

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Law

April 3 : Exodus 1-4 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, April 3, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 1-4

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the scriptures consistently.

Last week we finished the accounts in Genesis, (the book of origins)

including Joseph having brought his whole family from Canaan to Egypt because of the severe famine. And including the passing of Joseph.

Now, continuing in the Book of Exodus.

(from the Gk. ex, "out," and hodos, "way," "a going out")

Chapter 1

We are reminded that the number of Jacob's descendants who came to Egypt numbered seventy, (or 75 @ Acts 7:14) And we see that Joseph, his brothers, and all that generation died, but they had multiplied greatly, so that the Israelites had become exceedingly numerous in the land.

Now a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt and was fearful of the number of Israelites in his land.

So the Israelites were put under forced labor by the Egyptians to keep them controlled, and from overwhelming the Egyptians.

They oppressed and worked them ruthlessly and made their lives bitter, but still they multiplied and spread.

So the king told the two Hebrew midwives to kill all the newborn boys, but to let the newborn girls live. But the midwives feared God

and let all the newborns live. And when the king questioned them about it, the midwives explained that the Hebrew/Israelite women

were more vigorous than Egyptian women and gave birth before the midwives could arrive.

So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And God gave the midwives families of their own because they feared HIM.

Then the king/Pharaoh gave this order: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Chapter 2

Now a Levite wife gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a fine child and she was able to hide him for three months, but when she

could no longer hide him she got a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch and put her child in it and placed it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

His sister watched from a distance to see what would happen to him.

Now Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to bathe and saw the basket among the reeds, and when she opened the basket, she saw the baby and he was crying and she felt sorry for him.

"This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then the boy's sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go, she answered, and the sister went and got her and her brother's mother. Pharaoh's daughter gave the baby to her to nurse and paid her as well. When he was older she took him back to Pharaoh's daughter to become her son, and she named him Moses, ("drawn out" in Hebrew, "child" or "son" in Egyptian) saying,

"I drew him out of the water."

Now it seems that Moses knew his history because one day, after he had grown up, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, and after looking around and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day he saw two Hebrews fighting and asked the one in the wrong why was he hitting his fellow Hebrew.

The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?"

"Oh oh," Moses thought, "What I did must have become known."

When Pharaoh heard of it he tried to kill Moses but Moses fled to Midian to live there, and he sat down by a well.

A priest of Midian had seven daughters and they came to draw water for their father's flock, but some shepherds drove them away.

Moses got up, rescued them, and watered their flock.

When their father, Reuel, asked them why they had returned so early, they told him about Moses and what he had done for them.

Reuel told them to invite him to have something to eat.

Moses agreed to stay with Reuel, who gave his daughter, Zipporah, to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave Moses a son and he named him Gershom. ("sojourner") saying,

"I have become an alien in a foreign land."

During that long period, the Pharaoh died.

And the Israelites, groaning in their slavery, cried out for help in their slavery and their cry went up to God.

God heard their groaning and HE remembered HIS covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

God looked and was concerned about the Israelites.

Chapter 3

Note: (ru'el; "friend of God's," or "God is a friend").

[A priest of Midian and a herdsman, who gave a hospitable reception to Moses when he fled from Egypt, and whose daughter

Zipporah became the wife of Moses (Ex 2:18)

Reuel is undoubtedly the same person as Jethro, the first being probably his proper name and the latter a title or surname, indicating his rank.]

Source: New Unger's Bible Dictionary

Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, priest of Midian, and he led them to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush and Moses saw that the bush did not burn up, and so he went closer to the bush to see why this bush was not burning up.

When the LORD saw this, HE called him from the bush. "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer,"

God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then HE said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD told Moses that HE had come down to rescue the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians and bring them

to a land of milk and honey--home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And God told Moses to go Pharaoh and bring God's people out of Egypt. But Moses resisted saying, "Who am I, that I should go Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God told him that HE would be with him and the sign that God had sent him would be this:

"When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you (plural) will worship God on this mountain." Moses wanted to know what he should tell the Israelites if they wanted to know the God of their father's name. "I AM WHO I AM." This is what you say to them.

"I AM has sent me to you." God said to Moses. God also told Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, (The Hebrew for LORD

sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for I AM in vs 14)

the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever,

the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

God told Moses to assemble the elders of Israel and tell them what

the LORD, the God of their fathers, had told him about God's concern for Israel, and the land of milk and honey.

God would have Moses and the elders go to the Pharaoh and ask to be allowed to take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, Knowing that the king would not allow it lest he was compelled by a mighty hand.

So the LORD would strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that

HE would perform among them. After that, he would let them go.

And God would make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the Israelites, so when they left, they would silver and gold and clothes.

In this way they would plunder the Egyptians.

Chapter 4

Moses wanted a sign that the Israelites would believe that God had sent him, and so God had him to throw down his staff and it became a snake. When Moses grabbed it by the tail it became a staff again. This was the sign that Moses was sent by God.

