

Exodus 21-22

REVIEW...

- **Chapters 1-19 - First half of the book of Exodus...**
 - **Chapters 1-12** - The slavery of the Children of Israel - the 10 plagues of Egypt...
 - **Chapters 13-15** - God led Israel into the wilderness by way of the Red Sea crossing....
 - **Chapter 16-18** - LOTS of doubt – no water / no- food – strike the Rock / Manna!
- **Chapters 20-40 – Second half of the book of Exodus...**
 - In order for God to make Israel His nation – first had to meet with them...
 - The plan of God for Israel – His chosen people / Kingdom of priests...
 - A holy righteous God – unapproachable – Moses had to mediate (*picture of Jesus*)!
 - The beginning of the Law – the TEN commandments...
 - 1. No other God / 2. No idols / 3. Don't take the Lord's name / 4. Sabbath...
 - 5. Honor your parents / 6. Murder / 7. Adultery / 8. Steal / 9. Lie / 10. Covet

THE LAW OF GOD – FOR A SOCIETY...

- **THESE ARE THE JUDGEMENTS... vs. 1**
 - Having established the beginning of the Law with the TEN commandments...
 - The FOUR commands regarding mans relationship with God
 - The SIX commands regarding mans relationship with other men...
 - God is now going to give a series of laws regarding the RULES to govern a society...
 - THE JUDGEMENTS – [הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים] – meaning RULES - from the root word for JUDGE...
 - They were NOT meant to be enforced by the people – God would give to them JUDGES...
 - The purpose of these civil laws was to bring ORDER and SAFETY to the nation of Israel...
 - To set them APART from the rest of the world as a just and fair nation – the people of God!
 - Many of these laws seem like COMMON SENSE - cause our laws are based on the LAWS of God!
 - FIVE different categories in Chapters 21-22 - Servants / Violence / Animals / Property / Morals
- **1ST – THE LAW ON SERVANTS (EMPLOYEES) ... vs. 2-11**
 - 1st - Rules for a male Hebrew SERVANT... vs. 2
 - If you bought a Hebrew servant – you could only purchase him for SIX years...
 - In the SEVENTH year of his service – you had to let him go free at no cost...
 - The reason being men are not to be owned by other men – they belonged to God!
 - Too often we think our lives are ours to live any way we want to – do what we want...
 - But we are not our own – we have been bought by Jesus – **I Corinthians 6:20**
 - God also wanted to make clear – God is not a respecter of persons – **Acts 10:34 / Romans 2:11**
 - God does not put the servant higher than the master – **Galatians 3:28**

- God does not care about labels – our gender / nationality / social status / religion...
- There are only TWO categories for God – those who believe in Jesus – those who do not!

○ 2nd - The BONDSERVANT... vs. 3-6

- If a man was sold into slavery with his wife – he is set free with his wife after SEVEN years...
 - But if he is GIVEN a wife while he is a slave – and has children – ONLY he will go free!
 - If he CHOSE to stay with his master – his wife / kids – he became a BONDSERVANT for life!
 - Jesus does not demand that we give our lives to Him – it is our choice...
 - We can choose to live for ourselves – live for this world – in bondage to this world...
 - But the irony is when we give our lives to Jesus – that is when we are truly free!
 - **John 8:36** – “If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”
- The master would take him to the JUDGES – [הַצִּדִּיקִים] - ELOHIM
 - He would have his ear pierced (*on a doorpost*) to show he was a BONDSERVANT...
 - The word JUDGES is literally the word – THE GODS – which has caused confusion!
 - ELOHIM – translated- Judges – **Exodus 20:6** / Angels – **Psalms 8:6** / Rulers – **Exodus 22:28**
 - JUDGES – judge by the Law of God / Angels – are the messengers of God...
 - Kings – rule over people on behalf of God – so all THREE represent God!

○ 3rd - A female Hebrew SERVANT ... vs. 7-11

- If a father sells his daughter to be a SERVANT – she does NOT go free after SEVEN years...
 - This may appear that God gave preferential treatment to men over women...
 - But we MUST remember it was the Bible that gave RIGHTS to women...
 - In cultures – even today – who do NOT have the Bible women have few to no rights!
 - Roman law - the wife was the purchased property of her husband...
 - In Saudi Arabia - women are not allowed to drive / own land / choose a husband...
 - Women cannot go out in public without a male escort - father / brother / husband!
 - Our RIGHTS come from the Bible - it is God who established equality - **Galatians 3:28**
 - Ladies next time you go to vote - or even just choose what you want to wear...
 - Give a hearty THANK YOU to the Lord - He is the God who loves all equally!
- If a master is NOT pleased (*did evil in his eyes*) – she can be REDEEMED by her family...
 - She cannot be sold to a foreigner – she is a child of God...
 - If she is given as a wife to the son of her MASTER – she is no longer a SERVANT...
 - If the master takes a SECOND wife – he cannot treat her as SECOND class...
 - If he reduced her food / clothing / marriage rights – she will be set FREE!
- The Old Testament never expressly FORBIDS having more than ONE wife...
 - Yet EVERY time it occurs – it only causes problems – Jacob with Rachel and Leah!
 - And every time God gives rules concerning it – it is in a negative light!
 - That is why the Jewish teachers concluded it was a Bad idea!
 - It was not the original plan of God – Adam and Eve - **Genesis 2:18-25**
 - The NT Jesus makes it clear marriage is for ONE man to ONE woman – **Matthew 19:4-7**

● 2ND – THE LAW ON VIOLENCE... vs. 12-27

○ 1st - Death for MURDER... vs. 12-14

- If a man who STRIKES (*hiphal*) another so that he DIES – will be put (*hophal*) to DEATH...
 - If a man did NOT lie in wait – ACCIDENTAL death - there would be a place to FLEE...
 - God would establish SIX cities of REFUGE – **Numbers 35:6**

- But if a man acts with PREMEDITATION (*boils over*) and kills – he will DIE at the ALTAR!
- The Law for murder was meant to PROTECT / PRESERVE life...
 - God did this through the deterrent of the DEATH PENALTY for MURDER...
 - SHOWING that nothing is more precious than human LIFE!
 - The REASON – man is created in the image of God – body / soul / spirit – **Genesis 9:6**
 - **One of the premier characteristics of a Godly society is the SANCTITY of life!**
- 2nd - Death for DISOBEDIENCE to parents... vs. 15/17
 - If a child STRUCK (*hiphil*) his parents – the word can mean to kill – VERY violent act...
 - CURSES (*piel*) – intensely CURSES his parents – he was to be put to death!
 - In other words - if you do not obey the FIFTH commandment – **Exodus 20:12**
 - The consequence was death – the child was to be stoned – **Deuteronomy 21:21**
 - **Why – to ENCOURAGE children not to REBEL – but instead to OBEY their parents...**
 - **To ENCOURAGE parents – to discipline and train up their children!**
 - Children who have no discipline – who disrespect their parents – disobedient...
 - As they get older tend to become deviant / troubled youth...
 - Often only to end up in prison – deadbeats – or just simply dead!
 - **Children need to LEARN the consequences of actions – LEARN obedience...**
 - **That is why parents need to be willing to teach and train their children in the Lord!**
 - **Proverbs 13:24** – “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
 - **Proverbs 22:15** – “Sin is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”
 - **Proverbs 23:13** – “Do NOT fail to correct your kids. They will NOT die if you spank them.”
- 3rd - Death for KIDNAPPING... vs. 16
 - A simple deterrent for KIDNAPPING – if you did – you were a dead man!
 - In the country of Mexico – kidnapping is only punishable by prison time...
 - For that reason - an average of 4000 kidnappings every year – SECOND highest in the world!
- 4th - Law on MAIMING... vs. 18-19
 - If two men FIGHT and one is hit with a fist or stone – but NOT killed - just injured...
 - The one who hurt him MUST pay for the loss of his time at work – PROVIDE for him...
 - And PAY for all of his medical bills till he is COMPLETELY healed!
 - **The Law is intended to be very practical / just / and fair – teach consequences for our actions!**
 - **How many fewer fights – fewer drinks – would we see if there were serious consequences!**
- 5th - Death for killing a servant... vs. 20-21/ 26-27
 - If a master beats his servant – and he / she dies – he shall be put to PUNISHED...
 - PUNISHED (*niphal*) – to be AVENGED – in context he will be put to DEATH...
 - But if the servant RECOVERS after a day or so – the master will NOT be put to death...
 - If in the process the servant loses an eye or a tooth – the servant had to be set FREE!

- The Bible has often been accused of endorsing slavery...
 - The reality is the world at this time was full of slavery...
 - The entire nation of Israel had just been saved from centuries of slavery...
 - In Rome a slave had NO rights – could be sold / beaten / or killed without consequence!
 - **God was establishing rules to give rights to slaves to eventually remove slavery!**
- 6th - Death for killing an unborn infant... vs. 22-25
 - If two men are fighting – and a pregnant woman gets hurt – giving birth prematurely...
 - If the child is NOT harmed – the man who hurt the child has to pay (*husbands choice*) ...
 - But if any harm follows – then eye for eye / tooth for tooth / wound for wound...
 - The idea being equal reprisal – you could only do to others what they did to you!
 - **It was not meant to be vindictive – it was meant to be limiting...**
 - **Meaning you were NOT allowed to do more to someone in revenge than they had done...**
 - **We want revenge - if you take my eye – I want to take both of yours / and ears / nose!**
 - Jesus picked up on this Law in the NT and elaborated – **Matthew 5:39/44**
 - Where the Law says – if someone hits us – we can only hit them back (*equal*) ...
 - Love says - if someone hits you in the face - turn the other cheek!
 - **Even sinners love to that love them back – that does not show we know God...**
 - **It is by loving those who hate us – that is when we shine for Jesus!**
 - Life for life - if the child dies – the man will also be put to death!
 - There is a raging debate today over whether an unborn child is ALIVE...
 - There are an estimated 400k abortions every year in the Philippines...
 - Worldwide it is estimated over 40 million abortions – babies are killed - every year!
 - **A woman does NOT have a right to terminate a pregnancy with an abortion...**
 - **The Bible could not be clearer – an unborn child is a human life...**
 - **If you kill a child in the womb – its murder – and deserved the death penalty!**
 - **Psalms 139:13 – “You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.”**
- 3RD - THE LAW ON ANIMALS... vs. 28-36
 - 1st – Ox gores a person to death... vs. 28-32
 - The ox must be killed and NOT eaten (*respect for the death*) – but the owner is innocent...
 - But if the ox had a reputation of being violent – BOTH ox and man are put to death...
 - The guilty man could REDEEM his life – he had to pay ANY amount the family required!
 - Ox gores a servant...
 - The ox must be killed – the owner of the servant must pay THIRTY pieces of silver!
 - **How much was the life of Jesus worth to those who sought to kill Him...**
 - **You would think the creator of all heaven and earth would have a hefty price tag...**
 - **Certainly - Jesus was worth a kings ransom – million / no billions of pesos!**
 - **Jesus was betrayed for price of a gored servant - THIRTY pieces of silver – Matthew 26:15**
 - 2nd – Digging a ditch... vs. 33-34
 - If a man digs a ditch and leaves it UNCOVERED – and an animal falls in and dies...
 - The man who dug the ditch must repay the price of the animal to the owner!

- If we dig a well – it is our fault if someone accidentally falls into it – we should have covered it!
- 3rd - Ox kills another ox... vs. 35-36
 - The live ox must be sold – then the money / and dead ox divided between the owners...
 - But if the ox had a violent reputation – owner gets the dead ox / replaces the lost ox!
 - If we have a dog and it bites a child for the FIRST time – it is not our fault...
 - But if we know our dog bits – and it hurts a child – we are responsible!
 - We are responsible for our ACTIONS - (*digging a ditch*) ...
 - And we are responsible for what we KNOW (*the tendency for our ox to be violent*) ...
 - People have LOTS of excuses – they do NOT want ACCOUNTABILITY...
 - But the LAW says we are ACCOUNTABLE – for every ACTION – for what we KNOW...
 - We will even have to answer one day for every idle word - **Mathew 12:36**
- 4TH- THE LAW ON PROPERTY... vs. 1-15
 - 1st – Consequence for THEFT... vs. 1/3-4
 - If the person is caught with what they stole– restore double (*what they took plus one*) ...
 - But if the person sells or kill what they stole – they must restore it FOUR-FOLD...
 - If they had nothing to pay with – they would be sold to pay for their theft!
 - The Law was meant to be the deterrent - to keep you from committing theft...
 - If the penalty for stealing a 1000P was only giving back what I took – no risk...
 - But if the penalty for stealing a chicken – is repaying 2000P - or even 4000P...
 - And if you do NOT have the money – they you have to work it off – REALLY good deterrent!
 - If the penalty for a crime is NOT severe enough – if it does not cost enough...
 - It will NOT keep people from committing a crime – the Law taught CONSEQUENCE!
 - **Galatians 6:7** – “God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
 - 2nd – SELF DEFENSE... vs. 2-3
 - If a thief broke into a house at night – and was killed...
 - There was NO [אין לו] guilt – the person had EVERY right to defend himself!
 - But if the thief broke in during the day – and was killed – they were held accountable...
 - Because in the daytime – they could call out for help – self-defense was the LAST option!
 - It is OK to own a gun – there is wisdom in knowing how to FIGHT / PROTECT...

- The Law endorsed the right of self-defense – within reason...
- We should seek to reason first / ask for help / violence only as the VERY last option!
- 3rd – Damaging property ... vs. 5-6
 - If your animal wander into another field – you had to repay what it ate...
 - If you set a fire – and it burned another field – you had to replace the loss!
 - These are VERY practical laws – that we saw needed when we were in the mountains...
 - People would let their caribou or goat – eat sugar cane or rice from other fields...
 - Or as they burned the sugarcane – it would get out of control and burns other fields!
 - The Law laid down the clearly defined concept of property ownership...
 - If you plant crops – they are yours – no one else can harvest them...
 - Your neighbor can eat your crop - what he could take by hand – **Deuteronomy 23:25**
 - But if he harvests the crop - eaten by his animal or burned – you must be compensated!
- 4th – Borrowing and lending... vs. 7-15
 - If you BORROW (*money or things*) from your neighbor – and it is STOLEN...
 - If the thief is found – then they will have to pay DOUBLE – **Exodus 22:4**
 - If the thief is NOT found – the man who borrowed is taken to the judges to decide...
 - Impartial JUDGES [הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים] - will decide if the neighbor is lying – or innocent...
 - If he is NOT telling the truth – then he will have to pay DOUBLE – **Exodus 22:4**
 - Suppose you had a CELLPHONE and accused your neighbor of stealing it – TWO options...
 - Either he took the CELLPHONE and is lying / Or you are lying about him taking it!
 - Either way the JUDGES would decide – WHOEVER was lying would pay DOUBLE!
 - As believers we are NOT to go before secular judges with problems - **I Corinthians 6:1-8**
 - Do NOT file a lawsuit against a brother in the Lord – or take him to the barangay...
 - Bad WITNESS - rather than defame the name of Christ before unbelievers...
 - **I Corinthians 6:7** – “Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?”
 - If a man BORROWS an animal...
 - If the animal is STOLEN or DIES – but NO one sees it – the BORROWER must take an OATH...
 - He has to SWEAR to the Lord he is NOT guilty – then he has to pay NOTHING...
 - The thought being the FEAR of the Lord would keep him HONEST!
 - But if the BORROWER is found to have the STOLEN the animal – pay DOUBLE - **Exodus 22:4**
 - If the animal is KILLED by a beast – bring the pieces – BORROWER does NOT have to pay...
 - But if the animal DIES or is INJURED because of the work – the BORROWER must pay!
 - Unless the OWNER was there when it happened – then it was part of the RENTAL!
 - If we borrow anything – and it breaks or is lost – it is our responsibility
 - If we are not able to replace what we borrow – do NOT borrow it!
- 5TH - THE LAW ON MORALS... vs. 16-31
 - 1st – Pre-marital sex... vs. 16-17
 - If a man ENTICES (*piel*) to seduce or deceive - his fiancée (*or girlfriend*) to lie with him...

- Then he must marry the woman (*pay the dowry for her to be his wife*) ...
- If her father refuses to let them marry – he must still pay the dowry to the father!
- What to do when a young couple - messes up...
 - We live in a society that says it is ok to just LIVE with your spouse for a while...
 - It is even common to use the term HUSBAND and WIFE – without there being a marriage!
 - God is VERY clear – either get married - or stop having the physical relationship!
 - We want God to bless our MARRIAGE - but do NOT even obey His command to be MARRIED!
- 2nd - IDOL worship... vs. 18-20
 - You shall NOT permit a SORCERESS (*piel*) to live... vs. 18
 - Those who dabble / practice channeling spirits – magic – witchcraft – are to be killed!
 - I had a friend in Bible College who could make a rope float from his hand...
 - Not because he had any POWER – it was a trick – for amusement!
 - There is nothing wrong with magic TRICKS – but be careful about the real thing...
 - It is dabbling with demons – opening the door for satan to influence our lives...
 - Channeling spirits / astrology - are forbidden by God – **Deuteronomy 18:11**
 - Death penalty for sex with animals... vs. 19
 - Open – and perverted sexuality - were a LARGE part of pagan worship...
 - That included prostitution / homosexuality / and even bestiality!
 - Be thankful we live in a society that based on Christian morals and principals...
 - We take for granted that certain things are unacceptable – even unmentionable...
 - God makes it VERY clear the only sexual relationship He allows is with marriage!
 - **Hebrew 13:4** – “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
 - Death penalty for sacrificing to another god ... vs. 20
 - Worshiping any other gods [לֵאֱלֹהִים] – than the Lord [לַיהוָה] – death under the Law...
 - If you take a branch – and connect it to a car / money / house – it dies...
 - It is only when you connect a branch to a tree – it bears fruit – **John 15:4-5**
 - Whenever we put anything before God in our lives – spiritually we begin to die...
 - It is only when we live for Jesus – abide in Jesus – we find true life – **John 10:10**
- 3rd - Strangers and orphans... vs. 21-24
 - Do NOT mistreat or oppress the STRANGER – because Israel was a STRANGER in Egypt!
 - Do NOT take advantage of the widow or the orphan...
 - If they cry out to the Lord – He WILL hear – and his WRATH will become hot (*perfect*) ...
 - Then God will make the wives of Israel WIDOWS - and their children ORPHANS!
 - **Hebrews 13:2** – “Do NOT forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!”
 - **James 1:27** – “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble...”
 - We are commanded to care for others – the needy (*orphans*) – even strangers...
 - When we take the time to give food the hungry and drink to the thirsty...
 - By doing so we show the Love of God to others – the goodness of God – **John 13:35**
 - Through which we give them the opportunity to know Jesus – **Romans 2:4**
 - More than that - we when we care for strangers we are actually ministering to Jesus!

- **Matthew 25:40** - “[Jesus] will answer and say to them - Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”
- 4th - Lending... vs. 25-27
 - Do NOT charge INTEREST...
 - God makes it clear we are NOT to take advantage of those in need...
 - If you take a pledge from those who have nothing – give back their cloak before night...
 - If you do – God WILL hear – for God is GRACIOUS (*He cares about the people*)!
 - The examples would be – those who loan to the pensioners / or pawn shops...
 - They care nothing for the people – only to make money at the expense of the poor!
 - **Proverbs 28:8** – “A person who makes money by charging interest will lose it. It will end up in the hands of someone who is kind to the poor.” [NLT]
 - If we want to help – just give...
 - It is a good idea NOT to lend to anyone – people are thrilled when you lend to them...
 - Then avoid you like the plague when it comes time to be paid back...
 - Hulam lipay lipay / bayad away away!
 - Better to simply give it if we have it – show we are GRACIOUS like our Father in heaven!
 - **Romans 13:8** – “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”
- 5th - Leadership... vs. 28
 - Do not REVILE (*to think little of*) gods [אֱלֹהִים] – in context referring to leaders...
 - Or CURSE the ruler (*Moses*) or your people – who was representing God!
 - **Romans 13:1** – “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”
 - Now we might think – God must NOT know our rulers – they are corrupt/untrustworthy!
 - But no one in authority is there by accident – God has placed them in that position...
 - As long as they do not contradict the Word of God – then we are to obey them!
- 6th – Be HOLY ... vs. 29-31
 - You shall be HOLY – in what you EAT...
 - One way to show that was - do NOT eat meat torn by wild animals...
 - It was to be given to the dogs - do NOT eat roadkill – it is just not healthy!
 - HOLY in what we GIVE – do NOT delay in the FIRST FRUITS...
 - The first of their crops / their flocks / their SONS...
 - The animals had to be with their mother for SEVEN days – then given to the Lord...
 - The idea of first fruits speaks of order – giving to the Lord first!
 - If I went out and bought some new gym clothes – because mine were falling apart...
 - Then offered to give you my old clothes – because I do not need them anymore...
 - What would that say about our relationship – how much do I value you!
 - I am always amused when people donate things to the church...
 - We tend to get the things people could not even give away...
 - So often when people give to Jesus – it is almost as an afterthought / the leftover...
 - But what does that say about the priority Jesus has in our lives / His importance to us!

- Holy - [קֹדֶשׁ]- to be set apart for God - to be called out of this world...
 - God is perfect - holy - righteous - and His standard for us is His Holiness...
 - This is the foundation of the whole Law - the standard of righteousness - is God!
 - **Leviticus 19:2** - “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”
 - When we consider His Holiness - we understand how impossible the standard is...
 - It is impossible to be perfect - we cannot be righteous in our own efforts...
 - But the Law was never meant to make us perfect - instead to teach us we are sinners!
 - **Galatians 3:24** – “Therefore the law was our teacher to bring us to Christ...”
 - Realizing that is the Key to Heaven – because now we know we need help - Jesus!