

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *EXODUS CHAPTERS 19-20*

11-11/12-24

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes - previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

EXODUS – Chapter 19 – Israel at Mount Sinai – (vs. 1-27); Chapter 20 - The Ten Commandments!

Review:

- *(Exo 18:25-27) He chose men of ability from the whole community of Israel. He made them leaders of the people. They became officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. [26] They judged the people at all times. They brought the hard cases to Moses. But they decided the easy ones themselves. [27] Moses sent his father-in-law on his way. So Jethro returned to his own country.*

Israel at Mount Sinai

Exo 19:1 *In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.*

- **This is in the month of June, about the time** of what later became known as the Feast of Pentecost, the third month after they had come out of Egypt, arriving in their journey to this area known as the wilderness of Sinai.

Exo 19:2 *For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.*

Exo 19:3 *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:*

- **God is saying, I am going to give you the laws of My Kingdom. I am going to give them to a people who already have a history with Me and a relationship with me.** They already recognize Me as their Savior because I have saved you and redeemed you out of Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb.

Exo 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings' (figurative, denoting the strong and loving care of God) and brought you to Myself.*

- **God wants Moses, first of all, to remind the people what He did** to their enemies, how that He destroyed those who had enslaved them. "You have seen what I've done to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings to bring you to Myself." By the processes that they had gone through, they had been brought to God.
- **This figure of being born on eagles' wings is more fully amplified in (Deu 32:11)** *As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings.* Little eaglets have to learn to fly.
- **God said that is the way He dealt with Israel, bringing them to Himself on eagles' wings.** Every trial, every hard place was intended to bring them to God, even as God allows difficulties and trials in our lives that are intended, really, to bring us to God. They are eagles' wings bearing us to God.
- **It is amazing how we hate our trials.** We hate our nest being disturbed. I like to be comfortable. I like to be kicked back and relaxed. I like someone just coming and bringing me food and dropping it in my mouth whenever I am hungry.
- **So, God disturbs our nest. God disturbs our lives.** We do not like these disruptions, we do not like the disturbances, but they are all a part of the process of developing our character in Christ, our growth. They bring us to God. God allows these things to draw us to Himself. "I have born you on eagles' wings to bring you to Myself," God said. The purposes of the trials in our lives are always to bring us to Him.

Exo 19:5 *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*

Exo 19:6 *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

- **These are the conditions: "You must obey My voice and keep My covenant."** God is wanting now to enter into a covenant relationship with His people. The covenant relationship is based upon their obedience to His voice, and their keeping the covenant. Now, the privileges that are offered by God are tremendous. You will be God's *special treasure*.
- **When Paul the Apostle was praying for the church at Ephesus, he prayed (Eph 2:7)** *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.* That they might know how much God valued them and treasured them. If you only knew the great value that God places upon you. If you only knew what a treasure you are to God. God places such a high premium and value upon you, that He gave His only begotten Son in order that you might become God's special treasure. That is the kind of value He placed upon you; willing to give His Son for you, that you might become a part of His family. That is how much God longed for fellowship with you.
- **God longs for fellowship with His people.** The word fellowship means, "oneness," or "communion, full accord," and that's exactly what God desires with you, a oneness, a communion, a full accord. But God is holy. For me to be one with God, I must be holy! God is love, and for me to be one with

God, I must be loving. God is righteous; for me to be one with God, I must be righteous. God is just, God is merciful. To be one with Him, I must be just, and I must be merciful.

- **God has brought them to Himself. Now He is offering to them special privileges.** I am going to give you some commandments. Here I am going to establish a covenant. I am going to give you the rules of the Kingdom. If you will obey those commandments, then you will be three things to me: “You will be a special treasure, you will be a kingdom of priests, you will be a holy nation; if you obey my voice and keep my covenant.

Exo 19:7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him.