The LORD also had Moses to put his hand inside his cloak and when he took it out it was leprous, and when he did that again it

was restored. And if neither of those signs convinced them, then

Moses was to take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground and it would become blood on the dry ground.

Now Moses was concerned for his lack of verbal ability but the LORD said, "I'll help you to speak and will teach you what to say."

"O LORD, please send someone else to do it.", said Moses.

The LORD's anger burned against Moses, and so HE had Aaron,

Moses brother to help him, and God would be with them and help both of them to speak and to know what to say. Aaron would be as Moses mouth and Moses would be as God to Aaron.

So said the LORD!

And Moses was to keep the staff to perform miraculous signs.

Moses asked Jethro to let him go back to Israel to see if any of his people were still alive and Jethro said, "Go, and I wish you well."

Now LORD had told Moses to go back to Egypt because all those who had wanted to kill him were dead.

So Moses, with his family, and the staff of God in his hand, headed back to Egypt. God told him to perform before Pharaoh all of the wonders that he had been given the power to do, even though God would harden Pharaoh's heart so he would not let the people go.

God told Moses to tell the Pharaoh that: "This is what the LORD says, Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, "Let my son go, so that he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son."

At a lodging place the LORD met Moses and was about to kill him,

but Zipporah circumcised her son and said to Moses,
"Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me."

And so the LORD let him alone.

The LORD had Aaron to meet Moses at the mountain of God, and Moses told everything that God had sent him to say, and about all the miraculous signs he was commanded to perform. So they brought together all the elders and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said, and he performed the signs and they believed him. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshipped.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

It's so hard to stop at chapter 5! Thank you, Butch O'Neal! "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Heb. 11:23-26

April 10 : Exodus 5-8 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, April 10, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 5-8

*The most important thing here is to read and ponder
the scriptures consistently*

Chapter 5

We left off with Moses and Aaron gathered with the elders of the Israelites, with the elders bowing down and worshipping God. 4:29-31

Now Moses and Aaron told the Pharaoh that the LORD says,

"Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert." But the Pharaoh would not, saying, "Who is the LORD,

that I should obey him and let Israel go." Moses and Aaron told

Pharaoh that if he didn't allow them three days in the desert for the LORD, that HE may strike them with plagues or with the sword.

But Pharaoh's attitude was, "Forget it, and you and all the people,

get back to work." And he put on the people the extra work of gathering their own straw for making bricks. This took more time, as they had to find the straw, and Pharaoh had them

beaten when they couldn't produce the same quota of bricks as when the straw was brought to them. When the Israelite foremen complained,

Pharaoh called them lazy, and that that was why they kept saying,

"Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD." Pharaoh told them to get to

work and produce the full quota of bricks, gathering their own straw. So the foremen blamed Moses and Aaron for making the Israelites

a 'stench to Pharaoh and his officials' and causing the them to want to kill the Israelites. And so, Moses returned to the LORD, saying,

"O LORD, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

Chapter 6

The LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, (Hebrew=El-Shaddai) but by my name the LORD (I AM @ 3:15) I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant." The LORD told Moses to tell the Israelites that HE would bring them out from under the yoke and free them from slavery to the Egyptians. That HE would redeem them with outstretched arms and mighty acts of judgment. That they would be HIS people, HE would be their God. And HE would bring them to the land that HE swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. "I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."

Moses told this to the people but they were discouraged and did not listen. Then God told Moses to tell the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, but Moses said, 'If the Israelites wont listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I cannot speak well.'

The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Verses 13-25 is a list of the heads of the families/clans of the Israelites, and I wont list them here.

Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt, Moses said, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

Chapter 7

God told Moses that HE had made him like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron as Moses prophet. Moses was to say all that God commanded and Aaron was to tell Pharaoh to let the people go. But God would harden Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen even after miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt.

But God would lay HIS hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment HE would bring HIS people out of Egypt.

And the Egyptians would know that HE is the LORD.

Moses was 80 years and Aaron was 83 when they spoke to Pharaoh. Moses was to tell Aaron to throw down his staff before Pharaoh and it would become a snake, when Pharaoh told them to perform a miracle. And Aaron did, and it was so. then Pharaoh summoned wise men, sorcerers and magicians who did the same by their secret arts, but Aarons staff swallowed up their staffs.

Yet Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, as God said.

Then God had Moses meet Pharaoh by the river and inform him that because he would not listen, that God would turn the Nile into blood.

This, by way of Moses staff. And Aaron would stretch out his staff over all the streams, canals, ponds and reservoirs, and they would turn to blood, including the water in wooden buckets and stone jars.

Blood would be everywhere in Egypt.

But Pharaoh's magicians did the same things by their secret arts.

Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen.

The Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water.

Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

Chapter 8

The LORD told Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'"

Moses told Pharaoh that if he would not do it, that God would plague the whole country with frogs, and they would be everywhere. In the palace, and bedroom and bed. In the official's houses, on the people, in the ovens and kneading troughs.

