



Exodus 19-24

I. Exodus 19:1-25 - Initiation of the Covenant

1. Day 1-2 (Ex. 19:3-15)

a. Basis, Motivation and Purpose of the Covenant (Ex. 19:3-8)

i. Basis

ii. Motivation

iii. Purpose

b. Moses distinguished and Israel consecrated (Ex. 19:9-15)

i. Speech 1- Manner that God will appear to Moses

ii. Speech 2 - How to prepare for the meeting on Day 3

2. Day 3 (Ex. 19:16-25)

a. Moses and Aaron distinguished



II. Exodus 20:1-17 - Ten Commandments (the Decalogue)

1. General

2. Importance

- a. Placement
- b. Better form of revelation
- c. Deposited in Ark of the Covenant
- d. Not linked to the Land
- e. Called "The Covenant" and foundation of the canon
- f. Addressed individually to the whole nation of Israel

3. The Ten Commandments

- a. 1st Commandment (Ex. 20:3) – "You shall have no other Gods before me."

"Whatever man loves, that is his god. For he carries it in his heart; he goes about with it night and day; he sleeps and wakes with it, be it what it may – wealth or self, pleasure or renown. We all invent idols in infinite number." – John Calvin

- b. 2nd Commandment (Ex. 20:4-6) – "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

- c. 3rd Commandment (Ex. 20:7) – "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."



- d. 4th Commandment (Ex. 20:8-11) – “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heavne and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”
- e. 5th Commandment (Ex. 20:12) – “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”
- f. 6th Commandment (Ex. 20:13) – “You shall not murder.”
- g. 7th Commandment (Ex. 20:14) – “You shall not commit adultery.”
- h. 8th Commandment (Ex. 20:15) – “You shall not steal.”
- i. 9th Commandment (Ex. 20:16) – “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
- “As a Christian, we must refuse to participate in or to tolerate any conversation in which a person is being defamed or accused without the person being there to defend himself. It is wrong to pass along hearsay in any form, even as prayer requests or pastoral concerns. More than merely not participating, it is up to Christians to stop rumors and those who spread them in their tracks.” – Bruce Waltke
- j. 10th Commandment (Ex. 20:17) – “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”



Christopher Wright "It prohibited something which could also be "realized" in practical deed without necessarily breaking the law. It was (and remains) possible to fulfill a covetous desire without doing anything illegal. The Tenth Commandment, therefore, provides that radical thrust to the Decalogue which distinguishes it from mere legislation, for it indicates that, while having done nothing illegal by human standards, a person can nevertheless be morally guilty before God." – Christopher Wright

"This commandment points out the weakness of the Torah, which is helpless to change the depravity of the human heart...One may strive to keep outward commandments pertaining to human relationships...but the tenth commandment shows the futility of trying to attain righteousness by keeping the Torah. Indeed, a Torah that cannot effect righteousness is doubly painful, for it both frustrates and condemns. Thus, the Ten Commandments anticipates an expectation for a new covenant, a covenant that will effect righteousness in the heart." – Bruce Waltke

III. Exodus 20:18-23:33 - Judgements

1. Prologue (20:18-26) - Transition from the awesome theophany by which spoke the ten commandments to the indirect manner of mediating the judgements through Moses
2. Judgements (21:1 – 23:19) - Ten Commandments give these laws a covenantal context that extends to specific cases...interpret the law
 - a. Pertain primarily to social and civic matters
 - b. Two general categories
 - i. Casuistic (Ex. 21:2-22:16) – statement and punishment
 - ii. Apodictic (Ex. 22:17-23:19) – specific commands
 - c. Specific Categories
 - i. Slaves (21:2-11)



- ii. Personal injuries (21:12-36)
- iii. Protection of property (22:1-15)
- iv. Social responsibilities (22:16-31)
- v. Laws of justice and mercy (23:1-9)
- vi. Cultic regulations including Sabbath laws with focus on humanitarian concerns (23:10-13) and three annual festivals (23:14-19)

3. Epilogue (23:20-23)

“The God who redeemed them out of Egypt, preserved them through the wilderness, and made them his unique people by his covenant, will now complete their mission of entering the land. From now on, Israel’s destiny is bound to the discipline of I AM’s “Ten Words” and his judgements.” – Bruce Waltke

IV. Exodus 24:1-18 - Finalization (Sealing of the Covenant)

1. Episode 1 (24:1-11)

2. Episode 2 (24:12-18)

V. Law Then vs. Law Today

“Love was always at heart of God’s law. It was given by love to be received in love and obeyed through love.” – Sinclair Ferguson



“Love provides motivation for obedience, while law provides direction for love.” – Sinclair Ferguson

1. Purpose of God's law for the original recipients (Old Covenant)

a. “Law of God – in the sense of the Ten Commandments – was an expression of the will of God for the people he had delivered from bondage in Egypt. But in a deeper sense it gave expression to his original design for the lifestyle of men and women made as his image.” – Sinclair Ferguson

b. Expresses God's original will for His people – a picture of His character

c. “In this way the law was both preventative, preserving God's people for himself, and it was also in measure restorative of the old and original lifestyle of fellowship with God. It republished in contemporary form and on tables of stone what had originally been written on the human heart.” – Sinclair Ferguson

2. Purpose of the Law Today (under the New Covenant)

“Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. Truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass



away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” –
Matthew 5:17-18

- a. Jesus fulfilled the law by his obedience to it

- b. Jesus fulfilled the law by expounding its inner significance

- c. Jesus fulfilled the law by making clear its three dimensions
 - i. Moral
 - ii. Ceremonial
 - iii. Civil
 1. Moral
 - a. Jesus fulfilled the law by taking the penalty for our breach of it
 - b. Now the requirements of the law have been fulfilled in him, its prescriptions fully obeyed, its penalties finally paid. All that remains is for this to be imputed to us in justification and imparted in us in sanctification through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Ceremonial - Jesus became the High priest, offering himself as the real sacrifice that would take away sins once and for all.



3. Civil - the Gospel is now for all people, the civil laws of Israel had fulfilled their purpose

d. Jesus fulfills the law in us through the Spirit

“For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” - Romans 8:3-4

3. The New Covenant difference

“The law has not been changed – it still shows us God’s image bearers have always been meant to live. But there is a difference. For now we receive the law from the hands of the one who fulfilled it for us and has given us his Spirit to fulfil it in us...The Spirit of the law-obeying Jesus has now come to indwell us. We have entered a new creation; the old has passed away and the new has come. Spirit-given affections and desires on the one hand, and God’s revelation of his will on the other, have, at last, become friends in us. Now we have received the law from the hands of Jesus.” – Sinclair Ferguson

“We trust and love him who said “if you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Why then would we find obeying the law – written in our heart at creation, then inscribed on tablets of stone at Sinai, then written in the heart of Jesus, and finally rewritten in our hearts by the Holy Spirit – a strange or unpalatable thing? Surely the truth is – as our spiritual fathers well understood when they wrote the great catechisms of the church – the biblical application of the commandments of God provides a guide for the whole of life and produces in us deep instincts that cause us to live as those who are devoted to God and seek his glory.” – Sinclair Ferguson