

The Ten Commandments

Chapter 20 lists the Ten Commandments - and notice they're not *The Ten Suggestions*. We're expected to obey them!

We learn later the Ten Commandments were written on two tablets by the finger of God Himself. The first five commands deal with man's relationship with God. The second five commands deal with man's relationship with His fellow man.

It's been said, "*The Ten Commandments were given in tablet form, and by following their directions we can save the use of a lot of other tablets.*" They're *stress-reducers*, as well as, *sin-reducers*.

Here is God's Top 10 List: 1) *no other gods*, 2) *no use of physical images in worship*, 3) *no taking the Lord's name in vain*, 4) *keep the Sabbath holy*, 5) *honor your parents*, 6) *no murder*, 7) *no adultery*, 8) *no stealing*, 9) *no lying*, 10) *no envy*.

Understand, the Mosaic Law was not the only set of commandments around at the time. You've heard of the Code of Hammurabi. There were others, but these are the only commands to survive the test of time, because they're God's laws. There is something about these rules that ring true in the heart of all men.

The Mosaic Law

At Mount Sinai, God gave Israel a new covenant - the Sinaitic or Mosaic Covenant. Until now God's blessing on Israel was based on His promises to Abraham - and the Abrahamic covenant will still be in force. But now the Mosaic Covenant will also kick in. It establishes certain laws that Israel is to obey, and God's blessing is made dependant on their obedience.

Understand, the New Testament made the Mosaic Covenant obsolete. We now call this covenant the "*Old Covenant*", because we're no

longer under its stipulations. Yet for 1500 years it served a vital role, and instilled in God's people important sensitivities. We can *benefit greatly by studying it thoroughly*.

One rabbi counted that the Mosaic Law consisted of 613 laws - 248 do's, and 365 don'ts - one prohibition for everyday of the year. The Laws of Moses actually included 3 types of laws - moral laws (laws which apply to all men at all times), civil or social laws (laws needed after the Hebrews had entered the land of Canaan), and ceremonial laws (laws that point to the work of Jesus Christ).

The Mountain of God

an experience, but an experience the people didn't want to repeat. In Exodus 20:19 they tell Moses, "*You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*" They were overwhelmed by the glory of God. They felt unworthy and unfit for God's presence. It scared them to be near Him.

In Hebrews 12 the writer compares Israel's experience at Mount Sinai with our experience at Mount Zion, or the heavenly mountain. Under the Mosaic Covenant their access to God was restricted. In Christ ours is unlimited. They approached in fear. We approach with confidence. They were aware of their sin. Our spirits have been perfected by faith in Jesus. They were still under scrutiny. We're registered in heaven. Their mediator was a man, Moses. Ours is the living Lord, Jesus.

In chapter 24 Moses again leads the Israelites to the mountain of God to make sacrifice, and to officially accept the terms of the Covenant. The people agree to keep God's commands, then Moses sprinkles them with the sacrificial blood.

A strange event takes place after the Covenant has been ratified. On the day the Law was confirmed, God demonstrates His grace. He makes an exception and allows Aaron, his two sons, and the 70 elders onto Mount Sinai - and in verse 10 we're told "*they saw the God of Israel...*" We're told in verse 11, "*on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.*" What amazes me is they're so laid back. They're in God's presence just chowing and chilling. This is revealing...

Remember, from a distance, God's presence was so awesome and frightening, but apparently when they got up close they realized His warmth, acceptance, and love - it set them at ease. They enjoyed being with God! It refreshed them. Reverence God, indeed!, but we're also told to relax and enjoy God's goodness!

The mountain looked like an erupting volcano. Their meeting with God was quite

The Manna from Heaven

God promises to meet their need twice daily. In the morning He sends bread from heaven. I'm sure if you had analyzed the nutritional composition of the bread it would've contained 100% of the USDA daily requirements. It was God's official "Wonder Bread".

Verses 14-15 tell us what happened that first morning, "And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' The word 'manna' means 'what is it?' Verse 31 tells us, 'And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.' It was Hebrew "Nut'n Honey". It's interesting, that Psalm 78:25 actually refers to manna as angel's food.

There were people who tried to hoard the manna, and take more than a day's portion. Verse 20 tells us, "it bred worms and stank."

God wanted the Hebrews to trust Him day by day. He wanted them to walk in faith - not just muster faith from time to time. If they had hoarded the manna they would've forgotten about God.

The same is true with us. A hefty bank account can hinder our faith. The tendency is to trust in the surplus, rather than the Savior.

We're told in verse 35, "And the children of Israel ate manna forty years,

until they came to an inhabited land..." That's 7 pints a day for 3 million people, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, for 40 years - that's a total manna requirement of 6,750 tons a day.

Think of it this way... Let's say we're feeding all 3 million Hebrews a cheeseburger, a fry, and a coke. That means we need 3 million beef patties a quarter pound a piece. That's 750,000 pounds. If we're shipping it in by rail we would need 200 freight cars - which would require 10 locomotives.

We'd also need 7 rail cars to pull the 750,000 pounds of potatoes for the fries, and 75 freight cars to carry the 750,000 gallons of coca-cola. And to ice down the cokes we'd need 375,000 pounds of ice, which would require 4 more cars.

Here's the rest of the grocery list: buns 250,000 dozen, mustard 11,000 gallons, dill pickles 12,000 gallons, tomatoes 50,000 gallons, cheese 200,000 pounds, onions 175,000 pounds, and lettuce 150,000 head. Now we're talking a train of well over 300 freight cars. Such a train would extend 3 miles.

Now imagine cooking this volume of food. If you cooked 1000 patties per minute - that's a lot of grills. To cook burgers for 3 million people it would take 48 hours - and that's not figuring in the time needed to peel and cook the french fries, slice the onions and tomatoes, and pour the cokes. Yet this is the meal God provided for the children of Israel everyday for 40 long years. Not even the Calvary cookers could pull this off.

The Murmuring against God

At the end of Exodus 15 their song turns into a whine. Some people wake up in the morning with a *rise and shine*. The Hebrews liked to *rise and whine*. They traveled several days without finding any water. Finally, they came to a watering hole, but the spring was poisonous. The name of the place was "Marah", or "bitter". We're told in verse 24, "the people murmured against Moses..." Sadly, this will become an all-too-common occurrence, over the next 40 years! Even after the gift of manna they continued to murmur. You'd think a miracle a day would keep the grumbling away, but not with these Hebrews.

In Exodus 16:8 Moses puts an interesting spin on their complaints. He tells the Hebrews, "Your murmurings are not against us but against the Lord." When we complain about the resources God provides, or the direction God leads, or the circumstances God allows, or the authority God sets up we're really complaining about the Lord. Moses was just a convenient scapegoat. It's been said, "When we swear we take the name of the Lord in vain, but when we grumble we take the purposes of God in vain." God is in control, and He expects to be trusted. It's a lot easier to complain than it is to believe. Murmuring and grumbling are simply masks for unbelief.

In Exodus 20:22-26 the next set of commands after the *big 10* deal with the construction of an altar. It's as if God knows we'll never be able to completely keep all Ten Commandments, especially the spirit of the command. No sooner does God give Israel the commandments that He tells them how to built an altar. He knows they'll break them, and have to offer a sacrifice for forgiveness.

If God knew we'd break the Mosaic Law, and need another way to be right with Him - then why did He give the Law to Israel in the first place?

Here are four reasons:

First, the Law reveals our sin. Without a speed limit sign we'd never know we were driving too fast. Likewise, the Law reveals our lawlessness.

Second, The Law reveals God's righteousness. It raises the bar beyond what any of us would expect of ourselves.

Third, The Law points out our need for a Savior. It teaches us there's no way we can be good enough for God on our own. We need outside help.

Fourth, the Law outlines the Spirit-filled life. Jesus sums up the Law in 2 commands: love God with all you got, and love your neighbor as yourself. The Law shows us what love looks like. Thus, if you're running roughshod over the Law, despite what you might say, you can't possibly be walking in love.

The Meaning of the Law

Devotion Box - Freed to Follow

God didn't lead Israel out of bondage to abandon them in the wilderness. They were freed from Egypt, so they could follow their God.

This is why you and I have been forgiven, and set free... to follow Jesus. God doesn't save us, just to pack a pew until He returns. No, after we're saved we immediately embark on a journey. He has purposes for us.

The Law of the firstborn reminds us the redeemed of the Lord belong to the Lord. God purchases us to possess us. Just like donkeys in Scripture, humans are useful to God only when they're under the reins of Jesus.

Are you following Jesus with your whole heart?

The Management and Moses

Spiritual leadership can be taxing. Imagine Moses' responsibilities. When his hands were high, victory was nigh. If his arms drooped the enemy got the upper hand.

In a sense all spiritual leaders have the same impact. People either feed off their faith, or droop with their discouragements. Pastors need people in the church, like Aaron and Hur, to stand by their side and support them.

Moses' father-in-law Jethro, helped point out to Moses the need to delegate responsibility to faithful sidekicks. In Exodus 18 he saw Moses burning himself out trying to do it all.

Moses represented God, but he was not God. This is what a pastor has to grasp if he wants to survive. Psalm 121:4 tells us God never sleeps... I hate to admit it, but pastors require 6 to 7 hours per night.

I also realize that 20 years from now, most of you will no longer be a member of my congregation, but 20 years from now my wife and four kids will still be members of

my family. I've got to put them first.

Thank the Lord for Jethro! He taught Moses and many pastors that we can't do it all!

A pastor's job is to point you to the Savior, while keeping it clear in his own mind that he is not the Savior. Jethro told Moses, "*you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you...*" Moses, like most pastors, needed to realize if he wanted to be around a while he would need to learn the art of delegation.

At Calvary Chapel, we've selected assistant pastors and elders to address the small matters - and if they have a problem too big for them to tackle they bring it to me.

This allows me to focus on the 3 priorities Jethro gave Moses - chapter 18:19, pray for the people, verse 20 teach the people, verses 21-22 oversee the bigger issues that arise with the people. Moses' job and mine is threefold: *plead, feed, and lead.*

The Movement of Israel



Devotion Box - Where is God Leading?

In Exodus 17:1 God leads the Hebrews to a place where there is no water. This is not what we would expect from God. Surely, God always leads us to bountiful places - where there is more than enough to meet our needs. He would never lead His people to a dry watering hole... or would He?

Every time you make a decision that produces uncomfortable consequences it doesn't mean you've missed God's Will. Sometimes, God leads us into difficult places to test us or refine us.

AW Pink writes, "*We need to realize that in every circumstance and situation where faith is tested, the Lord Himself brought us there. If this be apprehended, it will not be so difficult for us to trust Him to sustain us while we remain there.*"

With the Egyptians to the west, and the sea on the east, Moses raised his rod, and God sent a strong wind to part the waters of the Red Sea. During the night, His people walked across on dry ground.

Perhaps this night, you're in an impossible situation. You're hemmed in and you've got no where to run. Listen to the three things Moses tells the Hebrews in Exodus 14:13-14: "*don't be afraid*" - don't cave in to fear and doubt, your faith is being tested;

Devotion Box - The Red Sea and Me!

"stand still" - your frantic efforts will only complicate the situation, just chill, the Lord will fight this battle and *"see the salvation of the Lord"* - keep your eyes on Him, trust in His hidden resources.

God is still in the miracle-working business. He is more than able to part the waters of your situation. *"Don't be afraid... stand still... and see the salvation of the Lord..."*

Bible Scan - Exodus 13-24

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - October 3, 1999

Heart in a Box? - a one-man musical by Michael Sewell, CC Costa Mesa - next Sunday 6:30pm

Feasts and Fellowships - 10/9 @ 7:00pm Newcomers Reception - 10/17 @ 10:45 & 12:30

Women's Prayer & Praise & Brunch - 10/5 @ 10:00am Baptism - Sunday am - 10/24

Men's Golf Tournament - 10/15 @ 2:00pm Candy Donations being accepted for 10/31

For more info on all the Calvary Chapel activities pick up a *Communicator* in the foyer?

Next Bible Scan - October 17 - Exodus 25-40

"All the words which the Lord has said we will do..."
- Exodus 24:3

Bible Scan Memory Verse

Devotion Box - Lines to Live by...

When we come to Christ, He accepts us *just as we are*, and *right where we're at* He doesn't expect us to clean out the leaven (or sin) in order to be saved - but once saved, we'll want to rid ourselves of any attitude or action that might displease Him. When Jesus cleanses our hearts, our heart's desire is to be found pleasing to Him!

God never ekes out a victory. He always wins by a landslide. His wins are always blowouts. He leads the league in shutouts. *God triumphs gloriously!*

On the cross God struck the rock. Fifty days after the crucifixion, the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost bringing spiritual refreshment to our souls. Jesus cried out in John 7:37, "*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*" Spiritual life still gushes from the rock.

The moment the Lord frees us from the bondage of sin we're immediately thrust into a battle. The Christian life is not a *playground*, but a *battleground*.

"Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might

have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend." - Charles Spurgeon

We all need a Hur (or him) to help hold up our arms. We also need to be widening our circle of contacts to include those who need us to be a Hur.

Understand the difference between love and acceptance. God's love is unconditional. He loves you regardless of what you do. But His acceptance is highly conditional. God has terms you must satisfy to be accepted. The Hebrews must've known that God loved them, but they were unsure of His acceptance.

Jesus is such a merciful master we should be happy to be a slave in the house of the Lord. We can do a lot better with Him than we can on our own.

People are held accountable not only for the harm they cause, but also for the harm caused by the possessions and people under their authority.

In the eyes of God you aren't married until the proper legalities are fulfilled. In ancient Israel it was paying a bridal price. In modern America it's standing before a pastor or justice-of-the-peace, and exchanging vows.

Devotion Box - Little by Little

God takes on your personal Hittites one at a time. He conquers the drinking problem, then the temper and before long, the dirty language disappears. Little by little you take full possession. Don't get impatient. God helps us conquer our habits and enemies one at a time. We begin to take possession and live in total victory little by little.

But there can be no compromise. Israel couldn't keep a few *Hittites* in the land, and you can't keep a couple of *Bud Lights* in the frig! Co-existing with the enemy will eventually cause you to sin. You've got to deal ruthlessly with the foreigners - the issues in your life that are foreign to the will of God. If you compromise, or co-exist, you set yourself up for spiritual failure.