

Exodus part 2

Tonight we're continuing through the 66 books of the Bible. So let's turn in our Bibles to Exodus 19...Our destination tonight is Exodus 40 – a lot of ground to cover.

There are 3 themes that run through the book of Exodus...Order

1. **GOD PROVIDES REDEMPTION - 1-18:** This covers the most well known portion of the book of exodus where God redeems the children of Israel from their Egyptian oppressors namely Pharaoh...We call this the “**Exodus**” - **WE SAW THIS LAST WEEK**
2. **GOD PROVIDE SPIRITUAL FORMATION - God's Law given - 19 - 24:** This covers the portion of the story where God gives the law to the nation of Israel teaching them how to live as the Holy People of God
3. **GOD'S DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION - God's Tabernacle Built - 25 - 40** This covers the portion of scripture where God declares His desire to dwell WITH His people and what He did to make that happen

The heart of the the rest of Exodus revolves around these 2 events...so that's what we're gonna focus on tonight

Exodus 19-24 Highlight the Giving of the Law

Exodus 19:1–2 (ESV) ¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain...

So we're exactly three months after the Exodus from Egypt. And they would spend upwards of a year here at the base of this mountain

Exodus 19:3–6 (ESV) ³ while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ '**You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians**, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and **brought you to myself**. ⁵ **Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;** ⁶ **and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...**

So He God says 3 big things to children of Israel

1. **Remember WHAT I've done** - "You've seen what I've done" - This is be something God will say to His people to do over and over again:
 - (1) We should always remember what Jesus has done in our lives, Tell generations after us...
2. **Remember WHY I've done it** - "To bring you to myself" - God didn't just rescue them from something, He rescued them to something - From Slavery to Relationship
3. **Remember WHO you are** - "If you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" - God was calling them to be different from the rest of the pagan nations around them

- (1) That's what He's called us to be as well - **Jesus says in Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)** ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

So God's law is about to be handed down...and this is there preemptive response

Exodus 19:8 (ESV) ⁸ All the people answered together and said, “**All that the Lord has spoken we will do.**” And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord

So they confidently declare that “all that God has spoken they will do” in other word “**sure, No problem!**”

1. Chapter 32 tells us a different story right - The golden calf

2. This is a classic picture of how we so often overestimate our ability to be good people...they essentially say “sure”...We're still doing that today

Exodus 19:16 (ESV)¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰ The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Stop and think about this for a sec...tThis is God reconnecting with humanity post fall...Do you remember what it looked like before the fall?

1. **Genesis 3:8 (ESV) ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.**
2. Whats implied here is that before the Fall God and man used to walk together like friends, at that time it was almost a causal wonderful relationship no trembling, no thunder and lighting, no mountain, just them and God
3. But the fall brought about a fracture of relationship because man is sinful and God is holy and can not even look upon sin without judging it (**Hab 1:13**) **Now as the relationship is re established theirs distance, and terror...**
 - (1) **Here's the picture:** **This is a peek at the majesty of God in a post fall world...**In a very limited way that is what His holiness looks like in the presence of fallen man. God just showed up. This is not trying to scare them. He's just saying, "I'm showing up." Guys, it's really beyond our ability to grasp the intensity of this moment

Exodus 20

Now this is where God is about to give them what is known in the New testament as "The Law" this was a code of ethics for the children of Israel to live by

I. What was the purpose of the Law?

1. It was a code of conduct for Israel so they could be different amongst the other nations
2. It was a description the absolute Holiness of God
3. It was to reveal the distance and the different between us and God thus creating a need for a savior to help us cross the gap

II. Here's what the Law was never meant to do

1. Obedience to the Law cannot make anyone perfect - (Hebrews 7:11–19, 10:1–2)
2. Obedience to the Law cannot justify us - (Acts 13:38–39; Romans 3:20–28; Galatians 2:21)
3. Obedience to the Law cannot save your life - (Galatians 3:21)
4. **Here is in a nut shell** - The law was given to show humanity who God is and who we aren't - He is utterly unique and we don't measure up

III. What is the law entirely?

1. The Law is a collection of 2 parts
 1. **First of all there is the Law of God.** That would be the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are binding upon all men at all times in history.
 2. **But God gave Moses a lot of laws after that.** Those laws deal with the civil and ceremonial aspects of the national life of Israel
 1. God directs them on how to live as His people
 2. God directs them on how to approach him in worship

3. Those laws are applicable and binding to the descendants of Abraham, the nation of Israel and Not to us non jews

- (a) **Why is this important for us?** well it's important to understand because their are things in the law of Moses about hair length, tattoos, circumcison and things of that nature and if you don't understand what laws what you've been released from and whats still binding, you can get really confused
- (b) In Acts 15, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostles released the Gentiles from Mosaic Law
- (c) Romans 7:6 (ESV) ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Now He sends Moses to give the 10 commandments

Exodus 20:1–2 (ESV) ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² **“I am the Lord your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Exodus 20:3–16 (ESV) ³ “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner

who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ “You shall not murder. ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ “You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

2 BIG THINGS HERE...

1. **5 times in this sections God declares himself to be the “Lord their God”** - In other words He’s these aren’t the 10 suggestions. This is the God of the universe communication His core values to human beings - THIS IS UNIVERSAL LAW
2. **Notice how the first 4 commandments relate to Man’s relationship with God...AND THEN** It covers Man’s relationship with each other...why is that important?
 - (1) Because God knows that issue in our lives flows from a worship issue in our hearts
 - (2) *Martin Luther, in his commentary on the Ten Commandments, writes – “Our infinitely wise Creator places them first because He understands that If we worship Him we won’t worship sex. If we aren’t worshipping sex, we won’t commit adultery If we aren’t worshipping possessions, we won’t steal or covet. If we aren’t worshipping people’s perceptions of us, we won’t lie. If we aren’t worshipping unrighteous anger, we won’t commit murder. If we aren’t worshipping our jobs, we’ll never disregard the principle of the Sabbath.”*
 - (3) **Here’s the point:** Worship is our ultimate issue because, we designed to worship

- i) And if we don't worship God, we will create a God substitute - Your spouse - Your kids - Your friends - Yourself - things that weren't meant to be worship and will eventually crumble under the pressure of your worship
- ii) So God (The sovereign of the ages) says worship me first and foremost because If you do that, you will follow all the other commandments as well

(4) So here's the what the 10 commandments are all about - supreme devotion to God and sincere affection for others

(5) Jesus summarized it like this - Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV)
³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Exodus 21-23

In these chapters there are multiple laws that govern civil and ceremonial law in Israel.

A. Exodus 21 – care for servants, compensation for personal injuries

- a) **Question:** Have you ever heard someone say they they hate God because He is pro slavery? No where in the bible does it say that God is pro slavery - He's what the bible really says about it and God's thoughts on it

- (a) **Heres the truth:** The Bible recognizes that slavery is a reality in this sin-cursed world and doesn't ignore it, but instead gives regulations for good treatment by both masters and servants and reveals they are equal under Christ.
 - (b) If God had simply ignored it, then there would have been no rules for their treatment and they could have treated them harshly with no rights. But since they did have rights and rules for their protection, it showed that God cared for them as well... **However, this is often misconstrued for an endorsement of slavery, which it is not**
 - (c) The Bible doesn't give an endorsement of slave traders but the opposite - **1 Timothy 1:9–10 (ESV)** ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers**, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine
- b) It's important to know that the slavery spoken about in the bible is much different then that which is found in our American history**
- (1) Here's how you became a slave as a Hebrew**
- (a) In extreme poverty, they might sell their liberty (**Leviticus 25:39**)
 - (b) A father might sell a daughter as a servant into a home with the intention that she would eventually marry into that family (**Exodus 21:7**)

(c) In the case of bankruptcy, a man might become servant to his creditors (2 Kings 4:1)

(d) If a thief had nothing with which to pay proper restitution (Exodus 22:3-4)

(2) **Here's the point:** The ideas we have of “*man-stealing* and life-long servitude” – the concepts many have of slavery – simply do not apply to the practice of slavery in the Old Testament...Exodus 21:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death

(3) Galatians 3:28 (ESV) ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

B. Exodus 22 – protection for personal property, respecting humanity. We see God's definitions of human rights.

C. Exodus 23 – dispensing justice and laws concerning the various Sabbaths and Feasts.

Exodus 24

Moses comes down from Sinai and tells the Israelites all that the Lord had spoken. The people respond in making a vow to be governed by God in all that He had said.

And the rest of Exodus deals with the tabernacle. Guys, 37% of Exodus is about the tabernacle. If you were to ask most Christians what the

tabernacle was, they couldn't answer you...but the Holy Spirit Dedicates 15 Chapters to it

These 14 chapters of Exodus are like a photo album of the personality and the ministry of Jesus Christ - The materials with which it's made, The seven pieces of furniture within it, The priesthood ministering within the tabernacle, The sacrifices offered there, all comprise a beautiful portrait of – Jesus Christ, and our fellowship with Him.

The Tabernacle (25-40)

Exodus 25:1–9 (ESV) ¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ³ And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, ⁵ tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ⁸ **And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.** ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

So whats the tabernacle?

1. **It's a house for God amongst His people:** So here's God in all of his mercy and love, wanting to be right in the middle of His people...now because sin is still an issue the reconciliation would not be completely realized, but we see the desire there

Exodus 25-27

Now for the rest of [Exodus 25-27](#) we're given the account of how the people gave of their treasures for the construction of this tabernacle.

1. It's a beautiful picture of how we actually worship the Lord in our giving
 - (1) So that God might be worshipped
 - (2) So that God might be seen for His infinite worth

But even more importantly The tabernacle of the O.T is a prophetic picture Of Jesus in the N.T

2. In the gospel of John, John speaks about Jesus like this **1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men**
3. John 1:14 (ESV)¹⁴ **And the Word became flesh and dwelt (Or Tabernacled) among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth**
 - (1) Think about this - the tabernacle not much to look at...but what made it Special was it's occupant - the presence of God
 - (2) Jesus was not much to look...But was the God in flesh
 - (3) **Here's the point:** just as the tabernacle was the place where people would come and meet God in the O.T. JESUS IS OUR TENT OF MEETING NOW

IV. The tabernacle was rich with symbolism about Jesus - Remember this is the presence of God

1. **Number one – the outer boundary** - This reminded the people of Israel that God who came to dwell in their midst was holy

2. Number two – the door - There was only one entrance to the tabernacle - think about that

(1) John 14: Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(2) **Here’s the picture:** And like that one big entrance there, and surrounding the tabernacle, Jesus opens His arms, and He says, “Come.” Guys, there is no way to meet with God, there is no way to enjoy the glory of God. You must come in through the door, Jesus

3. Number three – the tabernacle itself -Now in this tent there were 2 sections - a larger room (the holy place) and a smaller room (the holy of holies) Now if you were the high priest on your way to see God there were a number of Obstacles in your way

The Most holy place

4. The bronze altar - This is where the sacrifices took place - It’s a picture of the Cross

5. The bronze basin - Where the priests would wash their hands every time they turned to face the altar - It’s a picture of God’s word cleansing us

6. The table of showbread - The table of showbread was a symbol of God’s desire to fellowship with mankind - **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

7. The lamp stand - The lamp stand gave light within the Holy Place. It burned oil. And it’s a picture of the Holy Spirit, and our

need of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in our worship and witness

- 8. The altar of incense** - it was symbolic of the prayers of the people to be lifted up to God

Holy of Holies

- 9. The ark of the covenant** - A Box where the Law of Moses was kept

- 10. The mercy seat** - that lid was made of solid gold. On either end of this lid were fashioned cherubim, with their wings stretching forward towards each other.

Now remember, this is where God would meet with man...so the question is where would He meet them?

Exodus 25:22 (ESV) ²² **There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat**, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

God says, there is only one foundation that we can base this relationship on, it's not your works, It's not your spirituality, **IT'S MERCY**

Now with the exception of **Exodus 32**, the rest of the book of Exodus deals with the tabernacle, and everything that pertains to it. **In Exodus 40** the tabernacle is assembled. And we read this in

Exodus 40

So here's the big climax, the tabernacle is set up, the furnishings are getting put in...Aaron and his family have been designated to be the priests in the tabernacle...finally Moses can go into the tabernacle and meet with God right?

Exodus 40:34–35 (ESV) ³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ **And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.**

What! After all that Moses still couldn't really fellowship with God!!! WHY? because at the end of the day, that He was still a sinner and God was still holy...

1. The only one who actually be in the presence of God was the High priest, and only once a year, and if he was at all defied He would be fall down dead on the spot
2. And their was no sacrifice that could fully cleanse anyone enough so that they could have a relationship with God that wasn't filled with trembling
3. How would that Change?
 - (1) God would send Jesus
 - (2) Jesus would lay himself on the bronze alter called the cross and He would Pay for our sin with his own life!!!
 - (3) Hebrews 10:19–24 (ESV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the

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confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,