

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *EXODUS CHAPTERS 21-23* 11-18/19-24

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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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](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

EXODUS – Chapter 21 – The Law Concerning Servants – (vs. 1-11); The Law Concerning Violence – (vs. 12-27); Animal Control Laws – (vs. 28-36). Chapter 22 - Responsibility for Property – (vs. 1-15); Moral and Ceremonial Principles – (vs. 16-31). Chapter 23 – Justice for All – (vs. 1-9); The Law of Sabbaths – (vs. 10-13); Three Annual Feasts – (vs. 14-19); The Angel and the Promises – (vs. 20-33).

Exodus 21-23

- **Beginning in chapter 20, God gave that covenant to Moses** whereby He would enter into a relationship with them. They would be a special treasure to God above every nation. They would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to God. God began by giving them the Ten Commandments. In chapter 21, God continues with the laws of the covenant. God is actually addressing the judges.

Laws About Slaves-Servants and Masters

Exo 21:1 "Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them:

- ***Now these are the judgments,*** He is really addressing this now to those men who would be appointed as judges, *which you shall set before them.*
- **The first of the series of laws here revolve around slavery, which was something that was practiced.** The Bible does not really condone slavery; in fact, Moses put definite prohibitions upon slavery, to the extent that in time, it could be abolished.

Exo 21:2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

- **The first restriction;** In Deuteronomy it is added that when you send him out, you have to give him some animals, food, money, and all, so that he does not go out destitute. So, a Hebrew man could only be a slave for a six-year period; the seventh year, he had to be set free.
- **This is an interesting law in light of the total history of man.** Adam sold man into the bondage of sin, slavery, about six thousand years ago. We have come to the two-thousandth year A.D. Assuming man can only be a slave for six years, and the seventh year, he has to be set free, we may be approaching that glorious day when God is going to establish His eternal kingdom, allowing us to live in a world, filled with peace, and righteousness. Six years you serve, the seventh year, you go free.

Exo 21:3-6 If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. [4] If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. [5] But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' [6] then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl (piercing tool); and he shall serve him forever.

- **There were cases where a servant would say, *I love my master and my wife and my children; I do not want to be free;* [6] then his master will bring him to the judges, the "elohim," the gods, and he shall also bring him to the door,**
- **He is to bring him to the judges and bring him to his house. Then he takes an awl,** bores a hole in his ear, pinning the servant to the doorpost of his house with that awl. They would then put a gold ring in the ear lobe. The pierced ear was the sign that he was a servant (doulos, bondsman in New Testament) by choice. So, "I love my master. I do not want to be free, I want to serve him," he would then be pierced, which was irrevocable. He remained then a servant for life.
- **Consider the prophecy in Isaiah concerning Jesus Christ, (Isa 50:5) *The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.*** That is, He willingly submitted Himself to the Father, as He said, "I did not come to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me." "My ear," Isaiah - prophetically - concerning the cross, said, "*The Lord GOD has opened My ear.*" God brought Him to the doorpost, pierced His ear. He was a servant (doulos) by choice, forever, as He submitted to the will of the Father in going to the cross for you and for me!
- ***Am I really a doulos? A bondsman, willingly and completely surrendered to Jesus Christ forever?***

Exo 21:7 "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do.

- **The daughter does not get to go out in the seventh year.** The fathers had the rights to sell their daughters. If he sold his daughter, there was always that dowry that was involved, which was to protect the women in a day in which women did not have any rights.
- **The women had no right of divorce.** They were considered in a category slightly above a slave. Because the women had no rights, a man could at his own whim at any time, get rid of her. All he had

to do was to write on a piece of paper, "I divorce you," and hand it to her, and she had to go out. To protect her, this dowry concept was established, really it was alimony in advance. It was the duty of the father to invest that money so that if she did come home, she has plenty to live on.

Exo 21:8 *If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her.*

- So, he has purchased her. Now he decides he does not want to marry her, then some other man can purchase her. Let her be redeemed, he cannot sell her to a stranger or foreigner.

