

EXODUS: GOD'S POWER, PRESENCE, AND PURPOSE REVEALED, PART 2

Week 4: The Book of the Covenant

Exodus 20:22-23:19

Main idea: Love God. Love others.

I. Three general categories of OT law

- a. Moral law
- b. Ceremonial law
- c. Civil law

II. Love God

- a. Through undefiled worship
 - i. Build simple altars (22:22-26)
 - ii. Observe Sabbath and sacred festivals (23:10-17)
 - iii. Avoid pagan rituals (23:18-19)
- b. Through generous giving (22:29-30; 23:15b)
- c. Through consecration (22:31)
- d. Through reverence

- i. NO sorcery, bestiality, or idolatry (22:18-20)
- ii. NO cursing God or the authority He establishes (22:28)

III. Love others

- a. Including slaves (21:1-6)
 - i. Slavery in the Bible
 - 1. Voluntary
 - 2. Temporary (in most cases)
 - 3. Restricted (21:16, 21:20, 21:26, 27)
 - ii. Female slaves – specifically referring to a situation where a young woman’s family would sell her as a slave **AND wife**
- b. Including parents (21:15, 17)
- c. Including unborn children (21:22-24)
 - i. Talion law (“Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, etc.)
 - 1. Aside from “life for life”, not taken literally (see 21:26, 27)
 - 2. Point #1 – Life is precious
 - 3. Point # 2 – The punishment should fit the crime
 - ii. Matthew 5:38, 39 – not to be applied to personal offenses as an excuse to seek revenge
- d. Including vulnerable women (22:16, 17)
- e. Including immigrants (22:21; 23:9)
- f. Including widows and orphans (22:22-24; James 1:27)

- g. Including the poor (22:25-27)

- h. Including the accused (23:1-3)

- i. Including your enemies (23:4, 5)

- j. Including everyone else (21:28-22:15)
 - i. Main principle of criminal negligence laws: ***We love the people around us by living careful, responsible lives.***

 - ii. Simple...selfless

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What stood out to you the most from today’s lesson and why?
- 2) What did you learn about the kind of love God wants His people to have for Him?
- 3) What did you learn about the kind of love God wants His people to have for others?
- 4) How do these laws reflect God’s love for His people?
- 5) How does studying the law impact your view of the gospel?