

Exodus 23-24

Day 1

Additional Laws: Read Exodus 23:1-19

Honesty and Justice

1. From 23:1-3, list ways that the people were to show integrity and justice.

- What justification might someone give for siding with a poor man (23:3)? Whom does this harm?

2. What responsibility was to be shown toward even an enemy's property?
23:4-5

Digging Deeper
See Luke 6:27-35 for
Jesus' commands in
dealing an enemy.

3. How does 23:6 compare to 23:3? (What is the crux of the matter? Leviticus 19:15)

4. What other ways did God command honesty? 23:7

5. Why are bribes so powerful and destructive? 23:8 (See also 1 Timothy 6:10)

6. What weight is added to the repeated command from 22:21 to not oppress a stranger? 23:9

Sabbath year and day

7. How did God expand the command for the keeping the Sabbath?
23:10,11

- What would take for the people to cease from planting and working at these times?

Digging Deeper
From Leviticus 25:10-13,
what happened every
fiftieth year? What
effect would this have on
greed and monopolies?

8. What animals and groups of people did the LORD specifically mention as benefiting from the Sabbath rest? 23:12 Why do you think He emphasized these groups?

9. To what degree were the people to separate themselves from idolatry? 23:13 (Compare Ephesians 5:11,12)

Feasts

10. List the 3 annual feasts that the people to celebrate and why:

- 23:15
- 23:16a (also known as *Feasts of Weeks*)
- 23:16b (also known as the *Feast of Booths/Tabernacles or Sukkot*)

FYI: "Women also came to the three great celebrations but were not required to do so [Deut. 16:11,14]." - The Woman's Study Bible (138)

11. What do the commands in 23:18,19 indicate about their commitment to God?

<i>23:18a "Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast. NIV</i>	<i>Leaven, symbolic of sin and corruption, should not be associated/mixed in with gifts to the Lord</i>
<i>23:18b "The fat of my festival offerings must not be kept until morning. NIV (Fat could be considered the choicest part or represented any part of the animal. Compare Exodus 12:10)</i>	
<i>23:19a "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God." NIV</i>	
<i>23:19b "Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk." NIV (See FYI box below)</i>	

FYI: "It was a custom of the ancient heathens, when they had gathered in all their fruits, to take **a kid** and boil it **in the milk of its dam**; and then, in a magical way, to go about and besprinkle with it all their trees and fields, gardens and orchards; thinking by these means to make them fruitful.' (Cudworth cited in Clarke)" - David Guzik

"The prohibition against boiling a young goat has received no entirely satisfactory explanation...Boiling a young goat in milk does not seem to be the issue, but doing so in its own mother's milk (that which had sustained and nourished its life) seems to depict cruel treachery. As a proverb this command may have **prohibited the reversal of nature's design** - exemplified here by a mother's milk, normally taken in by her young to sustain life, being used to surround or envelop her dead offspring." - The Study Bible for Women (96)

Applying the Word: How important do you see the need to routinely engage in grateful remembering for all of God's goodness to you? What is a good way to practice this?

Day 2

God's Promises of His presence, protection and blessings: Read Exodus 23:20-33

12. In the following verses, underline God's promises in one way and double underline His commands.

"Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

21 *"Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him.*

22 *"But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say,*

then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

23 *"For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.*

24 *"You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred pillars in pieces.*

25 *"But you shall serve the LORD your God,*

and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.

26 *"There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.*

27 *"I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*

28 *"I will send hornets ahead of you so that they will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites before you.*

29 *"I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.*

30 *"I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.*

31 *"I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.*

32 *"You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.*

33 *"They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you." Exodus 23:20-33 NAS*

For examples of how God fought for the people, see: Joshua 5:1; 10:10; 24:12.

13. Imagine living with an assurance of all the protection and blessings promised to the nation of Israel. How do you think it compares to what the people were asked to do?

14. What reasons are given for God's rejection of the people of Canaan?

- Deuteronomy 12:30,31
- Leviticus 18:24-25

FYI: "The Canaanite people were deeply depraved and morally degraded, and this was a natural result of the depraved and degraded idol gods they served... 'Their gods' were their undoing. Everything in the life of a man or a nation depends on the character of its worship." (Morgan) - David Guzik

(23:24 "**The sacred pillars**, symbols of the overt sexuality of the Canaanite cult." - The Nelson Study Bible (141)

15. After conquering the land, what did Joshua say about God's promises? Joshua 23:14

Applying the Word: God often works in our lives "little by little" even though we might like Him to fix everything all at once. How does this benefit us?

Day 3

The Covenant confirmed: Read Exodus 24:1-8

16. Who was told to come up the mountain with Moses? What did God want them to do? 24:1

- What was Moses allowed to do? 24:2 (See Nehemiah 9:14)

17. How did the people respond to the words of the Lord? 24:3,7

"All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!"