Exo 21:9-10 *And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. [10] If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.*

- The master can give her to his son. Notice how God is establishing the valuing of human life! She shall have all the rights of the new wife. She remains having full rights. She can go down and buy her clothes, and the food and everything. They cannot diminish them.

Exo 21:11 *And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.*

Laws About Capital Punishment – 1) A Deterrence 2) God's Value on Human Life

Exo 21:12-13 *"He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. [13] However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.*

- Now come the laws concerning violence. **Capital punishment**. If it is manslaughter, you were not premeditating the act of murder, but it was a thing that just happened, then they would have six cities of refuge where you could flee; and as long as you remained in that city, you were safe from what they called "the avenger of blood." Notice His offering a place of refuge is not just a New Testament thing!

Exo 21:14-16 *"But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die. [15] "And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. [16] "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.*

- There is no place of refuge for a person who has committed premeditated murder. He is to be taken even from the altar of God. They were to be put to death.
- Until recently kidnapping was a capital crime! It is not anymore!

Exo 21:17 *"And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

- Now, this sounds pretty heavy. If a child was guilty of cursing his parents, that was a capital crime! In my lifetime, in this nation, many of these laws have moved from that!
- Now, even moving to verbal abuse of parents. He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death!

Exo 21:18-20 *"If men contend with each other, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, [19] if he rises again and walks about outside with his staff, then he who struck him shall be acquitted. He shall only pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed. [20] "And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished.*

- He shall be punished. But not capital punishment. For he is the man's property. Under the Roman law you could kill your servant with no punishment. Here, you were to pay a fine.

Exo 21:21 *Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.*

- You were not intending to kill him.

Exo 21:22 *"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*

- In other words, they come to the judges and the husband says, "I want so much money," and if the judges agree, that is how much he has to pay.

Exo 21:23-25 *But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life [24] eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, [25] burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

- **But if any harm follows then you shall give life for life.** If a fight breaks out and she miscarries or she or the baby is lost as a result of it, the death penalty was to be meted out against them! Notice that God gives the same value to the unborn child! Whether the mother or the child dies, it's the same to Him. Then it is to be life for life, for the loss, and so. **God sees the child in the womb as a human being!** Praise the Lord for that and that wonderful standard! Our nation has almost lost sight of this entirely! No numbering of weeks of pregnancy time limit for tax-funded abortions?
- **What a great example of the importance here of personal responsibility for one's actions! Of God's value on human life and His treatment of no difference between the mother and the unborn child in requiring capital punishment for the taking of life!**
- **In the New Testament, Jesus said, (Mat 5:38-39) "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' [39] But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.** Jesus softens these things, because of the way that they had begun to interpret it as a command. They gave no place for mercy or forgiveness.

Exo 21:26-27 *"If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye. [27] And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.*

- The eye was considered the most important thing, a tooth, not that important. So, anything in between, if a servant is injured in a permanent way by his master, he goes free because of the injury.

Exo 21:28-30 *"If an ox gores a man or a woman to death (animal control laws), then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted. [29] But if the ox tended to thrust with its horn in times past, and it has been made known to his owner, and he has not kept it confined, so that it has killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death. [30] If there is imposed on him a sum of money, then he shall pay to redeem his life, whatever is imposed on him.*

- But he could pay a price and redeem himself from being stoned, if he would pay the price imposed upon him. So, he could be heavily fined or put to death.

Exo 21:31-32 *Whether it has gored a son or gored a daughter, according to this judgment it shall be done to him. [32] If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.*

- Interestingly, the price of a gored slave was thirty pieces of silver. (Zec 11:12-13a) *Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. [13] And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. Thirty pieces of silver, the price of a gored slave! It makes the crime of Judas all the more atrocious!*

Laws About Restitution

Exo 21:33 *"And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in it,*

- Their water was usually kept in cisterns. They would dig these large caves into the rocks, and they would divert the flow of water into the caves, and these cisterns were their reservoirs. If their tops were not covered, an ox or a donkey would fall into it,

Exo 21:34 *the owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to their owner, but the dead animal shall be his.*

- Now, if it is an ox, okay, you can have steak! But if it is a donkey, you are out of luck.

Exo 21:35-36 *"If one man's ox hurts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide the money from it; and the dead ox they shall also divide. [36] Or if it was known that the ox tended to thrust in time past, and its owner has not kept it confined, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal shall be his own.*

- So, he would have to pay for the ox. Otherwise, they just sell the ox and split the money; but in this case, he has to pay for it. Notice the continuing emphasis on personal responsibility!
- **How does my life reflect the importance of taking personal responsibility for all my actions?**

Exo 22:1 *"If a man steals (a rustler) an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.*

- You have to restore fivefold for stealing an ox, fourfold for a sheep. (2Sa 12:6) *And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."*

Exo 22:2 *If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.*

- It is justifiable homicide, no guilt upon the man who killed the thief breaking in at night.

However, if it is during the day, then there would be guilt if you killed him.

Exo 22:3-8 *If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution (required payment for crime); if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. [4] If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double. [5] "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. [6] "If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution. [7] "If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep (for safekeeping), and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. [8] If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor's goods.*

- He shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. Note how important **restitution** is! It is a healthy thing for people in this fallen world to be held responsible and to be forced to make restitution!

Exo 22:9-12 *"For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which another claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor. [10] If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing it, [11] then an oath of the LORD shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor's goods; and the owner of it shall accept that, and he shall not make it good. [12] But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it.*

- He is to be brought before the judges for determination if you were telling the truth.
- I surely would not want anybody to loan me anything, or say, "Keep my donkey, or my dog," or anything else, because you are responsible for it. This is pretty heavy duty, when compared to today's compassionate treatment of those who do wrong!.

Exo 22:13 *If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.*

- You need to bring the torn carcass of the little lamb, then you did not have to make it good.

Exo 22:14-15 *"And if a man borrows (now the law of borrowing) anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good. [15] If its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.*

- If you borrow an ox from your neighbor to plow and while you are plowing, it dies, you have to pay your neighbor for the ox. If your neighbor came with it, and he's plowing with you, then you don't have to pay anything. Or, if you rented it from him, then you did not have to make restitution. Notice the clarity, yet very detailed content of these laws!

Laws About Social Justice

Exo 22:16 *"If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife.*

- He's going to have to pay the dowry.

Exo 22:17 *If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins.*

- If her father says, "I don't want you as a son-in-law," and utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins, he is still going to have to pay the dowry according to the bride price of virgins.

- If he seduced a gal, he has to hope that her dad will have mercy and let him have her, otherwise, he has to pay for her and still does not get her. Think how this would **reduce unwanted pregnancies!**

Exo 22:18 "You shall not permit a sorceress (a witch) to live.

- Witchcraft was a capital crime.

Exo 22:19 "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

- Bestiality, another capital crime! So often we look at the law of God in the wrong way, thinking that God is terrible in judgment. Capital punishment, that is horrible. We tend not to look at the law of God, which was intended for the preservation of society and for the benefit of man! These laws that God established were for man's good! God has a reason behind the declaration of the law: the preservation of the family, the sanctity of human life, sanctity of womanhood.

Exo 22:20 "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

- No false worship of other gods.

Exo 22:21 "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

- God is looking over the strangers; and then, also the widow and the fatherless child, the orphan.

Exo 22:22 "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.

- God takes the cause of the underdog. A stranger or a foreigner was always an underdog in that time of history; and also widows and orphans, but God takes their cause.

Exo 22:23-24 "If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry (take their cause); [24] and My wrath will become hot, and; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. I will kill you with the sword.

- God is pretty severe in His defense of the widows and the fatherless. "If they cry to Me because of your oppression, I will wipe you out, your wife and children will be widows and fatherless!

