

Exodus 20:18 -22:31

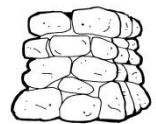
Day 1

The People Fear God's Presence: Read Exodus 20:18-26

1. What effect did God's presence have on the people? 20:18,19
 - What else do you learn about the experience the people had from Hebrews 12:19-21?
2. How did the Lord want this fear to affect the people? 20:20 (How would you explain the difference between not being "*afraid*" and "*fear of God*"?)
3. Why do you think Moses had the courage to approach God (20:21)?
4. How would the experience at the mountain keep the people from making idols? 20:22,23 (See Deuteronomy 4:15-16...)
 - What were they to make and why? 20:24

Laws about the altar

5. List the rules about an altar that the LORD gave Moses.
 - 20:24
 - 20:25
 - 20:26



FYI: "You shall not build it of hewn stone" The beauty and attractiveness would be found only in the provision of God, not in any fleshly display."
- David Guzik

"your nakedness: (v. 26) The worship of the gods of Canaan involved sexually perverse acts. Nothing obscene or unseemly was permitted in the pure worship of the living God."
- The Nelson Study Bible (137)

6. What does the provision of sacrifices immediately following the commandments indicate about man's ability to keep the law?

Digging Deeper
For the inability of the law to save see Hebrews 10:1-14.

7. In what way were these sacrifices limited? Hebrews 10:1-4
8. One of the challenges of studying God's law ("*His divine revelation of morality*") is to see His absolute standard of love and justice and how far we fall short. What was God's provision? Romans 8:3,4
- What has that done to the law and sacrificial system? Galatians 3:23-25

Applying the Word: Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the knowledge of God's presence in your life? What effect did it have on you?

Day 2

Additional Laws: Read Exodus 21



Exodus chapters 21-23 list what have been called "case laws," "judgments," or "laws to direct judgments."

"These different regulations are as remarkable for their justice and prudence as for their humanity... '[They] are given as precedents to guide Israel's civil magistrates in the cases of civil dispute.' (Kaiser)" - David Guzik

Hebrew slaves (21:1-11)

9. What laws did God give about Hebrew slaves (indentured servants)? 21:1,2

- What does Deuteronomy 15:12-15 add to that?

Servant/slave "This is a subtle yet important difference between slavery as it was (and is) commonly practiced and slavery as regulated in the Bible. Most slavery (ancient and modern) was actually a form of *kidnapping* - the taking and imprisoning of a person against their will. As regulated in the Bible...slavery was received *willingly* (usually as payment for debt) or, in the case of war, was an alternative to death.

"The first words of God from Sinai had declared that He was Jehovah Who brought them out of slavery. And in this remarkable code, the first person whose rights are dealt with is the slave." (Chadwick)

There were four basic ways a Hebrew might become a slave to another Hebrew.

- In extreme poverty, they might sell their liberty (Leviticus 25:39).
- A father might sell a daughter as a servant into a home with the intention that she would eventually marry into that family (Exodus 21:7).
- In the case of bankruptcy, a man might become servant to his creditors (2 Kings 4:1).
- If a thief had nothing with which to pay proper restitution (Exodus 22:3-4)." - David Guzik

"Poverty-stricken Israelites, whether male or female, could discharge debts and secure food and shelter by selling themselves a servant, to be freed after six years." - The Woman's Study Bible (133)

10. How did these laws protect a woman who was the wife of a slave? 21:3-6

- How did they protect a female slave? 21:7-11
- What does starting with these issues say about God's heart?

FYI: If his master gives him a wife (21:4) "When a servant accepted a wife from his master, he was making a choice to stay or go when the six years were completed. If he did not love his wife enough to commit himself to her on these terms, then she was better off remaining in the master's household than to risk being divorced and left destitute."
- The Study Bible for Women (94)

If a man sells his daughter to be a female slave: (2:7) "The matter described here seems to describe the selling of a young female as a slave to a family with the intention of marriage. This is why the text explained, **who has betrothed her to himself.**(21:8)"
- David Guzik

Personal injuries (21:12-36)

11. What was the difference in rulings for accidental versus willful murder? 21:12-14 (For the designation of these places *to flee* (21:13) called "cities of refuge," see Joshua 20.)

12. What other crimes were given the death penalty? 21:15-17

Digging Deeper
What check was put
on the death penalty?
Deuteronomy 17:6

FYI: "Kidnapping" (21:16) "Slavery [by kidnapping] was common in the ancient world' (Cole), and is here clearly prohibited."
- David Guzik

13. In what ways was a person to be compensated in the case of personal injury? 21:18,19
What limitations do you see put on payments?

14. How was abuse of slaves guarded against? 21:20

FYI: "If the slave who had been beaten by his master died under his hand (20:20) , the master was punished with death; see Genesis ix. 5, 6."
- Adam Clarke

"(20:21) Should the servant survive for a few days, it was provided that a judicial inquest should be made, in order to ascertain the real cause of his death ...If it were traceable to any other cause, or if the matter were involved in uncertainty, the master should have the benefit of the doubt; because it was clearly against his interest to destroy his own [servant]." - Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible - Unabridged

15. What does the law in 21:22 indicate about how God feels about an unborn child? (See also Psalm 139:13)

16. What guidelines did the “laws of retribution” (21:23-25) give?

- What did Christ do with these laws? Matthew 5:38-44

FYI: “The **eye for eye** principle always *limited* retribution. This law was meant to block man's natural desire for vengeance. It was not given as a license for revenge. Our tendency is to want to do *more* against the offending party than what they did to us. This principle can apply to our modern practice of assessing huge punitive damages in lawsuits, and this law presents the principle that only the loss itself is to be compensated.” - David Guzik

