of wrong toward his fellow creatures.

22) How did Moses describe the event when God was done speaking these commandments?

Exodus 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood _____ off.

The people of Israel were overwhelmed with terror. The awful power of God's utterances seemed more than their trembling hearts could bear. For as God's great rule of right was presented before them, they realized as never before the offensive character of sin, and their own guilt in the sight of a holy God. They shrank away from the mountain in fear and awe.

23) What did Moses tell them?

Exodus 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to _____ you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

The minds of the people, blinded and debased by slavery and heathenism, were not prepared to appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God's ten precepts. That the obligations of the Decalogue might be more fully understood and enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the principles of the Ten Commandments. These laws were called judgments, both because they were framed in infinite wisdom and equity and because the magistrates were to give judgment according to them. Unlike the Ten Commandments, they were delivered privately to Moses, who was to communicate them to the people. (See Exodus 21-23)

24) What promise was given to the people from the LORD?

Exodus 23:20-22 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the _____, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my _____ is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an _____ unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

During all the wanderings of Israel, Christ, in the pillar of cloud and of fire, was their Leader. While there were types pointing to a Saviour to come, there was also a present Saviour, who gave commands to Moses for the people, and who was set forth before them as the only channel of blessing.



- 25) What was the response of the people as they received their instructions?

Exodus 24:3 And 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 hath said will we _____.

Then followed the ratification of the covenant. An altar was built at the foot of the mountain, and beside it twelve pillars were set up, **“according to the twelve tribes of Israel,”** as a testimony to their acceptance of the covenant. Sacrifices were then presented by young men chosen for the service.

- 26) How did Paul describe the ratification of the Covenant?

Hebrews 9:19-20 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the _____ of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and _____ both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

- 27) What followed the Covenant?

Exodus 24:9-10 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they _____ the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a _____ stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

They did not behold the Deity, but they saw the glory of His presence. Before this they could not have endured such a scene; but the exhibition of God's power had awed them to repentance; they had been contemplating His glory, purity, and mercy, until they could approach nearer to Him who was the subject of their meditations.

- 28) Who was summoned next?

Exodus 24:12-13 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the _____, and be there: and I will give thee _____ of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

- 29) What happened?

Exodus 24:15-16 And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud _____ the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it _____ days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

During this time Moses remained in waiting for a summons to the presence chamber of the Most High. Six days must be employed in devoting himself to God by searching of heart, meditation, and prayer before he could be prepared for direct communication with his Maker.

- 30) What happened on the Sabbath?

Exodus 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount _____ days and forty nights.

The forty days' tarry in the mount did not include the six days of preparation. During the six days Joshua was with Moses, and together they ate of the manna and drank of **“the brook that descended out of the mount.”** But Joshua did not enter with Moses into the cloud. He remained without and continued to eat and drink daily while awaiting the return of Moses, but Moses fasted during the entire forty days.

- 31) What plans did God have for the Children of Israel?

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a _____; that I may dwell among them.

Henceforth the people were to be honored with the abiding presence of their King.

Can you see that God has even better plans for you than you know?

Would you like to take that journey?

When is it time to sanctify yourself?