



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

EXODUS 20:18-26

LESSON: OBEYING GOD'S LAW — October 15, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 19:23-25 Moses tells the LORD that the people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for they were warned to set boundaries around the mountain, and to declare it sacred. So, the Lord told Moses to hasten down and bring his brother Aaron up with him. But, don't let the priests and the people intrude or press through the bounds to climb up to the Lord, lest He break forth upon them destroying them. So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Chapter 20:1-17 And God spoke to them these words (The Ten Commandments) proclaiming who God is: **I am the LORD thy God**. The Ten Commandments, according to the book of Exodus in the Torah and in the Bible, are laws for life given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai to give to the People of Israel. The first four commandments all deal with man's relationship with God. The last six commandments stress relationship and respect upon others. Jesus also speaks these same Laws in the New Testament.

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods (20:3)** - God first reminds Israel that He is the God, for there is no other God to worship; no false gods or images to take His place in our lives. **Matthew 4:10** *"...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."*
- 2. No graven images or likenesses (20:4)** - People made carvings, statues, pictures, etc. to help them visualize who or what they were worshiping. God is Spirit and cannot be represented by statues or any likeness. **Luke 16:13** *"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*
- 3. Not take the LORD's name in vain (20:7)** - God commands us not to use His name in vain. That is, with emptiness, vanity, falsehood, nothingness, emptiness of speech, lying, and worthlessness. God's Name is to be held in extreme reverence and adoration. **Matthew 5:34** *"Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:"*
- 4. Remember the Sabbath Day (20:8)** - Each seventh day belonged to the Lord and would not be a work day but one set apart (i.e. holy) for rest and for time devoted to the worship of Yahweh. God has declared this day to be a holy day. **Mark 2:27-28** *"... The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."*
- 5. Honour thy father and thy mother (20:12)** - Parents have a special place in God's sight. They are to be respected and obeyed for it is a commandment with promise. **Matthew 10:37** *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*
- 6. Thou shalt not kill (20:13)** - Our first duty towards our neighbour is to respect his life. **Matthew 5:22** *"... whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."*
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery (20:14)** - The man who acts treacherously against "the wife of his

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covenant" is as great a sinner as the woman who breaks the marriage bond. The purity of the married state to be maintained. **Matthew 5:28** "...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

8. **Thou shalt not steal (20:15)** – this commandment prohibits taking what does not belong to oneself. **Matthew 5:40** "...if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also."
9. **Thou shalt not bear false witness (20:16)** – This is another term for lying. God desires truth in our outward speech. Our fourth duty to our neighbour is not to injure his character. **Matthew 12:36** "...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."
10. **Thou shalt not covet (20:17)** – This commandment forbids longing after that which belongs to another. We must not envy the possessions of others. **Luke 12:15** "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

LESSON:

I. INTRINSIC FEAR Exodus 20:18-20

20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. The people were so afraid of the thunderings, lightnings, the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking till they moved standing afar off from the mountain. The last time Israel had experienced a sign of thunder and lighting was in the context of the plague of hail on Egypt (9:23-26).

20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. The people began to request that Moses be their spokesman; their mediator, rather than having God speak directly. They rather get it secondhand from Moses. They said they would "hear" meaning obey Moses. They feared God's presence which led them to say, "*We will hear (obey Moses), but don't let God speak with us (directly), lest we die.*"

"**Fear**" is an emotion that can stop a person from taking risks. The (basic) inner intrinsic (central; deep-down) apprehension, or fear of God was not taking the risk of allowing Him or themselves to come close for they thought they would die.

20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. They failed to understand the point because their expectation of meeting God had turned to fear. Moses had to calm the people down by assuring them that God did not come to kill them nor to scare them, but to prove them, test their genuineness of whether they would obey His Laws as they had promised (19:8). God showed them His mighty and awesome power, proving to see if their fear would be a reverence and an awe of Him, and of them wanting to depart from sin; not remain in it, but obey Him.

II. IDOLATRY FORBIDDEN Exodus 20:21-23

20:21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. The people still remained at a distance as Moses began to draw near to God going into the thick darkness of the smoke where God was.

20:22 And the Lord said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that

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I have talked with you from heaven. The Lord begins to speak to Moses to tell him what to say to the children of Israel. God wanted them to remember the times He had spoken to them from heaven; the times He had made His Will known to them from heaven.

20:23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold. God speaks to Moses with the message of no other gods before Him. Knowing that they had just come from the pagan nation of Egypt, they were not to make or worship idols made of silver or gold or anything else. He wants to make sure that they know that there is only One Real God and they were not to fall into idolatry!

III. INSTRUCTIONS FORMULATED Exodus 20:24-26

20:24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. An altar of earth was to be made unto God. The sacrifice of burnt offerings and of peace offerings—sheep and oxen placed upon stone (unhewn), constructed only in those places where God records His name, and only for the purpose of worship by the specified offerings will God come and bless them.

20:25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. The instructions for making an altar of earth is to be a simple structure made of stone, not of hewn stone; not using a tool that would chisel; or give the stone a surface of art. They were not to prepare the stones before they build the altar, for if a tool is used, then it would be polluted; profaned, and contaminated.

20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon. Also, the instruction for God's altar was not to go up steps that their nakedness of their body be expose.

SUMMARY:

The people are at Mt. Sinai and there is thunders, and lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the smoking mountain. And when the people see all of this, they began to remove themselves by standing afar off. They then desired Moses whom they would hear (obey) to speak to them instead of God speaking directly to them. Their fear should have been reverence unto God, not a fear expecting God to kill them (**20:18-20**).

The people still remained at a distance as Moses began to draw near to God going into the thick darkness of the smoke where God was. The Lord begins to speak to Moses to tell him what to say to the children of Israel, for they seen Him talk to them from heaven. They were not to make or worship idols made of silver or gold or anything else (**20:21-23**).

An earthen altar made unto God where offerings are laid, is constructed only in those places where God records His name. He will come and bless it. The instructions for making an altar of earth is to be a simple structure made of stone, not of hewn stone, for if a tool is used, then it would be polluted; also they are not to go up steps to God's altar for the nakedness of their bodies would be exposed (**20:24-26**).