18. List the actions Moses took to confirm the covenant between the people and the Lord:

- 24:4a
- 24:4b
- 24:5
- 24:6
- 24:7
- 24:8 (Compare 1 Peter 1:2)

FYI: **'Burnt-offerings** generally consisted of sheep and goats, Leviticus 1:10. These were wholly consumed by fire. **Peace-offerings** - Bullocks or goats; see Hebrews 9:19. The blood of these was poured out before the Lord, and then the priests and people might feast on the flesh" - Adam Clarke Commentary www.studylight.org

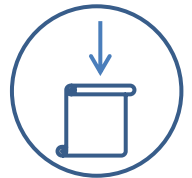
"The sprinkling of blood on the people brought them into a covenant with the Lord. As their houses had been 'under the blood' at the time of the Passover in Egypt (chapter 12), now the people themselves were under the blood of the covenant of the Lord. This resembles our own relationship to God, made possible by the blood of the Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:2)" - The Nelson Study Bible (142)

Conditional and Unconditional Covenants

19. (The covenant that God made with Moses was **conditional**. **Both parties** agreed to and were responsible for meeting the conditions of the covenant. The blessings promised were linked to the people's obedience.)

The covenant that God made with Abraham was **unconditional**. Only **one party** was responsible for the terms of the covenant. What had God agreed to do? Genesis 12:1-3

- How was it shown that Abraham was not held responsible for these promises? Genesis 15:12,18



20. Another **unconditional** covenant was made later with David. What promises did God make to him? 2 Samuel 7:12-16

- How did God express the certainty of the promise? Ps 89:34-37 (See also Jeremiah 33:20,21)

21. How did God's covenant with David come true? Luke 1:31-33

22. What did Christ do for those who were not included in the promises made to the nation of Israel? Ephesians 2:12-18

- Is this a conditional or unconditional promise? Ephesians 2:8-10

Applying the Word: "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6,8 NASU

"The tragedy of sin and death can never be repeated, for never again will creation stand in the strength of a created being. This is the mighty goal to which God is working." - Stuart Allen (29)
What does it mean to you that your salvation rests on Christ's work (John 5:24; Romans 3:28, 4:4,5; Galatians 2:16, 3:11; Philippians 3:9) and not your own?

Day 4

Moses and the elders on Mt. Sinai: Read Exodus 24:9-18

23. What did Moses and the others see? 24:10 (What do the words "something like" NIV/ "appeared to be" NAS/"as it were" KJV 24:10,17 indicate about trying to describe this?)

- What feature from this appearance did Moses focus on? (For similar descriptions see Ezekiel 1:26-28; Revelation 4:2-6)

FYI: "Sapphire" associated with diamonds (Exodus 28:18) and emeralds (Ezekiel 28:13 ...It is a precious stone of a sky-blue colour." - Easton's Bible Dictionary <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/sapphire/>

24. What was amazing about these men seeing (24:10) the God of Israel? 24:11

- Later God told Moses: "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" Ex 33:20. What does that tell you about the limitations of this earlier encounter?

FYI: See "The verb here is the same one used in 33:20...Is the Bible contradicting itself? No, for here God is deliberately taking a form in which He can reveal Himself to human beings and have a relationship with them. It remains true that no one can see God in His full glory and live." - The Africa Bible Commentary (119)

25. What do you think eating and drinking communicated? 24:11b (Compare Exodus 18:12)

26. Why did God call Moses up the mountain again? 24:12

- What role did Joshua have? 24:13
- What were Aaron and Hur told to do? 24:14

27. What happened when Moses went up the mountain? 24:15,16 (What do you think Moses did while he waited for six days?)

- What did the people see? 24:17

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: *Rested/abode/settled* (24:16) "*shakan* OT:7931, "to dwell, inhabit, settle down, abide."
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words (Compare John 1:14)

28. From the following verses, underline what is associated with the glory of the Lord.

- Psalm 115:1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, But to Your name give glory Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth. NASU
- 1 Chronicles 16:24 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples...28 Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. NASU
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. NASU
- John 2:11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. NASU
- Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. NASU

FYI: Glory *kabod* OT:3519, "Beauty, power, or honor; a quality of God's character that emphasizes His greatness and authority. The word is used in three senses in the Bible:

1. **God's moral beauty and perfection of character.** This divine quality is beyond man's understanding (Ps 113:4). All people "fall short" of it (Rom 3:23).

2. **God's moral beauty and perfection as a visible presence.** While God's glory is not a substance, at times God does reveal His perfection to man in a visible way. Such a display of the presence of God is often seen as fire or dazzling light, but sometimes as an act of power. While God's glory is not a substance, at times God does reveal His perfection to man in a visible way. Such a display of the presence of God is often seen as fire or dazzling light, but sometimes as an act of power. Since the close of the Old Testament, the glory of God has been shown mainly in Christ

3. **Praise.** At times God's glory may mean the honor and audible praise which His creatures give to Him
- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

29. Compare how close were the following people allowed to approach God:

- The masses of people: 24:2

- The 70 elders, Aarons and his two sons: 24:9

- Joshua: 24:13

- Moses: 24:2,18

FYI: "*Moses alone shall come near the Lord*...Moses represented the highpriest, who went alone into the most holy place, (Leviticus 16:17,) and these others the ordinary consecrated priests who might minister in the holy place, and at the altar, while the people were required to remain in the distance."

- Whedon's Commentary on the Bible www.studylight.org

30. How long was Moses on the mountain? 24:18 From Deuteronomy 9:9-10, what else do you learn about the forty days Moses spent in the cloud?

Applying the Word:

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, NAS

Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. NAS

Ephesians 2:18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. NAS

Ephesians 3:11-12 in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. NIV

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God. NAS

Take time to thank God for the freedom and access we have to come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Questions and Discoveries: