**Exodus VI God Gives the Law of Moses at Sinai**

We have already seen that, arguably, the two most significant events in the history of the Jews are found in Exodus.

In fact, we have outlined the book along this line:

I. Exodus Ch 1-18 God uses Moses/Jesus to set his people free from slavery in Egypt.

The key events in this section are the 10th plague—the Passover and Moses leading the people through the Red Sea, at which point they were baptized into Moses, left slavery in Egypt and had their “sins” washed away in the form of Pharaoh’s army.

At this time Israel began to wander in the wilderness.

God gave them bread/the Word of God in Exodus 16 and water/the Holy Spirit in Exodus 17.

II. Exodus 19-40 God gives his people a covenant and a Law at Sinai. This is the other key event in Israel’s history.

An awesome event. Thunder, lightning, cloud, trumpet sounds, earthquake God: Put a fence around the mountain and kill anyone who crosses.

We saw parallels between Sinai and the Mount of Transfiguration.

But we also saw comparison and contrast between the first Covenant at Sinai and the New Covenant at Sinai.

Both were about three things:

Exodus 19:1-6 The Old Covenant

If we obey him fully and keep the requirements of this covenant we will be:

1. A treasured possession.

2. A kingdom of priests.

3. A holy nation.

The same as 1 Pet 2:9 A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Exodus 19:7-8 The people said, “All this we will do.”

But this is the rub, as no one ever obeyed him fully.

Covenant at Sinai: If you do this you will be these things.

New Covenant In Christ: You are these things! A better covenant!!!

Hebrews 12:18-24 We have come, not to a covenant at Sinai, but to the new Covenant at Mt. Zion, where Jesus offered himself for out sins in a covenant sealed with his blood. One which gives us free access to the presence of God.

Hebrews 12:24 But… Remember God is a consuming fire.

Brevard Childs: “The new covenant is not a substitution of a friendly God for the terror of Sinai, but rather a gracious message of open access to the same God whose presence still calls forth awe and reverence.”

Today: Also at Sinai: The Law of Moses.

This Law of Moses is awesome and amazing, but like the New Covenant, what we have in Christ is SO MUCH greater than the Law of Moses.

The giving of a new covenant in blood required a new law under which those in the Mosaic covenant would live.

**Exodus VI The Law of Moses at Sinai**

Ex 20:1-17 Ten Commandments The Decalogue

Ex 20:1 The same God who is giving the Law (and the Covenant) is the one who brought them out of Egypt. (Ex 1-18 is connected to Ex 19-40)

God our deliverer/redeemer is also God our Law-giver.

What is the place of the Ten Commandments to us as Christians?

For me: Church camp. This was literally the only part of the Scripture I was ever asked to memorize or contemplate! It was given a central role in Christianity—at least for me.

Command 1-4 Focus on our worship of God.

Command #5-10 Focus on our relationship with one another.

What is the greatest commandment? Luke 10:27 Commandment #1-4 Love the Lord your God with all your heart…

Commandment #5-10 And your neighbor as yourself.

As a child I was told that this is perhaps the most important part of Christianity.

But since that time, I have learned that we, as Christians, are not under the Law of Moses.

Like Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, “I did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them.

Jesus fulfilled them in that he was the only one who ever perfectly kept them.

Jesus fulfilled them in that he took the penalty implied in the Law of Moses for those who disobey that Law.

Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets through fulfillment of prophecies and of hundreds of types, prefigures and foreshadows, as we will see.

Jesus fulfilled the Law in that he more completely explained it. (It was said to you of old, but I say to you…)

Jesus replaced the Law of Moses with something so much greater.

We are not under the Mosaic covenant, so, in principle, are not subject to the 10 commandments, but all except commandment #4 (Remember the Sabbath) are implied in the Law of Christ. In fact, in Colossians 2:13-17 Judge no one with regard to…. a Sabbath.

v. 17 Sabbath is a shadow. And a glorious shadow it is!!!

Ex 20:3 Are we, as Christians, to have no other God before YHWH? Yes!

Ex 20:4-6 Are we, as Christians, to flee from every form of idolatry—even including making images of the actual one, true God? Yes!

Ex 20:7 Are we, as Christians, to avoid taking the name of God in vain (for example by swearing in God’s name and then not fulfilling our vow)? Yes! (Matthew 5:33-37) This was not necessarily a prohibition against swearing or saying God \*\*\*\*\* or Jesus \*\*\*\*\*\* (gosh darnit or jiminy cricket)

Exodus 20:12 Are we, as disciples, to honor our father and mother? Yes! (Eph 6:2). We can continue, but the point is made.

Do not get me wrong. The Ten Commandments tell us a LOT about God and how God wants us to worship him.