Exo 22:25 "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.

- Loaning to the poor could not be with interest.

Exo 22:26 If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down.

- If he says, "Loan me some money, and I'll give you my garment as a pledge. Then I must give you the pledge back before sundown."

Exo 22:27 For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

- He gets cold in the night. He does not have his coat around him and he starts crying, "Oh, I am shivering, God. I am cold." God said, "I will hear him. I am gracious."

Exo 22:28-29 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people. [29] "You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

- God requires the first; the first fruits.

Exo 22:30 Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

- That is, the first born of oxen and sheep. They belong to God. Let them stay with the mother for seven days. On the eighth day, you give them to the Lord.

Exo 22:31 "And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

- The sanctification of the nation was emphatically symbolized by strictness of diet as regards both the kind of animal, and the mode of slaughtering.

Justice for All

Exo 23:1-3 "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. [2] You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice. [3] You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

- God wants honest judgment, whether the guy is poor or not.

Exo 23:4-5 *"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. [5] If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.*

- Just because the guy is your enemy, or you hate him, you are to be kind to the animal. God is interested in all of His creation. We are to have a kindness and a tenderness towards animals.

Exo 23:6 *"You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.*

- Being poor did not make one right in a legal dispute, but it should never keep them from getting a fair hearing and justice.

Exo 23:7 *Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.*

Exo 23:8-9 *And you shall take no bribe (no one will make a bribe to you, if you won't take it), for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous. [9] "Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

Laws About the Sabbath and Festivals

Exo 23:10-11 *"Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, [11] but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.*

- Six years you harvest it; the seventh year, you just let it rest for the poor of the land. You do not plant. Whatever grows up by itself from the seed that has been in the ground, the poor have the right to come in and eat it. What they do not eat, the animals can eat.
- This is one of the laws of God they did not obey when they came into the Promised Land. They did not keep the Sabbath year as far as the land, but they planted every year. At the time of Jeremiah, after they had been in the land for 490 years, Jeremiah prophesied their captivity in Babylon, saying for seventy years because you did not obey the Sabbaths. (2Ch 36:21) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

Exo 23:12 *Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.*

- Everybody takes the Sabbath off. Everybody gets to rest.

Exo 23:13-17 *"And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect (be careful) and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth. [14] "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: [15] You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)(you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); [16] and the Feast of Harvest (Pentecost), the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles) at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. [17] "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD."*

- Come with an offering. In the Feast of Harvest, which was fifty days after the Feast of the Passover; the Feast Of Harvest, which was the harvest of the winter grains, they are to come with the first fruits of their harvest of grain to offer them to the Lord at the Feast of Pentecost. Then they would have a feast of harvest, which took place in the tenth month of the year, also known as Succoth, or the Feast of the Tabernacles. These are the three feasts in which they were to present themselves to God.

Exo 23:18-19 *"You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My sacrifice remain until morning. [19] The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.*

- God is demanding the first of the first fruits. God really asks for your best, and there is nothing wrong with that. Surely, He is deserving. Anything I have, He has given to me on sort of a loan basis, so it really all belongs to Him.
- You shall not boil a young kid in its mother's milk. According to the Canaanite text, this strange-sounding command was actually a command not to imitate a common pagan fertility ritual. It was a custom of the ancient pagans to take a kid and boil it in the milk of its mother. Then in a magical way,

to go about and sprinkle with it, all their trees and fields, gardens and orchards; thinking by these means to make them more fruitful!

- **But because of strange rabbinical interpreting this as a dietary command, is the reason** why an observant Jew cannot eat a kosher cheeseburger. Jews today will not eat milk and meat at the same meal because the rabbis insisted that the meat in the hamburger may have come from the calf of the cow that gave the milk for the cheese, and the cheese and the meat would “boil” together in one’s stomach and be a violation of this command.

Conquest of Canaan Promised:

- **God gives to them a series of promises and a series of warnings, and then He declares the principles by which they are to come in, and to conquer the land.** He adds an addendum to it, which are extra promises, and extra warnings concerning what “I” have said.