And so Aaron would stretch out his staff over the waters of Egypt, (Had the plague of blood ended?) and the frogs covered the land.

But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts.

Nevertheless Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to pray to the LORD to take the frogs away and he would let the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD. Pharaoh is learning who the LORD is!

Moses told Pharaoh to choose when Moses should pray and Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow."

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God."

Moses and Aaron cried out to the LORD about the frogs and the LORD did what Moses asked, and the frogs died, except those in the Nile. They died where they were, and they were in heaps and the land reeked of them, but when Pharaoh saw there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

Then the LORD brought the plague of gnats. All the dust in all Egypt became gnats, but the magicians could not do this by their arts, so they told Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God."

Pharaoh's heart was hard, he would not listen, just as God had said.

The LORD would give Pharaoh another chance to let HIS people go and then HE would send the plague of flies, but none in the land of Goshen, so that Egypt would know that the LORD was in that land.

The flies were everywhere and they ruined the land.

Pharaoh told Moses & Aaron, "Sacrifice to your God here."

Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us."

Pharaoh told them that he would let them go and offer sacrifices, but they must not go far. But first pray for Pharaoh.

Moses told Pharaoh that he would pray to the LORD as soon as he left Pharaoh and the flies would leave, and not to act deceitfully again. And it happened as Moses told him. The flies left and not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart again and would not let the people go.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Thank you, Butch. Glad you noted the role of the elders. They are mentioned many times in this series of events, having a crucial role in guiding and informing of the people, a function carried over even into the church.

There seem to be three major reasons highlighted for God's actions as described. 1, his covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; 2, his compassion for the suffering of Israel; 3, the demonstrative judgment of Pharaoh and Egypt and their gods.

Steven Wright:

Thank you Butch!

Ginger Hermon:

Butch - So thankful for your faithfulness to the study! These are some of my favorite stories to teach children & I, too, marvel over the finger of God!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thankful for your encouragement, Ginger. And thankful for Charles and Marc encouraging me to get involved. So many stories to learn from, and the patience that GOD demonstrates is incredible!

April 17 : Exodus 9-12 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, April 17, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 9-12

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

We are at where Moses and Aaron are asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, GOD is providing plagues to help convince Pharaoh.

The plagues have been Blood, Frogs, Gnats, and Flies thus far, reflective of the number of times that Pharaoh has refused, or consented, then changed his mind.

Chapter 9

After Pharaoh had refused again, GOD told to tell Pharaoh that the LORD said, "Let my people go, so that they may worship me."

And if Pharaoh refused, the LORD would bring a terrible plague on all of Pharaoh's livestock. Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. But only Egypt's animals. No harm would come to any of the Israelite's animals. The LORD set the time for tomorrow, but Pharaoh did not comply, so all of Egypt's animals died, but Pharaoh was still unyielding. So the LORD told Moses and Aaron to get some soot from a furnace and toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. The LORD said it would become fine dust covering the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils would break out on men and animals everywhere.

Now here we want to be careful. We might wonder where these animals came from? Surely not the Israelite's animals? That doesn't make sense. From where then? Weren't all of Egypt's animals dead? One possibility is that Pharaoh bought, or otherwise acquired, livestock from the Israelites, or sent men to another land to purchase livestock. We just don't know, but I like these two possibilities. Maybe someone has other thoughts?

So they tossed the soot before Pharaoh, and men and animals everywhere had festering boils, so that even the magicians could not stand before Moses. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen, just as the LORD had told Moses.

Now, the LORD told Moses to go early in the morning to Pharaoh and tell him the LORD, the God of the Hebrews says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or you will feel the full force of my plagues against all of you. By now I could have struck you and your people and wiped you off the earth. But I have spared you for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. This time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm ever to fall on Egypt. Give an order to bring your livestock and everything from the field to a place of shelter as the hail will kill every man and animal not under shelter.

Some believed the LORD and brought their slaves and animals to shelter, some ignored the LORD and left theirs in the field.

The LORD had Moses stretch out his staff toward the sky and hail fell all over Egypt, along with thunder and lightning, and Egypt was devastated. The hail beat down everything in the fields and stripped every tree. It did not hail in the land of Goshen, on the Israelites.

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron, "This time I have sinned, the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong." Pharaoh asked Moses to pray to the LORD to end the hail and he would let them go. Moses said that he would pray as soon as he had left the city and the thunder and hail would stop.

But Moses knew that Pharaoh still did not fear the LORD.

Moses did pray and the hail, and all, did stop. When Pharaoh saw this, he sinned again. He hardened his heart and would not let the people go. Just as the LORD had said through Moses.