Exo 19:8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

- **Now, they consented, though they did not yet hear the terms.** The terms of the covenant had not yet been spoken to them, yet they assented; “We will do everything the LORD has said. Why? Because we want to be God’s special treasure! We want to have access to God, we want to live in communion with Him, we want to be a holy nation, so all that the LORD has said, we will do.
- **Moses went back up to the mountain, saying,** “LORD, they have agreed. They said that everything You said, they are willing to do.” The LORD then told Moses to prepare the people, for in three days, God was going to speak to them in a powerful way, and in a way by which the people would never again doubt that it was God who had brought them out of Egypt, and it was God who had given to them His commandments that they are to obey and to follow; if indeed they will be that holy nation, that kingdom of priests, that special treasure. So, God is going to speak in a very spectacular way, but the people must be prepared

Exo 19:9 And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Exo 19:10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes."

- **A part of the preparation was the washing of their outward garments.** God is holy, and so there is that concept of the cleanliness. As they would clean their clothes, they would separate themselves physically from one another in a sexual sense. It would give them time to just think about this approaching event, really appreciating how wonderful it is!

Exo 19:11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Exo 19:12 You shall set bounds (limits) for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

Exo 19:13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

- **They are not to come on to the mountain itself. Keep your distance and produce within them and awe! For the Holiness and respect of God!** Put a fence up to protect them, to keep them from coming on the mountain. If anybody comes beyond the fence, even if it is an animal, it is to be shot with an arrow. It is to be stoned.

Exo 19:14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

Exo 19:15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives."

- **They were to be celibate for this special day.**

Exo 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Exo 19:17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

- **It was an awesome scene, this third day, so awesome and incredible! The thundering, the lighting, this thick cloud coming down on the mountain; and then the sound of a trumpet blast, and**

all of the people. Imagine the response and reaction that they would have on the camp of the people when on this third day they wake up in the morning to this thunder rolling, and they see the lightning flashing, and they hear this trumpet blast loud over the camp, and they gather now to the foot of the mountain!

- **How have I thought through what it was like to be present at this time of God's display of His awesomeness and glory?**

Exo 19:18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

- Any attempt to explain this as a volcanic eruption, or some such thing is to take away from the force and the truth of the text. This particular mountain is of solid granite. It is not a volcanic type of igneous rock, it is solid granite, and it is not volcanic all. I think that God came down, and this was just the physical, visible affects and results of the presence of God there on Mount Sinai!
- *The smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.* There was a lot of physical phenomena that was associated to and related to the presence of God upon the mountain. The thunder, the lightning, the trumpet blast, the quaking, the fire and smoke going up like a furnace!

Exo 19:19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

- *By voice!* The people heard the actual audible voice of God.

Exo 19:20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- That must have been awesome, ascending up into that mountain that was quaking violently with that cloud over it, and the thunder and the lightning, the smoke covered and going up like a furnace!

Exo 19:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish.

- Now go down and warn those people.

Exo 19:22 Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."

Exo 19:23 But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.' "

- Moses is arguing with the Lord, they cannot come up! We put a fence down there.

Exo 19:24 Then the LORD said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them."

Exo 19:25 So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

- The LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn those people, now, so they do not come past the fence, and many of them be slain." Moses said, "There is a fence there, LORD, we told them, they're not going to do anything." The LORD said, "Away, get down, and warn them, and then come on back up, you and Aaron with you!"

The Ten Commandments; #1-4 – Relationship with God; #5-10 – Relationship with man

- (Exo 19:5,6a) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. [6] And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak.

Exo 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

Exo 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- He is not asking them to obey the Ten Commandments in order to earn something from Him. He is saying, in light of the fact that I have saved you from a miserable life, from the Bondage of slavery, in light of having this position in your life; I now tell you the commandments by which you would keep, which is your proper response! We love Him because He first loved us!
- **How is my understanding of the purpose of the Ten Commandments as it relates to my life, that as a believer, knowing that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and did it; that they**

have no part in my salvation – it was the blood of the Lamb; but that the Commandments were given to show my proper response to His love, with which He first loved us? How faithful am I in this regard?