When Moses brought the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were engraved, this was a spectacular moment in the history, not only of Israel, but of God’s plan to save all mankind through Jesus Christ!!!

Are there two separate sets of law, as many Christian groups teach?

Ten Commandments—and we are subject to these commandments as Christians.

And…

The rest of the Law

. “The Ten Commandments stand alone as distinct and primary, while all the other laws of the Old Covenant are subsequent to them.”

Calvin: Moral, civil and ceremonial Only moral applies to us

Ex: Moral: Do not covet your neighbor’s wife. Sexual sins, eating pork, etc.

Civil: Laws concerning the regulation of slavery, property, inheritance, punishments for particular crimes.

Ceremonial: Laws about the festivals, sacrifices, building the Tabernacle, etc.

The problem: It is impossible to clearly delineate moral, civil and ceremonial law.

There is extremely little evidence that the Jews ever saw it this way.

If we must keep the Sabbath, then we must also make animal sacrifices, and celebrate Passover, Yom Kippur, Feast of Tabernacles, and we must not wear clothing of two or more fabrics, or eat cheeseburgers, or eat pork.

This distinction is NOT biblical.

So, why even give the Law at Sinai? For many very good reasons!!!

It allowed Israel to worship God, and it allowed God to dwell among his people in the wilderness, in the Tabernacle, and in the Temple.

But it teaches us so much as well. So many beautiful prefigures and foreshadows which are fulfilled in the New Testament.

For us and for the Jews, it prepared us for the Law of Christ!!!

Romans 5:20 The Law [of Moses at Sinai] was brought in so that trespass might increase. Really??
But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

Do you understand how deeply you are in need of the grace of God? Exodus/Leviticus can help there.

Romans 7:13 Did that which is good [the Law of Moses], then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment, sin might become utterly sinful.

Do you realize how utterly sinful sin is? Do you understand how passionately God hates sin?

Gal 3:23-25 The Law is a guardian until Christ. The law is like a step-parent or a guardian until the true parent comes, which is Jesus Christ and the New Coveant

Exodus 20:18-21 The people’s response. They trembled with fear.

Ex 20:22-23:33 A brief summary of the Law.

Exodus 21 Rules regarding servants, regulations when someone injures someone else. Regulations for fair treatment of slaves.

A famous law: Ex 21:23-25.

Jesus specifically replaced that law in Matthew 5:38-41. Jesus fulfilled the Law by saying “It was said to you of old… But I tell you… He replaced these laws with God’s original intent.

Exodus 22:1-15 Regulations regarding property.

Ex 22:21 Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

Ex 22: 16-23:9 Lending money, dedicating the firstborn, Regulations about testifying in courts. Ex 23:9 Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

Ex 23:10-13 Sabbath regulations

Ex 23:14-19 Festivals. Three major 7-day festivals surrounding the three harvest times of the Jews (barley Mar/April, wheat May, grapes Sept. I will do a whole section on this later.

Ex 23:19b. Cheeseburgers. God is legislating against animal cruelty.

Ex 23:20-33 God’s plan to drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites out of the land so that they can enter the Promised Land.

Exodus 24:1-18

Moses reads the law. v. 3, v. 7 We will do everything the LORD has said.

Ex 24:8 A covenant of blood.

Ex 24:15-18 Moses spends 40 days on the mountain with the Lord. He receives the ten commandments on tablets of stone.

Ch 25-27 The Tabernacle (I will talk about this later)

Ch 28-29 Regulations for priests (I will talk about that later)

Ch 30 Back to the Tabernacle.

Ch 31 etc.

Summary:

God gave a covenant at Sinai, which is a pale shadow or the covenant we have in Christ.

God also gave a Law at Sinai, which is chock full of wonderful prefigures and foreshadows of what we have in Christ.

What have we learned from the Law so far?

We have learned how much we need Christ. Because “those who do these things shall live by them. We are incapable of obeying him fully and keeping the requirements of this covenant.

We have learned how utterly sinful sin is. We have learned how deeply we need, not only a new covenant, but new sacrifices and a new high priest.

We need Jesus!

Exodus 32:1 In the meantime (during the forty days, while Moses was on the mountain)

The people (us!!!) ask Aaron to make an idol—a image of YHWH—for them to worship.

Note: They had not yet received the Ten Commandments, including the second commandment!!!

Exodus 32:2-6 Aaron (who should have known better) bows to pressure.

The bull was the most common idol in Egyptian religions.

The Golden Calf. A very embarrassing moment!!!

Exodus 32:7-14 An amazing story. Moses, acting as a prefigure of Jesus, intercedes with the Father for the people.

Exodus 32:15-20 Moses loses his temper? God really hates idolatry—even if the idol is a representation of himself.