Chapter 10

The LORD told Moses that HE had hardened Pharaoh's heart so that HE may HIS miraculous signs among them, and so Moses could tell his children and grandchildren of these things, and so Moses would know that HE was the LORD.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him that if he refused to let the people go to worship the LORD that the LORD would bring locusts into Egypt the next day and they would cover the ground completely and devour what little was left from the hail. It would be of the likes that none had ever seen.

Then Moses left Pharaoh.

Pharaoh's officials urged him to let the people go so Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to go, worship the LORD, but he wanted to know just who would go.

Moses said, our young and old, sons and daughters, flocks and herds.

We will celebrate a festival to the LORD.

Pharaoh refused, "Have only the men go." then he drove Moses and Aaron out of his presence.

The LORD had Moses stretch out his hand and caused an east wind to blow all day and night and the brought the locusts by morning. They covered everything and devoured all that was left from the hail. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to say, "I have sinned again, forgive me once more, and pray to take this plague away. So Moses left and prayed, and the LORD caused the wind to go west, which caught up all the locusts and carried them to the Red Sea.

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the Israelites go.

Now the LORD had Moses to stretch out his hand to the sky and caused total darkness to cover all Egypt for three days, but the Israelites had light.

Pharaoh told Moses, go worship the LORD, take the women and children, but leave the flocks and herds here. Moses said no, all of their livestock must go with them so that they would sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD. The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he refused again. This time he told Moses to go from his sight and if he seen Moses face again, Moses would die. Moses said, "I will never appear before you again."

Chapter 11

The LORD told Moses that HE would bring one more plague on Pharaoh and Egypt and after that Pharaoh would not just let them go but would drive them out completely, so Moses was to tell the people, men and women alike, to ask all their neighbors for articles of silver and gold, as the LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people.

Moses told Pharaoh that the LORD had said that all the firstborn in all of Egypt would die, including Pharaoh's own firstborn down to the slave girls firstborn, and all of the firstborn of the cattle. There will be loud wailing, then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. All of your officials will come bowing to me saying, go, all of you, and I will leave.

Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

The LORD told Moses that Pharaoh would refuse so the LORD's wonders would be multiplied in Egypt. Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the people go.

Chapter 12

The LORD gave explicit instructions to Moses and Aaron: This month would be the first month of their year, every man from the community of Israel was to take a lamb for his family, one per household. If a household was too small for a whole lamb, then it should share with their nearest neighbor, dependent on the number of people there are. The amount of lamb needed would depend on what each person would eat.

The animals chosen must be year-old males, no defects, sheep or goats.

They would care for them until the fourteenth of the month when all the people would slaughter them at twilight. Then they were to put some of the blood on the sides and the tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

On that night they were to eat the meat roasted over fire, with bitter herbs and bread without yeast. No raw meat or meat cooked in water. Head, leg, inner parts roasted over fire. If any is left till morning, burn it. Eat it with your tucked in your belt, sandals on your feet, staff in hand, and eat it in haste.

It is the LORD's Passover.

On that night the LORD would pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn, men and animals, and there will judgment on all the gods of Egypt.

The blood would be a sign. The LORD would pass over all the houses that had blood on the doorframes. This day would be commemorated. For generations to come, it would be celebrated as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance.

Eat bread without yeast for seven days. On the first day remove all yeast from all houses. No one eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh, or be cut off from Israel. The first day hold a sacred assembly, on the seventh, another. No work on these days except to prepare food. That's all.

Verses 17-20, more of the same.

Moses called the elders and told them all these things, and to go quick, get animals and get blood on your doorframes so the destroyer will pass over you.

These instruction are a lasting ordinance, observe this ceremony in the land that the LORD will give you. when your children ask of this ceremony, tell them all these things. The people bowed down to worship and did all that the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

At midnight it happened as the LORD had said and Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to go and worship the LORD, take your flocks and herds and go.

And also bless me. The Egyptians urged the people to hurry for they were afraid for their lives.

The people took their dough without yeast and the silver, gold, and clothing they were given.

The Israelites numbered about six hundred thousand men, besides women and children. Many other people, as well as large droves of livestock, flocks and herds went up with them from Rameses to Succoth.

The Israelites lived in Egypt 430 years, and on the very day that 430 years passed, the LORD's people left Egypt. The LORD kept vigil that night and on this day the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for generations to come.

Regulations for the Passover: No foreigner is to eat of it. A circumcised slave may eat of it. It must be eaten inside one house, none outside. Do not break any bones. All Israel must celebrate it. No uncircumcised male may eat of it.

All the Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

On that day the LORD brought all Israel out of Egypt.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Butch! Very powerful chapters showing God's power and how His name would be proclaimed in all the earth. Last week Marc and I chatted about which plague seemed the worse (aside from #10). Very hard choice! In the end I think we both agreed boils and darkness.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Ginger! I would agree with you and Marc's choices. Boils make me think of Job, and darkness reminded me of 'outer darkness.'

April 24 : Exodus 13-16 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, April 24, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 13-16

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 13

GOD told Moses to consecrate to HIM every firstborn male of every womb, whether man or animal. Moses told the people that they were to commemorate this day that they came out of Egypt by

the LORD's mighty hand. They were to eat nothing with yeast in it.

Today, in the month of Abib ("an ear of corn") you are leaving.

When the LORD brings you into the land of milk and honey that HE swore to your forefathers to give you, you are to observe this ceremony in this month: Eat bread without yeast for seven days,

on day seven hold a festival to the LORD. No yeast is to be among you nor anywhere within your borders. On that day tell your son,

"I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt." 9) This observance will be like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. You must keep this ordinance year after year.

(also in 12:1-2) Verses 11-14 reiterates the above except they were to redeem every firstborn donkey with a lamb, or if they did not redeem it, break it's neck. And to redeem every firstborn among their sons. Vs 15, "When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal.

This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons." Vs 16, same as 9.

When Pharaoh let the people go, GOD led them around the Philistine country toward the Red Sea. Though they left Egypt armed for battle, GOD had concerns about their willingness to face the Philistines. Moses took Joseph's bones with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel/Jacob swear an oath.

He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." (Gen. 50:25)

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud, and by night, a pillar of fire to give them light. They could travel day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night

left it's place from in front of the people.

Chapter 14

The LORD told Moses to camp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol

(Canaanite word for "watchtower") and the sea. Encamp directly opposite Baal Zephon. (belonged to Egypt, on the border of the Red Sea) Pharaoh will think you are wandering around in confusion, hemmed in by the desert. GOD would harden Pharaoh's heart to pursue them. But GOD would gain glory through Pharaoh and his army, "and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." When Pharaoh was told that the people had fled, he and his officials changed their minds, realizing they had lost the services of the Israelites, so he took his army and went after them. Pharaoh took all of Egypt's chariot's with officers over all of them. With hardened heart, Pharaoh pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. All pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen/charioteers and troops pursued and overtook them as they camped by the sea. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming, they were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They complained to Moses that he had brought them out to the desert to die, that they never wanted to leave Egypt, that it would be better to serve Egypt than to die in the desert. Moses told the people to stand firm and not to be afraid and the LORD would bring deliverance, that after today they would never see these Egyptians again. they needed only to be still. The LORD would fight for them. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, moved to the rear along with the pillar of cloud, so that they were between the armies of Egypt and Israel. All night the cloud brought darkness to one side, and light to the other so that neither went near the other. Moses stretched out his hand and all through the night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The Israelites went through, between the great walls of water and all of Pharaoh's army pursued them until GOD ruined the wheels of their chariot's and they realized that the LORD was fighting against them, they turned to flee but the LORD closed the sea, through Moses, and the Egyptian army was no more. Not one man survived. Can you imagine being a witness?! When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD had displayed, they feared the LORD and put their trust in HIM and Moses, HIS servant.

Chapter 15

Then Moses and the people sang a song to the LORD. It began, "I will sing to LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and it's rider he has hurled into the sea." For 18 verses the song was of great praise and honor for the LORD and HIS power, recounting HIS dispatch of the Egyptians, their salvation, HIS power over rulers and more. Vs 18, "The LORD will reign for ever and ever." Then Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister led all the women in dancing with tambourines, and sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and it's rider he has hurled into the sea." Miriam was a prophetess.

Moses led Israel into the desert of Shur. ("wall fortification"). For three days they found no water. In Marah, the water was bitter.

(Marah means "bitterness"). "What are we to drink?" They grumbled against Moses. Moses cried out and the LORD showed him a piece of wood, which he threw into the water and made it sweet to drink.

Here, the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and HE tested them: "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

They camped in Elim ("trees") where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees.

Chapter 16

The people set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, between Elim and Sinai. It was the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt, and the community was grumbling against Moses and Aaron: "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert

to starve this entire assembly to death." The LORD told Moses HE would rain down bread from heaven for them, and each day they were to gather just enough for that day. This way GOD would test them to see whether they obeyed. On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much as on the other days, and they were to prepare it all. Moses and Aaron told the people that they were grumbling against the LORD and not them, and in the morning they would see the glory of the LORD because of it. Aaron said to the entire community, "Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling." While he was speaking, they looked toward the desert

and saw the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

The LORD told Moses to tell the people that they would eat meat at twilight and be filled with bread in the morning, then they would know that HE is the LORD their God. And it was so. But the people wondered what the thin flakes were that were left on the ground after the morning dew was gone. Moses told them it was the bread

that the LORD had provided and that each of them were to gather only as much as each one would need each day, about two quarts per person, and the people did as they were told, and Moses told them not to keep any of it until morning. However, some did keep some until morning but it was full of maggots and began to smell.

Each morning, each gathered what was needed, and when the sun grew hot, the rest melted away. The sixth day they gathered twice as much, for the LORD had commanded: "Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning." So they did and Moses told them not to go out to gather on the Sabbath as there would be none on the ground.