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before (besides or except) Me.

- **No other gods before Me, in place of or besides Me.** He has to be the *LORD* exclusively in your life! No other gods! There are many gods. God is not really a name. We use it as a name. We use it to refer to the LORD, (JEHOVAH), but God is, in reality, a title, and a person's god is that master passion that governs a person's life.
- **The LORD your God is saying that you shall have no other gods before Me, meaning no other gods except Me!** No other gods in My presence! The great temptation for the children of Israel would not be that they would just throw off the *LORD* completely. The great danger that God recognized with the children of Israel is that they would worship Him, while at the same time allowing many other gods into their lives, which would then steal their heart from being supremely toward Him! I am to be the master passion of your life. Period! I do not share My people with anybody else!
- **Now, the LORD said, "I am the LORD your God.** I am the One who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you, delivering you out of bondage! You are not to have any other gods besides Me!
- **How clearly does my life demonstrate that there are no other gods in my life? Is the evidence overwhelming that He alone is my master passion?**

Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image (objects of worship)—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

- (Joh 4:24) *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

Exo 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

- **Do I really understand how and why that God is jealous for me? That His love is so strong, that His jealousy is only for my benefit in not being separated from Him at all?**

Exo 20:6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

- **Now, this is not a prohibition against carving statues,** or against carving out deer, or fish, or whatever. The prohibition is carving them out to be representatives of God and bowing down and worshipping them. When they made the tabernacle, God said that they were to carve these cherubim, making them out of gold, setting them on the mercy seat. These are things in heaven. It is not a prohibition of making the likenesses of animals or fish or whatever. It is the prohibition of making these as objects of worship.
- **In Egypt there were many idols that the people worshipped!** They worshipped fish, animals, various little images that have been carved out. You are not to do that!
- **I am a jealous God!** He realizes we can do nothing but get hurt by walking away from Him in this kind of marriage relationship that we have with the LORD. When you leave the best. You are headed for trouble, right? When you are worshipping the LORD, you are in the best marriage, in the best relationship you can be in, spiritually! If you leave Him, He knows it is going to be a terrible thing!
- **Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.** This does not mean that if my parents are evil, that God is necessarily going to visit me with punishment. But if I continue in my parents' sin, then that judgment will come upon me also, of those that continue in hatred of God. Unfortunately, the sins of the parents are often visited upon the children, such as children are being born go through heavy drug withdrawals on birth, because their mothers were on addictive drugs. That is tragic. Also, it follows that a child raised in an ungodly atmosphere is apt growing up in this ungodly environment, is apt to be very ungodly and God-hating because of the example that they have seen by their parents.
- **But thank God through the grace of Jesus Christ, we can break any relationship with the past** that may be bad or wrong. (2Co 5:17) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old*

things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. It does not mean that you have to suffer because of your parents' hatred of God, or their mistakes. That can be broken!

- **But showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. This mercy shall extend to thousands, much further than the wrath threatened** to those that hate him, for that reaches but to the third or fourth generation. The streams of mercy run now as full, as free, and as fresh, as ever. It's possible for everyone to receive God's mercy; if they will only turn to Him in love and obedience.

Exo 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

- **Such as taking an oath.** When Jesus explained this particular commandment in the New Testament, He said, (*Mat 5:33,37a*) *Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. [37] But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'*
- **Now, saying, "By the name of the LORD, I will do it," if you do make such a declaration, do not do it in vain.** Do not perjure yourself!" Generally, the punishment for perjury was extremely severe, death, as a rule. You are not to swear by the LORD, and then give false testimony.
- **That vow also includes the casual, unholy use of the name of the LORD.** This is to be avoided. His name means something so special! It is to be used reverently. When it is not, He takes notice! *The LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*
- **How careful am I to never take the name of the LORD in vain? By using it in making a promise or vow, and then not keeping it; or to casually using His name, saying Oh, God, oh Jesus, not really referring to Him, but just using His name like slang?**

