

## EXODUS Lesson 20

Exodus Chapter 20

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*Memory verses for this week: Deu 5:33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.*

**Introduction:** In last week's lesson, we studied about how God made a covenant with the Jews. In this covenant, if they would obey the commandments of God, Israel would be His peculiar treasure. We study this week about the laws given to the children of Israel.

The laws which God gave unto Israel may be divided into three classes

(1) The moral law is to be found in the ten commandments.

(2) The ceremonial law is found in the instructions of God concerning the sacrifices and related items.

(3) The civil law had to do with the various regulations concerning their government.

### I. Ten Commandments Given

*Exo 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,*

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

*Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

The first two verses might be called the preamble to the ten commandments. Here God relates how He brought them out of the bondage in the land of Egypt. Note the first four commandments show the relationship God established between God and man, while the last six are about our relationship man to man. All of these commandments make man responsible to God. The first commandment established that no other gods are allowed. God is jealous a jealous God and will not share His glory with another.

*Deut. 32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.*

*I Sam. 12:20-21 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things,*

*which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.*

*I Cor. 8:4-6, As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

*I John 5:20-21, And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

*Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

*Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow 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;*

*Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

The second commandment lays down the law in regards to images. Pretty simple, there are to be no images. Idolatry of all kinds are prohibited. Any attempt to make a visible likeness of God is here condemned. All images used in worship would be wrong. In some churches, you are welcomed with beautiful pictures and statues. Here at our church, one of the first things you notice is the lack of idols. That goes to this commandment.

*Lev. 19:4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.*

*Deut. 4:15-17 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air.*

*Amos 5:26-27 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.*

*Acts 7:43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away*

*beyond Babylon.*

*Lev. 26:1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.*

Sometimes I receive emails from bible study members wanting to know my opinion of wearing a cross. The cross of course typifies the cross where our Savior bled and died to pay for our sins. I encourage people to pray about this and let the Lord guide them in making this decision. It appears to me if there are to be no images even of an animal, we need to be careful what we also carry. Used properly, there might not be a problem, but wrongly, it might be a stumblingblock to you or your friends. Be fully persuaded in your own mind on things like this and be sure God is pleased with your decisions and convictions.

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

*Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Verse 7 is clear that God's name not to be used in vain. His name is holy and no one should use it irreverently. Sometimes Christians have minor problems and instead of saying "Oh my", they get in a habit of saying "Oh my God." I think this is very wrong. How would we like it if someone said that with our name every time there was an issue. God's name is the Holiest of names, and we should show respect and honor to it.

*Matt. 6:9, After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

Hallow means, "sanctify, hallow, be holy; 1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow 2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God."

*Lev. 19:12, And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*

The sabbath day was to be kept holy. This command is a stumblingblock to many who have not studied the New Testament in depth. The sabbath was given to Israel and not to the gentiles. It was a special sign to Israel.

*Ex. 31:12-14 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

*Neh. 9:13-14 Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant.*

*Ezek. 20:12, 20 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them....*

*Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not 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:*

*Exo 20:11 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 blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

The New Testament church is no where commanded to keep it. However, Christians are to keep the first day of the week after the pattern and example set forth in the New Testament after HIS death and resurrection.

*Col. 2:16-17 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

*Matt. 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

*Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*

*John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

*Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*

*I Cor. 16:2, Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

## **II. Man's Responsibility to Man.**

*Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the*

*land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.  
Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.*

Verse 12 is the first commandment with a promise given with it. Honour father and mother. If we do that, it says that our days will be long upon the land. Want to shorten your days? Be rebellious and harsh to your parents. Disobey them and ignore their rules. The bible is very clear that we can add to or take away from our days. God knows all things so we have a set time to die, but how we live has a lot to do with how long we are here on this earth.

*Eph. 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

*Matt. 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.*

Verse 13 is simple and says that "Thou shalt not kill." Many liberals take this to mean that even the government should never put anyone to death. We were watching a television show last week, and the lawyer was beside himself trying every appeal under the sun to try and keep his client from being put to death under capital punishment. If you understand God's law, you realize that the death penalty is a great deterrent to crime, and this command does not forbid the death penalty.