Nevertheless, some went out and the LORD said to Moses: "How long will you (plural) refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?" So the people rested on the seventh day.

The people called the bread manna. (manna means What is it? see vs 15) It was white like coriander seed and tasted like honey.

The LORD commanded Moses to save an omer of manna (2 qts) and keep it for the generations to come, so the Israelites could see

the bread that the LORD provided when HE brought them out of Egypt. Aaron put an omer of manna in a jar and placed it before the

LORD to be kept for the generations to come. As the LORD commanded, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony,

that it might be kept. The Israelites ate manna for forty years, until they reached the border of Canaan.

References from New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Steven Wright:

I always smile when I read the meaning of the word, "manna!"

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Yes, how amazed they probably were. :)

Comment:

Charles Fry:

The repeated grumbling of the Israelites would be funny, if it weren't such a real and typical problem of human nature.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Butch! I agree... an amazing site to witness. One of my very favorite testimonies of the Lord's power of deliverance. Moses answered, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the great deliverance the Lord will bring you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Hebrews 11:29, "By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though (they were passing) through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned."

May 1 : Exodus 17-20 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, May 1, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 17-20

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 17

As the Israelites set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place, they camped at Rephidim, where they found no water.

So, they quarreled with, and grumbled against Moses, saying:

"Give us water to drink." They complained that Moses brought them out of Egypt only to die of thirst.

Moses cried out to the LORD as to what he should do as the people were almost ready to stone him.

So the LORD had Moses to take some of the elders, and his staff, with which he had struck the Nile, and to go on ahead of the people, to the rock at Horeb ("dryness, desert,") where the LORD would be, and to strike the rock and water would come out of it. And Moses did so with the elders as witnesses. Moses called the place Massah (testing) and Meribah (quarreling) because the people had tested the LORD. "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Now the Amalekites attacked the Israelites and Moses had Joshua choose some men to fight them.

Now Moses sat on a stone while Aaron and Hur held his arms upraised. They did this until sunset and Joshua overcame the Amalekites with the sword. The LORD had Moses to record this because HE intended to eventually blot out the memory of Amalek.

Moses built an altar and called it the LORD is my Banner. He said,

"For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Chapter 18

Now Jethro, priest of Midian, and Moses' father-in-law had heard of all that God had done for Moses and his people, including bringing them out of Egypt. Jethro wanted to bring Moses' wife and children

to Moses. Moses had two sons, one named Gershom, (Hebrew for, an alien there?) the other named Eliezer (my God is helper).

Jethro came to meet Moses in the desert and brought Moses family with him. When Moses told Jethro all that God had done for him and the Israelites, Jethro said "Praise be to the LORD, now I know that the LORD is greater than other gods." Then Jethro brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron and all the elders came to eat bread with Jethro in the presence of God.

The next day as Moses sat as the judge for all the people, Jethro saw that the people would soon wear Moses out because there were so many, so he suggested to Moses to select capable men as officials, each over a number of people, to be judges, and bring only difficult cases to Moses. And Moses did as Jethro suggested and then he sent Jethro back to his own country.

Chapter 19

Three months to the very day that the Israelites came out of Egypt, they came to the Desert of Sinai. They entered the desert and camped there in front of the mountain and Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him and said to remind the people of all that they had seen as the LORD brought them out of Egypt. And to tell them that if they would obey the LORD fully and keep HIS covenant, that they would be the LORD's treasured possession out of all nations. They would be, for the LORD, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Moses went back and set before the elders all the words of the LORD, and the people responded: "We will do everything the LORD has said." Moses brought the peoples answer back to the LORD. The LORD told Moses that HE would come to him in a dense cloud and the people would hear the LORD speaking to Moses and they would put their trust in Moses.

Now the LORD had Moses to consecrate (set apart as sacred) the people and to have them ready on the third day with washed clothes on and having abstained from sexual relations, for the LORD, on the third day, would come down on the mountain in sight of all the people. Limits were to be put around the mountain and no one was to go up the mountain or even touch the foot of it. Any man or animal who did would be put to death. Only when the ram's horn sounded a long blast could they even go up to the mountain.

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud over the mountain, a very loud trumpet blast. The people trembled. Moses led the people to meet God at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because God had descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up and the whole mountain trembled violently and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. WOW! what an incredible sight to have been able to witness! One can not help but wonder how the Israelites could become discouraged so soon, and easily, after this.

The LORD descended to the top of the mountain and called Moses to come up, then the LORD told Moses to go down and again warn them not to try to come up or they would surely perish. Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves.

Then Moses was to come back up the mountain with Aaron.

And Moses obeyed these commands.

Chapter 20

The Ten Commandments

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

- 1) "You shall have no other gods before me. you shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."
- 2) "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."
- 3) "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."
- 4) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."
- 5) "You shall not murder."
- 6) "You shall not commit adultery."
- 7) "You shall not steal."
- 8) "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."
- 9) "You shall not covet your neighbor's house."
- 10) "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The people trembled with fear at the thunder, lightning, and the smoke on the mountain. They stayed at a distance. They were afraid that they would die if God spoke to them. Moses told the people not to be afraid, that God had come to test them so that the fear of God would keep them from sinning.

God told Moses to make an altar of earth for HIM, and sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings (peace offerings) on it. If they were to make an altar of stones for the LORD, they were to use no dressed stones, nor any tool on it because that would defile it. And not to go up on steps to the altar lest their nakedness be exposed on it.

Wherever the LORD caused HIS name to be honored, HE would come and bless them.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

I agree with you, Butch! WOW!!!... There were so many wow moments for the Israelites & us to reflect upon! Good reading! Thanks for your post. <3

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV-WS)

5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Hebrews 12:25-26 (NIV-WS)

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us

from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV-WS)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Charles!

May 8 : Exodus 22-24 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, May 8, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 21-24

*The most important thing here is to read
and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 21

Now, in addition, GOD gave Moses a list of the laws that he was to set before the Israelites, including explicit rules about purchased Hebrew servants with fair treatment of females. Males were to be set free after serving six years but if they didn't want to be set free, then his ear would be pierced with an awl and he would serve for life. Females had the right to be redeemed, and other rights if she were not found pleasing to her master.

If one killed another, the penalty was death. If it was unintentional, the man was allowed to flee to a designated place.

(more about this place further on in the study)

Death to all for an attack on, or cursing, one or both parents.

Death for anyone who kidnaps another.

There are several more laws in this chapter concerning fair treatment and compensation for all, including animals.

Essentially it was, 'life for life,' 'eye for eye,' 'tooth for tooth,'

'hand for hand,' 'foot for foot,' 'burn for burn,' 'wound for wound,'
and 'bruise for bruise.'

Chapter 22

This chapter deals with laws regarding protection of property.

Thieves were to make restitution of up to five times, and all were to be responsible for the actions of their animals.

Also, social responsibilities.

If a man seduces a virgin, he must pay the bride-price and marry her.

Death to a sorceress.

Death for having sexual relations with an animal.

Death to all for sacrificing to any god but the LORD.

No mistreatment of aliens.

Possible death for taking advantage of a widow or orphan.

Charge no interest for lending among you.

Do not blaspheme God or curse your rulers.

Do not hold back offerings.

"You must give me the firstborn of your sons. Do the same with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but give them to me on the eighth day."

"You are to be my holy people. So do not eat the meat of an animal torn by wild beasts; throw it to the dogs."

Chapter 23

Laws of justice and mercy

No false reports. Do not help a wicked man.

Don't follow a wrong-doing crowd.

Help your enemy with his ox or donkey, lost or fallen down.

Do not deny justice to your poor people.

Do not put to death an innocent person.

"I will not acquit the guilty."

Do not accept a bribe. Do not oppress an alien.

Also, Sabbath laws.

Give your fields, vineyards, and olive groves a rest for a year after six years of use. Do not work on the seventh day.

Do not let the names of other gods be heard on your lips.

Also, laws for festivals.

Celebrate three festivals each year to the LORD.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, for seven days, in the month of Abib, the month you came out of Egypt.

"No one is to appear before me empty-handed."

The Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops.

The Feast of Ingathering, when you gather in your crops.

All men appear before the LORD three times a year.

No blood sacrifice with anything containing yeast.

Do not keep the fat of festival offerings until morning.

"Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God."

"Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk."

GOD tells the Israelites that HE is sending HIS angel ahead of them to guard them along the way to the place HE had prepared.

They are to pay attention, rebellion will not be tolerated.

The LORD will wipe out all in the land who worship other gods.

The Israelites were to demolish all their sacred stones.

Worship GOD only, and the LORD would establish their borders from the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds) to the Sea of the Philistines,

(Mediterranean) and from the desert to the River. (Euphrates)

The Israelites were not to make a covenant with the people in the land as the LORD would drive them out little by little. "Keep them out of your land or they will cause you to sin against me."

Chapter 24

Now, the LORD had Moses bring Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel up to the LORD to worship at a distance.

Only Moses was to approach the LORD.

Moses told the people all the words and laws and they all said:

"Everything the LORD has said we will do."

Moses wrote down everything the LORD had said.

Early in the morning Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars, one for each tribe of Israel.

Young men offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings (peace offerings) to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Moses read the Book of the Covenant to the people. They said, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

Moses sprinkled the blood on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."
The LORD told Moses to Come up to HIM on the mountain and stay there, and HE would give him the tablets of stone, with the law and commands that the LORD had written.
Moses and Joshua set out, and Moses went up on the mountain.
When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.
Then Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain.
And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you, Brother Butch! The Israelites said "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." And, of course, we say the same thing today. But, alas, words are cheap. And so we fail. I can see a similarity between the Serpent in the Garden and a Fancy-Pants Lawyer. Both are smooth-talkers. Both find (or create) cracks in the Godly order of our days in order to insinuate sin into our lives. Did God really say that you shouldn't eat that pretty fruit? Did God really say that you shouldn't gossip? Did God really want you to stay in this awful marriage with Stupid? Don't you think that God wants you to be happy because you're such a good Christian?