Exo 20:8 "Remember (mark, set aside) **the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

- **Everything is to cease on the Sabbath day.** Everything comes to a halt. You are to rest. You are to take it as a day with the LORD, a day of quietness, a day of rest. You are not to do your normal task, or your labors on the Sabbath day, but you are just to rest and spend it with the LORD. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
- **This was a special covenant that God made between Himself and Israel,** as we will find, continuing in the book of Exodus. As circumcision was a special covenant for Israel, so was the Sabbath day. The pattern of six and one is important! There is one day out of the week that a person ought to just take off and rest, spending it in relaxation and worship of God. A day of relaxation, a day where you just are drawing close with the LORD.
- **This is the only Commandment that is not reinforced and commanded of us** in some form or another in the New Testament. As Christians, we are not under the Sabbath laws.
- **In Acts fifteen when they met to determine what relationship the church should have to the law--the Gentile church--it was determined not to put the Gentile church under the law, but just to recommend that they keep themselves from fornication and from things that were strangled.** If you do this, you do well! No mention was made to the church of the Sabbath day. The church became accustomed to worshipping on the first day of the week, the day that Jesus was raised from the dead. Early in New Testament times, Paul speaks, (*Act 20:7*) *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.* So, it became the custom of the church to gather on the first day of the week.
- **The early church did not lay the Sabbath day upon the Gentile believers.** Later Paul said, "Let no man judge you in respect to new moons, holy days, or of Sabbath days. These were all a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."
- **The Sabbath day of the Old Testament was a shadow of things to come.** Of what to come? The Sabbath day was the day of rest, and it was a shadow of the rest that is brought to us by Jesus, for they that have received Jesus have entered into His rest. So, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Sabbath for us!

Again, Paul said that one man, esteems one day above another, another man esteems every day alike, let everyone be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- **So, early in the church the controversy arose** because of the Jews within the early church insisting on the Sabbath day, and the Gentile believers taking Sunday as their day of worship, it became a controversy. As Paul brings out the controversy, Romans 14, he said, “One-man esteems one day above another, another every day alike. Let everyone be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Now, as far as I am concerned, every day is the *LORD*’s day!

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

- ***For in six days.*** This verse, written on stone by God’s own hand, contextually ties the days of creation, six day of creation and one day of rest to the Commandment of the Sabbath here; six days of work and one day of rest! (Exo 31:18) And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God! This settles once and for all the question of the meaning of “day” in the creation chapter (Gen 1:1-31).
- **Man was to work six days and rest one day because God did; in fact, God took six days,** instead of a single instant, to finish His work of creating and making all things to be a model for humanity (Gen 2:1-3). God’s week was of precisely the same duration and pattern as man’s regular week. The Hebrew word for “days” (*yamim*), furthermore, is used over seven hundred times in the Old Testament, and cannot be shown ever to require any meaning except that of literal days, certainly never to anything comparable to geological ages.
- **Still further, “all that in them is” was made in the six days; nothing had been made previously, as the gap theory of Genesis would require.** There seems to be no legitimate exposition of Genesis that can ever allow for the theoretical ages of evolutionary geology. Further, no such gap is necessary; all the data of rocks and fossils are much better explained in terms of the great Flood. It is also significant that other human measurements of time (day, month, year) are keyed to astronomical processes. The universal week, however, has no astronomical base whatever. We keep time in weeks simply because God does! In six days the *LORD* made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and He rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- **Notice these first four laws have to do with your relationship with God; and that is first.** If your relationship with God is not right, your relationship with your fellow man cannot be right. Life always exists on two planes: the perpendicular axis, and the horizontal plane, and it is sort of a fixed point here in the middle. If the perpendicular axis of your life is off center, then your life is going to be out of balance.
- **Many people find their lives out of balance, out of sync, and you are constantly endeavoring** to bring your life into balance. Well, your problem is the perpendicular axis. If the perpendicular axis is correct, the horizontal plane will be correct.
- **Jesus said, (Mat 6:33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Yet, the mistake that we make is trying to take care of the other things to bring our life into balance, and that’s why we are constantly struggling, but without success, to live a well-balanced life, because you’re only dealing with the symptom. The problem is at the heart, your relationship with God! When that becomes correct, then the horizontal plane will balance out.
- **That is why, first of all, the first four commandments, have to do with your relationship with God.** This is fundamental, this is primary! Now, having established this relationship with God, then my relationship with my fellow man becomes what it should be.
- **Do I clearly see and understand the comparison between the six days of Creation, and one of rest, to that of my working six days a week and having one day of rest each week? Do I really believe the Bible when it says that in six days God created everything?**

