

18-19 Bible Study #15

1/8/19

Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments

The 10 Commandments

- **1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.**
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.
- 5. You shall not kill.
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.
- 7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- **Exodus 20:7**

- We get the term the “LORD your God” because of the Jewish tradition around the time of Jesus, when they began to place a hedge around the “Law” for pious purposes
- This means that they were not to throw God’s name around carelessly
- Specifically, they were not to use the Lord’s name in an oath
- They were not to profane the holy name
- Here, we are speaking of the name *Yahweh*, the God who brought them out of Egypt
- *Yahweh* was a personal name of the personal God of Abraham who was now the personal God of his descendant Israel

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- The *Egyptians* knew the name of their gods such as *Apis and Re* versus the God of Israel *Yahweh*
- This passage is presented to show the *Hebrews* that *Yahweh* was their personal God and his name was a personal name not the name of a national God
- In fact, God informed them that He was their personal God as well as their national God who planned to bring about this blessing to all the nations*

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- **Exodus 20:8-11**

- Next, God told the people to keep the *Sabbath* Holy
- Father asked, “ what does it mean to keep something holy?”
- We saw in **Genesis 2:1-4** how God sanctified or made the seventh day “hallowed” or “holy”
- To make something “holy” was to **set it apart** or make it distinct

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- It was not that “work” (even on the *Sabbath*) was bad
- But, if work was done of the *Sabbath* as it was on the other six day, that day would not be seen as **a day set apart**
- God wanted to keep **the seventh day** distinct, separate, and **set apart**

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- It was to be a needed day of refreshing rest
- It was also, and most importantly, dedicated to being religious
- When a man was home resting, he had the opportunity of catechizing his family
- He could teach them to pray, talk about God, and reflect on what He had done for them in their lifetime
- We will see this explained in more detail in **Deuteronomy 6***

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- **Exodus 20:12-17**

- These verses give the **4th through 10th Commandments**
- Most are self-explanatory
- Of interest is how the Catholic listing divides the last segment into two commandments in order to reach 10 Commandments
 - Do no covet your neighbor's wife
 - Do not covet your neighbor's goods
- The *Jewish* and *Protestant* list combine these two into a single commandment to bring their total number to 10*

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Exodus 20 (Cont)

- **Exodus 20:18-21**

- At the conclusion of the commandments, we see the terror-filled scene that happened on *Mount Sinai*
- The people told *Moses* that they would be happy to stay at the base of the mountain while he went up and spoke to God at the top of the mountain
- Remember what had happened earlier in **Exodus 19:16-20***

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- **Exodus 20:22-26**

- This is the concluding portion of this critical scene
- God told *Moses* to remind the people that they had witnessed for themselves that God had given them this information from Heaven (the sky)
- He again reminded them **not to make gods of silver and gold**
- Then, he directed them to build a movable altar that would become a part of the “Tent of Meeting” which will be discussed in **Exodus 27**

Exodus 20 (Cont)

- This altar will be made of a large *acacia* wood box with no top or bottom (the size of a large shipping crate) with poles on both sides to be transported by six guys
- When they arrived at a new camp, they would set it outside the tent of meeting and fill it with rocks and dirt and then offer sacrifices on it
- God told them that this will be done “in every place I cause my name to be remembered as I will come to you and bless you”

Exodus 21-22

Exodus 21-22

- **Exodus 21 – 22**

- This section contains a commentary on the 10 Commandments
- It can be seen as the “fine print” for the basic rules contained in the Commandments
- These are the finer points of the Law and how they play out in various situations

Exodus 21-22 (Cont)

- **Exodus 21:24-28**

- These are the ordinances which shall be placed before the people

- **Exodus 22:29-31**

- This again is a brief refinement of the requirement to consecrate the first-born sons and first-born animals as initially presented in **Exodus 13**