Exo 23:20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

- **Note that He is to go before you.** He is to keep you, and He will bring you into the place that I have prepared. This Angel is to have the name of the LORD in Him.

Exo 23:21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

- **Their transgressions were to be punished, and their transgressions were punished.** There were times when, in the wilderness, God began to smite the people. He sent the serpents into the camp and the people began to die as the result of the bites of the serpents. When drawn by the women of Edom to worship their gods, the angel of the LORD began to smite them, (*Num 25:9*) *And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.*

Exo 23:22 But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

- **I will enter into a mutual defense pact with you.** I will defend you. Whoever comes against you is coming against Me! I will stand behind you. I will be an enemy to your enemies, an adversary to your adversaries.” What a glorious thing to have God join together with me in a mutual defense pact! Not much I can do for Him, but oh, He can do so much for me!
- **Notice, it is conditional.** “*If you indeed obey My voice and do all that I speak.*”

Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.

- **God is telling what He is going to do.** The Angel of the LORD will bring you in, and I will cut them off.

Exo 23:24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.

- **You are not to bow down to their gods.** You are not to serve them or do according to their works. You are not to follow their forms of worship.
- **Today, many churches have forms of worship that come right out of pagan religions** that are borrowed from ancient Babylon. God says, I do not want you to worship Me as they do. Do not copy their forms of worship. Jesus said, (*Joh 4:24*) *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*
- **There is an inherent danger in any kind of ritualized worship of God.** Worshipping Him ought to be the most natural thing in the world. It is to be spontaneous. Whenever God’s Spirit gives the impulse to your heart, worship. You do not have to say, “Oh, I want to worship God. Run to the church, kneeling to the altar, so I can worship God.
- **So do not follow the other gods. Do not bow to them.** Do not serve them. Do not do according to their rituals but overthrow them.

Exo 23:25 "So **you shall serve the LORD** your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

- **Serving God, He will bless you!** He will bless your bread and water. That is, He will bring to you, prosperity, material and physical prosperity.

Exo 23:26 *No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.*

- **That is, you will live to be a ripe old age.** David must have thought of this, (*Psa 1:2-3*) *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. [3] He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water,...And whatever he does shall prosper.* A poetic way of saying you are going to have a long, healthy life. Who? The man who meditates day and night in the law of the Lord.
- **Interestingly enough though, it may have seemed rather boring to you as we went through** the law of the Lord, that is what David is referring to, here in *Exodus chapters 20-23.*

Exo 23:27 *"I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*

- **Several promises here:** "I'll send my fear before you," that is, the people would become frightened. "I will cause confusion among them:" the enemies; and also, "I will cause them to turn their backs to you." We note how when Iran sent hundreds of missiles into Israel last month, not one Israelite was killed!
- **But God put them to confusion; as God said, "I will confuse your enemies.** Those that are against you, I will confuse them." And He does to the present day!

Exo 23:28 *And I will send hornets (stinging wasps) before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.*

- **Then God said, I will use nature to fight for you.** Into their fortresses and strongholds, I will just send in a swarm of hornets to start stinging them and driving them out. Then as they come out running, you can throw your javelins, and shoot your arrows, and get them. Using nature to fight.
- **We remember Joshua, as he was fighting against the five kings** that had come against Gibeon. (*Jos 10:12a*) *Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon. on, in the Valley of Aijalon."* The sun stood still; and did not set for the space of 24 hours. "No other day like it in history," the Scripture says!

Exo 23:29 *I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.*

- **God tells him that it is not going to be an immediate victory,** instant victory, instant conquest, and the reason. God said it is not going to happen in a year. You would not be able to handle it; but just little by little God is bringing me into the walk of the Spirit; and I love the way that God works in my life!

Exo 23:30 *Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.*

- **Notice, God said, "I will drive them out!" That is the mistake that I often make** because I try to get victory over my flesh myself. God shows me the area of the flesh that needs working on. I say, "Oh, Lord, that horrible. I will get rid of that immediately. I will not do that again." But I find myself doing it, until finally, I cry out in despair, "Oh, God, I cannot do it. Help me, Lord." Then the Lord sets me free and delivers me.
- **So, I gain; and I grow. I develop in my walk with the Lord as I begin to inherit this glorious life** in the Spirit. I begin to enjoy the blessings, and the victories, and the joys of walking with the Lord in the Spirit; the promised land, which promised life, that exceeding rich and abundant life in Christ!
- **How often to I try to drive out the areas of my flesh that need working on? Unsuccessful until I finally cry out in despair that I cannot do it! Saying help me! Then to have faith that the LORD will set me free and deliver me!**

Exo 23:31 *And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.*

- **God promised their boundaries, but they never did take all** of the land that God had promised. Similarly, while we are in this body of flesh, we will never be totally free from the problems of the flesh. As long as I am living in this body, I am going to have problems with this body. The desires of

my flesh are going to be with me as long as I live. I thank God I do not have to be obedient to them. I do not have to submit to them.

- **That is what freedom is all about. It is not freedom to follow my flesh; and that is a mistake** that many people make. “Oh, I am free in Jesus. I can do anything I want.” Oh no, no, no! You are free in Jesus. You do not have to do those things anymore! That is the freedom! You were under its dominion and control, and so, you did those things because you did not have any power otherwise.
- **But now, through Jesus, I have been set free from the flesh** so that I do not have to do those things anymore, and that is the glorious freedom that I enjoy. I could, but I do not have to. Wonderful !

Exo 23:32 *You shall make no covenant with them (incurable idolaters), nor with their gods.*

- **You cannot make a covenant with your flesh.** You cannot make a peaceful co-existence pact with your flesh. You cannot say, “Well, that is just me. No, no, no. Do not make a pact with your flesh.”
- **God said, Kill it! If we by the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh, we shall live!** Reckon your old man to be crucified with Christ that the body of sin might be, *katargeo*, put of business. Do not coddle your flesh or give a place for it. Reckon it to be dead. Make no covenant with it.

Exo 23:33 *They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."*

- **If you leave an area for your flesh it will come back and haunt you.** It is going to come back and destroy you. It must be put to death.
- **It is going to trap you sooner or later if you are trying to live with the flesh** and the things of the flesh. We have to bring it to the cross, reckon it dead, that we might live after the Spirit and inherit all that God has promised for us.
- **It is often God's purpose, not just to work in you, but through you to touch others!** God in you is always working that He might prepare you, that He might work through you, touching others with His love, with His grace, with His goodness!
- **So, God, fill my cup until it overflows!** Until Your love flows forth from me like a river of living water to that dark, dying and thirsty world around us!

SUMMARY

- **Am I really a *doulos*? A bonds slave, willingly and completely surrendered to Jesus Christ forever? (Exo 21:3-6)**
- **What a great example of the importance here of personal responsibility for one's actions! Of God's value on human life and His treatment of no difference between the mother and unborn child in requiring capital punishment for the taking of life! (Exo 21:22-25)**
- **How does my life reflect the importance of taking personal responsibility for all my actions? (Exo 21:36)**
- **How often to I try to drive out the areas of my flesh that need working on? Unsuccessful until I finally cry out in despair that I cannot do it! Saying help me! Then to have faith that the LORD will set me free and deliver me! (Exo 23:30)**

CLOSING SONG - (Exo 23:25) *"So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.*

I WILL SERVE YOU – Gaither – Pastor Chuck Smith (2:03-1:59)

I will serve You Because I love You. You have given life to me I was nothing until You found me You have given life to me Heartaches, broken people Ruined lives are why You died on calvary Your touch is all I long for You have given life to me I will serve You Because I love You. You have given life to me I was nothing until you found me You have given life to me You have given life to me. (2X)

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Exodus Chapters 24-26!*