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

- **The family ties are one of the strongest foundations for a society;** and I really fear for our society, because of the breakdown of the family unit; the tragic consequences that we observe in our society as

a result of the breakdown of the family. And you will notice that many of these laws that deal with our relationship with each other are relationships that involve the family; relationships by which the family ties can be destroyed.

- **It begins with the honoring of your father and your mother**, that your days may be long in the land which the *LORD* your God gives to you.

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder."

- **Jesus said, "It is more than that. You are not to hate your brother."** It is possible for you to hate someone so much, you wish they were dead; that you could even see yourself killing them. Jesus said that, really, you have violated the spirit of the law. The hatred in your heart is a violation of the law. You are just as guilty as the man who killed someone. It is in your heart to do so. Man looks on the outward appearance. God looks on the heart!

Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

- **Again, we look at it as just the physical act, going to bed with some other man's wife.** But Jesus said, "If you look at a woman to lust after her in your heart, you have committed adultery. You are guilty." Jesus took it one step further in the Sermon on the Mount. All under the initial statement, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you're not going to enter the kingdom of heaven."
- **As He gave the five illustrations, He showed that the righteousness** of the scribes and the Pharisees was all predicated upon an outward observance of the law, whereas God was really seeking to deal with the inward attitude of a man's heart. Though they kept outwardly the standards of the law, inwardly, they had violated them. That is why Jesus said, "Outwardly, you look like a whitewashed sepulcher. But you take the lid off and there's bones, dead bones, skeletons inside. You wash the outside of the platter, but inside, you smell. It is horrible, filthy!" God is interested in what is inside your heart.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal."

Exo 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

- **Nor his Mercedes, nor his Porsche, nor anything that is your neighbor's.** Coveting--man, that is a hard one to control, isn't it? Now that is really dealing with the inward spirit, I mean, coveting is a thing that is of the spirit. And this is the law that caused Paul, that finally opened Paul's eyes to the fact that the law was spiritual.
- **At one time when Paul was a Pharisee, he thought that he had it made.** As far as righteousness, which is of the law, he said, "I am blameless." I kept every jot and tittle of the thing. But when I came to the realization that the law was spiritual, man, I was wiped out!" When he came to the realization that "thou shall not covet" deals with an attitude of my heart, a desire that is in there, I have a hard time controlling that.
- **So, Paul said, (Rom 7:9) I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.** It killed me. I am dead. It condemned me to death." So, God's covenant, if the people will obey His voice, keep this covenant, then they will be God's *special treasure*. They will be a *holy nation*. They will be a *kingdom of priests*.
- **Do I really realize the presence of any covetousness in my life? How much or how often is covetousness present?**

Exo 20:18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

- **This awesome sight and this consciousness of the presence of God terrified them!** Look, you go ahead, and you tell us what God says. We will listen to you. Do not let God tell us. I mean, we are afraid that He would wipe us out.

Exo 20:20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

- God has come and put on this awesome demonstration that you might really respect His law and keep it.

Exo 20:21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Exo 20:22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven

- They actually heard God's voice. He articulated His commands.

Laws About Altars

Exo 20:23 You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

- What was the first failure of the children of Israel, which is going to happen pretty soon?. They have just said, "LORD, everything You said, we are going to do." Moses spent quite a while there on a mountain with God, and when he came down to the camp, what did he discover? Aaron had told the people to bring all your gold earrings, and everything else. He had fashioned a calf out of gold! They were dancing around it, worshipping the calf.