*Ex. 21:12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.*

*Gen. 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.*

*Mat 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

*Mat 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

*Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.*

*Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

Adultery is forbidden. Many falsely believe this is actual sexual act that is forbidden, but the Lord was clear that even lustful thoughts are forbidden.

*Matt. 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

*Matt. 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

*Rom. 7:2-3 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

Verse 15 lays down the command that stealing is forbidden.

*Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

*Rom 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

*2Co 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

Verse 16 tells us that bearing false witness is forbidden. This would include gossip and backbiting.

*Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

*Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

*Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

*Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

*Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

*Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet 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 neighbour's.*

We are to live and be satisfied with such things as we have. The last commandment tells us to control the secret things of the heart and to eliminate covetousness. The heart is deceitfully wicked, and we need to control the secret desires of the heart.

*Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness:*

*for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

*Mar 7:18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;*

*Mar 7:19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?*

*Mar 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*

*Mar 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

*Mar 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*

*Mar 7:23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

### **III. The Lord's Gracious Provision**

*Exo 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 afar off.*

*Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*

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

*Exo 20:21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.*

The thunderings and lightnings and noise of the trumpet along with the smoking from the mount had an effect upon the people. Verse 18 says that the people were afraid. They saw their need for a mediator. Unless man sees his sinful condition and how unworthy he is, and his need for God, he will never be saved. God has closed the gap between man and God, and this is through Jesus Christ.

*1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

They needed to be proved, and verse 20 record that God had come to prove them. The people standing afar off due to their fear.

*Exo 20:22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.*

*Exo 20:23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.*

God spoke to Moses and gave special reminders and injunctions. They were forbidden to make gods of silver and gold which went back to the first two commandments about our relationship between God and man.

*Exo 20:24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.*

*Exo 20:25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.*

*Exo 20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.*

Verse 24 tells them of the provision for the altar. God tells them that it was to be made of earth. If they made it of stone, it was not to be hewn. Thus it was to be made of natural materials.

No steps were to be made on the altar for decency's sake. This was their protection, because of the way they dressed.

In an overview, we see the Purpose Of The Law.

The Law is good if it is used right.

*1 Tim. 1:8, But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully.*

It was not in order to save, but to show God's standard for right, and that man was a sinner. It was our schoolmaster to show us where we stood before God. If the law had been perfect, Christ would not have had to come and pay the debt for our sins.

*Gal. 2:16, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

*Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

*Rom 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.*

*Rom 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

*Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*

*Rom 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

*Rom 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

*Rom 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

*Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*



The laws purpose was to show man his need for a savior.

*Gal. 3:19-24, Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

The law is to convict us of sin.

*Heb. 10:28, He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.*

*Rom. 10:5, For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*

The altar shows that a sacrificial offering is needed to be made for man's sin.

*Heb. 9:12-14 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

*Heb 9:26, For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

*II Co 5:21, For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

### **Study Questions:**

1. State the threefold division of the law.

The laws which God gave unto Israel may be divided into three classes

- (1) The moral law is to be found in the ten commandments.
- (2) The ceremonial law is found in the instructions of God concerning the sacrifices and related items.
- (3) The civil law had to do with the various regulations concerning their government.

2. State the twofold division of the commandments.

First 4 relate to our relationship with God and the last six relate to our man's relationship with man.

3. Name the ten commandments in their proper order.

*Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

*Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow 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;*

*Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

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

*Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

*Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not 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:*

*Exo 20:11 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 blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

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

*Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.*

*Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.*

*Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

*Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet 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 neighbour's.*

4. What day of the week was the sabbath day, and should Christians keep it today?

The 7th day. It was between God and Israel, and we are to remember the first day of the week and glorify God on that day.

5. What is the first commandment with promise, and what is the promise or

promises?

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

We will live long upon the land if we honour our father and mother.

6. Does “thou shalt not kill” permit the death penalty? Why is this?

If you understand God's law, you realize that the death penalty is a great deterrent to crime, and this command does not forbid the death penalty.

*Ex. 21:12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.*

God is clear that if we kill another, we are to be put to death.

7. What was the purpose of the commandments?

To bring up guilty before God that we might be saved through Jesus Christ.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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