



## “The Law & Salvation” (Exodus 19 & 20)

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vv.1-2 The Sinai here is not the Sinai you will visit on a tour of Israel. A few years ago my wife and I watched a documentary called “In Search of the Real Mt Sinai” (in bookstore?). Gal.4: 25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia...

vv.3-6 See I Peter 2:9-10

vv.7-11 The third day is to made note of here, because it will be mentioned again in just a few short verses.

vv.12-13 God wanted them to reverence Him, as well they should. And so should we. See Heb.10:31; 12:28-29.

vv.14-15 There was to be a holy focus in preparation for meeting with God...

v.16 Heb.12: 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

vv.17-19 What does God’s voice sound like?

- Rev.1: 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.
- John 12:27-29
- I Kings 19:11-12

vv.20-25 This is an extra warning to the people. We can only approach God on His terms. If we attempt to do any other way, we will be toast! (Lev.10:1-3)

### Exodus 20

v.3 Many throughout history have served an array of gods, many times making one god the chief god. God is not saying here that he wants to be the chief God among gods. He is saying that He alone is to be worshipped.

Four most prominent ancient gods:

1. Baal

- A god of fertility and sexuality; promises sexual satisfaction, but is incapable of delivering. People who serve this god move from girl to girl, guy to guy, from sexual encounter to sexual encounter, but their lives are never fulfilled by sex.

- "The gaiety and licentious character of Baal worship always had a subtle attraction for the Israelites, bound to serve a holy God under a rigorous moral code." (Unger's New Bible Dictionary).

- In Israel's idolatry they compounded the names of their children with Baal (Judges 7:1, Jerub-Baal; summarize story); I Chron.8:33-34).

- See Numbers 25:1-3

- Rev.2:14...You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

- Baal worship is alive and well in America, even in the church

## 2. Molech

- A god of pleasure.

- Eccl. 2:10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.

- Eccl. 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

- See Eccl. 11:9

## 3. Mammon

- Jesus referred to this god in 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.

- Eccl.5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

## 4. Ashteroth

- The goddess of the moon; love, romance, & fertility. Baal and Ashteroth were often associated together, with some suggesting that Ashteroth was Baal's wife.

vv.4-6 God is jealous **for** us, not **of** us. James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? See II Cor.11:2.

Some people teach generational curses from this text. The truth of the passage is found by noting the difference between "of those who hate me" and "of those who love me and keep my commandments." Any generational curse that might have been in your family can be broken if you will simply repent & receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Gal.2:13 says that Christ redeemed us from any curse by becoming a curse for us.

v.7 Lev.19:12 Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God; I watch COPS, and people who get caught are always trying to convince the police officer of their innocence by saying "I swear to God." Using the term "Jesus Christ" in a profane way would be included in this commandment.

vv.8-11 The Israelites repeatedly broke this commandment. They not only failed to rest one day a week, but their work on the Sabbath was motivated by greed, as well as a lack of faith to trust God to give them what they needed from six days of work.

v.12 See Eph.6:1-3

v.14 Matthew 5:28...anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Note: The first four commandments deal with man's relationship to God. The last six deal with man's relationship to man.

Matt.22: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

vv.18-19 So let's get this picture very clearly in our minds. Everybody is trembling with fear as a result of the thunder, lightning, the dense smoke, the trumpet blast that gets louder and louder, then God's thunderous voice communicating the Ten Commandments. It is so frightening the people are afraid they will die if they continue to listen to God speak. So they tell Moses to continue talking with God and then let them know what He says.

v.25 Man was to have no part in preparing an altar sufficient for such a holy God.

v.26 Man's nakedness is connected to his sin (Gen.3).

The Law is given, and the people agree to do everything the Lord has said. Moses will now go up the mountain, and God will write on tablets of stone the words the people have just heard and agreed to obey. And while he is there, guess what happens? See Ex. 32:1-6, 19 (speaks of the breaking of the commandments).

See Rom.1:21-23

#### THE LAW'S PERFECTION

- Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect...
- Romans 7:12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

#### THE LAW'S PURPOSE

- Standard of righteousness (I Tim.1:8-11)
- Reveal man's sinfulness (Rom.3:20, 23; 7:7-13)
- Isa.53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...
- Reveal to mankind its insufficiency (Gal.3:10-12)
- Heb.10:4...it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
- Heb. 9:6-10; Under the covenant of Law, the people washed themselves in preparation to meet God in three days. When they did meet Him, they trembled in fear as the thunder rumbled, the lightning flashed, & the mountain shook violently. Then God spoke with a thunderous voice, not ten suggestions, Ten Commandments. The message was clear – if they did not keep them, they would suffer His wrath.

#### A SUPERCEDING COVENANT

- Rom.4:13-17a; Gal.3:6-25; Hebrews 6:13-20; 9:11-15; 10:1-22
- Rom.8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sin nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us...
- II Cor.5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Isa.53:6 We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## CONCLUSION

- Heb.12:18-29