Exo 20:24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

- Even in the building of your altars, for your sacrifices of burnt offerings, and peace offerings, your sheep, and your oxen; that you are to make your altars out of earth, dirt, natural.

Exo 20:25 And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

- Do not make any carvings on the stone, do not make the stones ornate. Just plain, uncarved, unhewn stone, if you are going to make an altar out of stone. Natural. God does not want our attention to be distracted from Him to some fancy artwork. When you see the priests going to the altar, He does not want your mind to be taken from God to some fancy, ornate stone that have been carved, and you say, "Wow, isn't that beautiful, isn't that intricate, isn't that wonderful."
- A church building is a convenience, but that's all. When we build a building to worship God, we should build it just simply, naturally as possible. If we were in Hawaii, we would not even need a building, we could use a Banyan tree, worshipping outside. It is just a convenience, to shelter us from the cold, or from the rain to make it more convenient. But it is not to be some elaborate, glorious structure to stand as a monument to man in the future; you know, look what we have done. It should not be some display of man's ingenuity or abilities that distracts from God!
- God is saying, "Keep it simple. Make your altar out of earth. If you use rocks, do not carve them, do not hue the stones. Leave them just naturally." If you use a tool on it, you have profaned it, making it common! You are offering to God now the works of your hands.

Exo 20:26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.'

- God does not want the priests' legs to be exposed to the people. So, not even steps going up to the altar. Nothing to take your mind away from God! That is a good rule to follow. While ministering, you ought to wear clothes that do not attract attention to your clothes. Loud flashy ties, or loud flashy socks, or something where people's minds are being distracted to your dress, and away from the LORD.
- Also, distractions should be kept to a minimum. That's why we don't have children in the services except those that are old enough to sit quietly and orderly, because we don't want children to be distracting, and they can be a tremendous distraction.
- Seek to keep the distractions to a minimum, in order that full attention may be given as God speaks to us through His Word. Do not have fancy ornamentation or anything else to take a person's mind away from the LORD, and onto artifacts.

SUMMARY

- (Exo 19:17) **How have I thought through what it was like to be present at this time of God's display of His awesomeness and glory? ...It came to pass on the third day, in the**

morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

- **(Exo 20:2) How is my understanding of the purpose of the Ten Commandments as it relates to my life, that as a believer, knowing that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and did it; that they have no part in my salvation – it was the blood of the Lamb; but that the Commandments were given to show my proper response to His love, with which He first loved us? How faithful am I in this regard?**
- **(Exo 20:3) How clearly does my life demonstrate that there are no other gods in my life? Is the evidence overwhelming that He alone is my master passion?**
- **(Exo 20:5) Do I really understand how and why that God is jealous for me? That His love is so strong, that His jealousy is only for my benefit in not being separated from Him at all?**
- **(Exo 20:7) How careful am I to never take the name of the LORD in vain? By using it in making a promise or vow, and then not keeping it; or to casually using His name, saying Oh, God, oh Jesus, not really referring to Him, but just using His name like slang?**
- **(Exo 20:11) Do I clearly see and understand the comparison between the six days of Creation, and one of rest, to that of my working six days a week and having one day of rest each week? Do I really believe the Bible when it says that in six days God created everything?**
- **(Exo 20:17) Do I really realize the presence of any covetousness in my life? How much or how often is covetousness present?**
- **I want to know you more! I surrender!**

CLOSING SONG

I SURRENDER Hillsong Worship (4:08)

*Here I am Down on my knees again Surrendering all Surrendering all And find me here
Lord as You draw me near Desperate for You Desperate for You I surrender
Drench my soul As mercy and grace unfold I hunger and thirst I hunger and thirst
With arms stretched wide I know You hear my cry Speak to me now Speak to me now
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Exodus Chapters 21-23!