

Exodus Chapter 20

V: 1 “And God spake all these words saying,”

- This chapter is a synopsis of a larger event, basically the end result.

Exodus 24:12 “And the Lord said unto Moses, come up to Me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.”

Exodus 31:18 “And He gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

Exodus 32:15-16 ¹⁵“And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. ¹⁶And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.”

V: 2 “*I am the Lord thy God...*” Identifying Himself, and identifying with us.

“Which brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

- The God who has blessed you, who had delivered you, the God who has borne you on eagles wings.
- As we get into the 10 Commandments; we realize that they are all good, none of them is bad.

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”

- God’s commandments provide us with life, and with freedom.

Psalms 19:7-11 ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

V: 3 “*Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.*”

- Combined and paraphrased somewhat we have the 1st commandment:

1st Commandment: “I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before Me.”

(V: 3 cont.)

- This commandment implies that there are in fact other gods so called, and that we must choose who we're going to worship.

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Isaiah 43:3 “For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.”

Isaiah 43:11 “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no Saviour.”

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of Hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”

- Our God insists on being our exclusive God. The phrase God is a name that we apply, but in reality it is a title; God refers to the master passion of our lives, which governs our lives – as such no other passion can be on the same level – He must have the pre-eminence.
- For some people their god is pleasure; living for the weekend, whatever is fun – the focus of their lives. In the Old Testament they had a name for the god of pleasure: Molech.
- There are those whose god is the intellect, constantly developing their intellect, collecting degrees, perpetual students to the exclusion of everything else in their lives; referred to in the Old Testament as Baal.
- Ashteroth was the goddess of sensuality, a goddess that is greatly worshipped in our culture today, people don't necessarily bow down to a little image today, they just play the music, wear the clothes, and engage in the behavior.
- Adolescent Jr. High kids, texting erotic pictures of themselves, mimicking their role models – worshipping what they don't even know.
- There are those whose god is power & money; Mammon. Some worship revelry & drinking; the Old Testament Bacchus.
- The list goes on; but they are all subservient to the god of this world; and he is a cruel master – any worship directed to these false gods will end in weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.

Colossians 1:16-18 “¹⁶For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: ¹⁷And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the

beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”

V: 4-5 **2nd Commandment:** “Thou shalt not make any graven images, nor bow down to them.”

- No graven images, no likenesses that are made for the purpose of worship. This is not an injunction against art, it’s about what we worship.
- You are not to give your worship to worthless idols.

Romans 1:18-25 “¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies, between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

Isaiah 40:25 “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.”

Psalms 115:4-8 “⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: ⁶They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: ⁷They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

Romans 8:29 “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

- Christianity isn’t about making images, and bowing down to them, it’s about being conformed into the image of Christ Jesus our Lord.

God declares that He is a jealous God. Webster: intolerant of unfaithfulness or rivalry.

- Jealous: (H7067). qanna', kan-naw'; meaning to be jealous or zealous.

- In every instance of this word, it is used to describe the character of the Lord. He is a jealous God who will not tolerate the worship of other gods (Ex. 20:5; Deut. 5:9).
- This word is always used to describe God's attitude toward the worship of false gods, which arouses His jealousy and anger in judgment against the idol worshipers (Deut. 4:24; 6:15).
- So closely is this characteristic associated with God that His name is Jealous (Ex. 34:14).

Exodus 34:14 "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

"Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the 3rd and 4th generation of them that hate Me."

- This doesn't mean that if our parents are evil, that we will be part of their punishment.

Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

- What this does refer to is that if we continue in our parents sin, then that judgment will come upon us as well; those that continue in them, continue in the hatred of God.
- This also refers to children that are raised up in an ungodly environment; they are apt to be ungodly and to continue in the path of their parents. The Amalekites and the inhabitants of Canaan are a good example of this.
- The opposite is true as well, as we see in verse 6; if we raise our children in the nurture and admonition of God's word, if our children see us abiding in Him, walking in His ways, that His word is authoritative in our lives – that will effect our children for generations as well.

V: 6 God's grace – the introduction of Jesus into our lives breaks that cycle of sin and death.

Psalms 103:8 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2nd Commandment: "Thou shalt not make any graven images, nor bow down to them."

V: 7 **3rd Commandment:** “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;”

- Invoking the name of God carelessly, without reverence.
 1. “Oh God, Oh God!” - “Oh my God!” (euphemism’s)
 2. Smashing your finger with a hammer – “Jesus Christ!”
- Why don’t we say “Krishna!” “Hitler!”

Jesus later warns us:

Matthew 5:33 “Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths.”

- God takes us seriously, He listens to what we say.

James 4:15 “For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”
- The name of God is holy and we need to be careful in how we use it or invoke it.
- The Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.

V: 8-11 **4th Commandment:** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

- Holy: (H6942) “Qadash” - Sanctify, Holy, dedicate, consecrate, separate, to be treated as sacred to set apart for God’s use.
- The Sabbath day will be different, set apart because the other 6 days you will work, but not on this day – not you, nor your wife, or your kids, or your servants.
- God has given us the example of creation, God created things for 6 days, but on the 7th day He rested – an example for us to follow.
- This is the only commandment that is not repeated in the New Testament.
- The early church began to worship God on Sunday, the 1st day of the week in commemoration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

Jesus is our Sabbath, and we worship Him every day.

Colossians 2:16-17 “¹⁶Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: ¹⁷Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body / substance is of Christ.”

- If the Sabbath day of the Old Testament was a shadow of things to come – Then what is that? It was a shadow of the rest that is given us by Jesus, for they that have received Jesus have entered into His rest.

Matthew 11:28 “Come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Isaiah 30:15 “For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:...”

- Jesus is that rest, He is the fulfillment of the Sabbath for us.

Romans 14:5 “One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.”

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- These 1st four commandment deal with our relationship with God.
 - Our relationship with God is the vertical axis of our lives, all the other relationship that we have exist on a horizontal plane. Every other relationship is therefore impacted or influenced by that vertical axis.
 - If our vertical axis is out of whack, off balance in some way, then so will everything else be.
 - But when our relationship with God is in order, in His will – then we have a stable basis to engage in the other relationships in our lives which will be impacted in a positive way.

This is why Jesus exhorts us:

Matthew 6:33 “... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- So often there are issues in the horizontal relationships that we struggle to fix or adjust and it's a constant battle that wears us down in frustration – things that will never be right until we correct things in the vertical relationship.
- God knows this, hence the focus first on the vertical relationship in His law first, then the commandments that deal with the horizontal.

V: 12 **5th Commandment:** “Honour thy father and thy mother”.

- Promise: doing so will result in blessing, a full life.
- The fabric of our culture and society are deeply intertwined with the family unit, it is the foundation of our society.

Honoring your father and your mother; what does this look like practically?

Ephesians 6:1-3 “¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ²Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; ³that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

1. Obedience.
 2. Always speak well of them to others.
 3. Never do anything to harm them.
 4. Receive correction and rebuke from them without getting upset.
- God’s laws seek to strengthen this relationship, man’s laws seek to weaken and destroy this most basic human relationship.

V: 13 **6th Commandment:** “Thou shalt not kill.” – “You shall not murder.”

- “Kill” (7523) “ratsach”, (raw-tsakh’); to dash in pieces, to murder, assassinate, kill, pre-meditated murder.
- Acts of war, law enforcement, this is not murder – there are many instances in the Old Testament where God ordains war, battles are fought, men are killed – that isn’t murder.
- Romans chapter 13 describes the fact that the officer carries the sword or the side arm for a reason, God ordained capital punishment – these are not acts of murder.

Matthew 5:21-22 “²¹Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...”

- Man looks on the outside, God looks on the heart.

V: 14 **7th Commandment:** “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

- Pretty straight forward, another commandment that upholds family relationships and values.
- The marriage relationship is intended to represent or model the relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church. Just as it does between God the Father, and Israel.