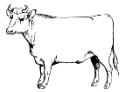
17. How did the compensation to be given to a slave compare to these laws? 21:26,27

Animal Control

18. What responsibility did a man have concerning his livestock according to 21:28-29?



- How else could compensation be made? 21:30-32



19. What penalty was given for negligence in 21:33,34

20. Why is there a difference in the penalties when one ox kills another in 21:35-36?

Applying the Word: *What do these laws reveal about God's concern for justice and fairness? What honor and dignity do these laws give to mankind? What are some principals from these laws that you see carried over into our judicial system?*

Day 3

Property rights: Read Exodus 22:1-15



21. What were the penalties for:

Stealing an ox and then slaughtering or selling it 22:1	
Stealing a sheep and then slaughtering or selling it 22:1	(See Luke 19:8 for Zacchaeus' application of this law.)
Killing a thief at night 22:2	
Killing a thief during the day 22:3*	
Stealing an animal and still possessing it when found 22:4**	
Letting an animal lose which then grazes in another man's field 22:5	
Starting a fire which spreads and destroys another's property 22:6	
Theft of another person's goods being kept in one's custody for safekeeping: - thief is caught 22:7 - thief is not caught 22:8	
Anything lost which another claims is his 22:9	
Injury or loss of a neighbor's animal in one's custody with no witness 22:10-13***	22:11 22:12 22:13
Loss or injury of borrowed goods - owner not present 22:14 - owner present 22:15	

FYI: *If the sun has risen (22:3) "A property owner had the right to protect his property with force - but only with *reasonable* force. The assumption was that if it was daylight, the property owner had the ability to defend himself short of lethal force. 'It is typical of Israel's merciful law that even a thief has his rights.' (Cole)" - David Guzik

****Pay double (22:4)** "The penalty acts as a deterrent to anyone who is considering stealing, and it also takes into account the fact that a thief causes more damage than merely the value of the property taken. The victim of a theft suffers emotional stress, has to spend time looking for the stolen property, and endures hardship in others ways."

- The Africa Bible Commentary (115)

***** an oath (22:11)** "This principle is the foundation of our idea that a *man is innocent until proven guilty*. In this case, the man's oath was taken as true unless proof to the contrary could be found.

*****Bring in the remains (22:13)** 'Production of the carcass would show that, while the shepherd could not prevent the kill, he was alert enough to stop the devouring of the prey.' (Cole)" - David Guzik

22. Interestingly, how would you summarize what these laws say about:

- Carelessness: 21:33,34; 22:5-6
- Lending help to others: 22:7-9
- Circumstances that are beyond a person's control: 22:10-15

23. What insight do these laws give you into the types of disputes that Moses and the judges were asked to settle? How do you think these laws compare to the types of fines or penalties given out in our judicial system today?

Applying the Word: *In these laws, there was no distinction between a man's religious and social life. God's morality governed his whole life. What makes it difficult today to maintain consistent principles in all areas of your life?*

Day 4

Moral laws: Read Exodus 22:16-31

24. What were the consequences for seducing a virgin? 22:16,17

Digging Deeper
For more laws concerning sexual behavior see Leviticus 18:6-23.

25. Why do you think the laws listed in 22:18-20 were given the death penalty? *Pick one and consider how it would have affected the nation's commitment to honor God and God's plan for this nation.*

FYI: "Attempting to exercise power in the spiritual realm, to manipulate objects or people through unseen forces, or to establish illegitimate communication between the physical and spiritual realms are occult practices completely incompatible with the worship of Yahweh."
- The Study Bible for Women (95)

"Numerous OT passages condemn the practices and practitioners of sorcery and related activities (Lev. 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27; Deut. 18:9-14; Isa. 47:9-14; Micah 5:12; Malachi 3:5; see Acts 13:8-10; 19:19) To attempt to exercise power by means of knowledge or control of spirits could never combine with allegiance to the one true and living Lord God ...All such practices in essence deny the Lord's power and goodness." - The Woman's Study Bible (135)

26. What group of people was singled out for protection in 22:21 and why?

27. How strongly did the Lord feel about the care of widows and orphans? 22:22-24? (Cf. James 1:27)

Digging Deeper

What laws about the alien, orphan and widow did God give in Deuteronomy 24:20-22?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: ***Oppress/mistreat (22:21)*** OT:3905 *lachats*, "to oppress, to crush. It has the sense of pressing, crowding, or even tormenting."
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament (549)

28. What rules did God give about lending to those in need?

- 22:25 (See also Deuteronomy 23:19,20)
- 22:26,27

29. How were people's lives to be holy and honoring to God?

- 22:28 (See Paul's example Acts 23:2-5)
- 22:29,30
- 22:31

FYI: "All predatory animals were unclean, and thus any animal killed by one of them would have been rendered unclean. (see Leviticus 11:1-9). Moreover, the blood would not have been properly drained from the carcass."
- The Africa Bible Commentary (117)

30. What witness would Israel give to other nations by following these laws? Deuteronomy 4:7-8

Applying the Word: Consider the fact that God is good, that He is love, that He created and designed us, and that He wants the highest and best for us. How would you explain how that fits with the boundaries and limitations He puts on sexual relationships and activity?

Questions and Discoveries: