



Session #3

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Exodus 20:1-17 | The Covenant With Moses

Review God's ultimate goal for establishing covenants with humanity:

- ① I will be your God.
- ② You will be my people.
- ③ I will dwell among you.

(Exodus 6:7; 29:45; Ezekiel 11:20; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Revelation 21:3)

A Simple Grid for Understanding Covenants:

- ① Who originates the covenant?
- ② Who all are included in the covenant?
- ③ What is the purpose of the covenant?
- ④ What is the length of the covenant?
- ⑤ What is the sign of the covenant?

Exodus 20:1-17

¹ Then God gave the people all these instructions:
² "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.
³ "You must not have any other god but me.
⁴ "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶ But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.
⁷ "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.
⁸ "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, ○

▶ and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

¹² "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ "You must not murder.

¹⁴ "You must not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You must not steal.

¹⁶ "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

Who originates the covenant?

As always, it is God.

→| **The Ten Commandments are a covenant of grace.**

*"The commandments prove that God wants mankind to be free: 'I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, **out of the house of bondage.**' Following the commandments actually frees us from the terrible consequences of sin, making our lives better."*

~Dennis Prager

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ ...You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

The Ten Commandments are God's guidelines for every main area of human existence:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| ① religion, | ⑥ life, |
| ② worship, | ⑦ faithfulness, |
| ③ reverence, | ⑧ property, |
| ④ time, | ⑨ honesty, and |
|]⑤ authority, | ⑩ contentment. |

~Roy B. Zuck & John Walvoord,
The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Exodus 20.

Who all are included in the covenant?

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What is the purpose of the covenant?

→| **The Ten Commandments show us how to live and how to love.**

The Ten Commandments reveal to us what God is like and what matters to God.

The Sinai Covenant (*the Ten Commandments*) answers the basic questions of humanity:

"How do we love God?"

"How do we love other people?"

→| **The Ten Commandments answer the question: "What does love look like?"**

Treating God with reverence.

Treating people with respect.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁴ "Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

³⁷ Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

The apostles also clearly illustrated the connection between the Ten Commandments and God's love:

Paul explained:

Romans 13:9-10

⁹ For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

John also wrote:

1 John 5:3

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome"

What is the length of the covenant?

"The Ten Commandments have no authority over you. None. To be clear: Thou shalt not obey the Ten Commandments"

~Andy Stanley, Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World, pg. 136

→| **The Ten Commandments show us how God defines sin.**

1 John 3:4

"Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God."

"Sin is the opposite of God's law—the antithesis of how God thinks and acts."

~anonymous

Every human being has sinned.

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:10b

"...No one is righteous—not even one."

Sin eventually results in death:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

→| **The way that God sees sin, to break the covenant of God in one place is to break the entire covenant.**

James 2:10-11

¹⁰ "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. ¹¹ For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law."

What is the sign of the covenant?

→| **The sign of the covenant is the Sabbath. Like the rainbow with Noah and circumcision with Abraham, the covenant with Moses and the people of Israel has a sign—Sabbath.**

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Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you.¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

! Implications/Applications

Salvation is not **the result** of obeying God’s Word and keeping God’s law; salvation is **the reason** to obey God’s Word and keep God’s law.

The law of God shows [us] the need for a Savior, not the way to self-salvation [*to save ourselves*].

The purpose of God’s law, the Ten Commandments is to show us:

- ① God’s standards
- ② How short we fall in the effort to keep God’s standards
- ③ The futility of trying to attain God’s standards by ourselves—that, it is impossible to be made right with God by keeping God’s commandments.
- ④ The remedy that God offers us—how we can be made right with God.

The Apostle Paul explains it this way to the church at Rome:

Romans 3:19-22

¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

NOTES:



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