(V: 14 cont. – adultery)

1. God ordained an intimate relationship, a sexual relationship within the confines of marriage.
2. Commonly people assume that sex is either about procreation or recreation; and while there are elements of truth to both assumptions, an intimate physical relationship is really about unification.
3. It is about two souls being mystically and miraculously merged as one, it is an intimacy of soul and spirit – which once enjoined can never be totally separated.
4. To be separated means to leave a little bit of each person embedded or infused into the other person. Once separated they will never be whole again, and will have less and less to offer the next person.
5. Sexual activity outside of marriage is a piecemeal destruction of the soul, one piece, one layer at a time – it's a mutation or a perversion of what God intended for us.
6. As such the penalties in the Old Testament were severe, and intended both as a deterrent and a cure. The penalty was death.

Leviticus 20:10 “And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”

- The New Testament carries this forward to the natural conclusion:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

- When the nation of Israel was un-faithful and worshipped other gods, it was referred to as “whoredoms” and fornication, it was spiritual fornication.
- Again this is a heart issue that Jesus addresses in the sermon on the mount in Matthew Ch. 5.
- As Jesus gets into these illustrations that delve into “heart issues” and an outward observance of the law – it is prefaced with the statement:

Matthew 5:20 “For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

- Outward observance isn't enough, we need to deal with these issues in our hearts.

V: 15 **8th Commandment:** “[Thou shalt not steal.](#)”

Proverbs 31:8-9 “⁸Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

V: 16 **9th Commandment:** “[Thou shalt not bear false witness.](#)”

Psalm 51:6 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

Proverbs 6:16-19 “¹⁶These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

V: 17 **10th Commandment:** “[Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's stuff.](#)”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Paul could boast:

Philippians 3:5-6 “⁵Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

Romans 7:9 “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”

- Paul was saying that when he really understood the law, that it was dealing with spiritual things, sin revived, and it killed him, condemned him to death.

Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

V: 18-20 God had Moses sanctify the people, and bring them to the border at the base of Mount Sinai, as they saw the impressive display of power, the thunderings and the lightnings, the loud trumpet, God descending upon the mountain in flames and fire like a furnace; they heard the voice of God speaking – they removed and stood afar off.

- They distanced themselves from God. They were afraid and wanted Moses to interact with God.
- God wanted them to witness this event, that they would have a righteous fear – which would keep them from sin.

V: 21 The people end up standing afar off – distancing themselves from God – one of the next pictures we see is the people making and worshipping the golden calf.

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

- Contrast: the people stood afar off, but Moses drew closer.

V: 22-23 God tells Moses to remind the people that they, not just Moses, but they have heard the voice of God – that previously they agreed to be obedient:

Exodus 19:8 “And all the people answered together, and said, all that the Lord hath spoken we will do.”

- Knowing their propensity; God reminds the people of the 2nd commandment in clear terms.
- Don't make gods for yourselves; whether silver or gold.

V: 24-26 Worship Me this way. Make an altar of sacrifice; use natural stones – do not alter the stones because by doing so you profane the altar.

- This is a picture of God's grace:

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- We're not allowed to add anything to the worship of God, we can't improve on it – it must be done God's way – in Spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

- God doesn't want us to be distracted in our worship of Him. We're not to be distracted by fancy masonry or art work, nor by the apparel of the priest or the pastor, nothing that would take the attention away from God and place it upon a person or a thing.
- The focus wasn't to be the altar itself, but the sacrifice upon the altar.
- Distractions are to be kept to a minimum; that's why we discourage people from calling out "amen's" or "praise the Lord's" and similar things during the teaching of the word, because that can distract from the Word of God. People look to see who said that, or it throws their thoughts off, or it throws me off.
- We seek to keep the distractions to a minimum, so that we can give our full attention to God's Word, that He would speak to us through His word, and that we would receive all that He has for us.

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, on jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Deuteronomy 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!”

1. “I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before Me.”
2. “Thou shalt not make any graven images, nor bow down to them.”
3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;”
4. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
5. “Honour thy father and thy mother”.
6. “Thou shalt not kill.”
7. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”
8. “Thou shalt not steal.”
9. “Thou shalt not bear false witness.”
10. “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's stuff.”