Replies:

Kevin Crittenden:

Apologies to any lawyers in the readership - obviously lawyering is a necessary vocation in our society and most of them are good, I'm sure. As with everything else, the few bad apples taint the entire barrel.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Butch. As always, such a blessing to study with you. Tonight's reading made me sincerely appreciate the age I live in. I'd much rather be under the law of love than law of retaliation. There is a foreshadowing of Christ with Moses being on the mountain for 40 days & 40 nights. Both were mediators between God and His people. Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant. (Heb 12:24)

Comment:

Charles Fry:

The glory of the Lord came down on the mountain. It looked like a consuming fire. The first time they saw the glory of the Lord was back in 16:7ff in connection with God giving them food, bread from heaven. This time it is the giving of the Law, words to live by, because man does not live by bread alone....

May 15 : Exodus 25-28 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, May 15, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 25-28

*The most important thing here is to

read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 25

Last week we left Moses on Mount Sinai with the LORD, where he stayed forty days and forty nights.

GOD had Moses tell the Israelites to bring HIM an offering from each man whose heart prompted him to give, including: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, goat hair, rams skins dyed red and hides of sea cows (dugongs), acacia wood, olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

They were to make a sanctuary for the LORD with furnishings just exactly as the LORD showed Moses. This reminds me of Gen. 6:22 where Noah did exactly as the LORD commanded in the building of the Ark. We will see that it is extremely important to follow the LORD's commands exactly.

The LORD gave exact measurements and instructions for building the ark/chest that would be the Testimony which GOD would show to Moses.

It was to be made of acacia wood with two rings attached on either side with poles through the rings and it would be carried by men at both ends of the poles. It had an atonement cover (mercy seat) of pure gold with a cherub on each end of the cover, all one piece.

The cherubim faced each other with spread wings.

It must have been beautiful to behold.

They made a table to exact specifications, with acacia wood and gold. It also had four rings with two poles by which it was carried.

Its plates and dishes and pitchers and bowls were gold as well.

The bread of Presence would be on this table before the LORD at all times.

They made then, the lampstand and its description is incredibly beautiful. It had buds, blossoms, six branches, three on either side, and seven lamps. Most, if not all, made of one piece. About 75 pounds of pure gold was used for the lampstand and its accessories.

Chapter 26

They would build the tabernacle in this chapter and the specifications are just as exact as those in chapter 25.

It would have ten finely twisted linen curtains with blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them. Five curtains were joined together, and the other five were also. They were fastened together with loops clasped together to make the tabernacle a unit. There were eleven curtains of goat hair used for the tent over the tabernacle. These were looped and clasped together, and the frame was made with acacia wood, and the crossbars also.

The frames were overlaid with gold and gold rings held the crossbars. They made another curtain just as fine to separate the

Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, where the ark of the Testimony would be, the table outside the curtain on the north side, and the lampstand on the south side.

Chapter 27

Now they would build an altar to exact specifications with a horn on all four corners, all one piece, and overlaid with bronze. All utensils were bronze; pots, shovels, bowls, forks, and firepans. A bronze grating with four rings, so it too, could be carried by poles.

And they would make a courtyard to exact specifications.

GOD told Moses to command the Israelites to bring clear oil of pressed olives for the light so the lamps may be kept burning.

In the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain that is in front of the Testimony, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.

Chapter 28

The LORD had Moses to gather all the skilled garment makers to make sacred garments for Aaron and his sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar so they may serve the LORD as priests.

They were to make a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash for Aaron and his sons. The ephod would be of gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. It would have two shoulder pieces and a skillfully woven waistband of one piece with the ephod. There would be two onyx stones the names of the sons of Aaron engraved on them in the order of their birth. Six on one stone and six on the other. these stones would be fastened to the shoulder pieces as memorial stones for the sons of Israel.

Aaron would bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the LORD. The breastplate would be like the ephod, of gold and colored yarns. Nine inches square and folded double. there would be four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row, a ruby, a topaz, and a beryl; second row a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald; third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. These would be representative of the twelve tribes of Israel. The breastpiece and ephod would be connected together with blue cord. Over his heart Aaron would have the names of Israel's sons, and the Urim and Thummim whenever he enters the presence of the LORD.

The robe would be entirely of blue cloth with pomegranates and bells alternating around the hem. Aaron would wear it when he ministered. The bells would be heard when he entered the Holy Place before the LORD and when he came out, so that he would not die. They would make a plate of pure gold engraved with:

HOLY TO THE LORD. It would be fastened to the turban with a blue cord. It would rest on Aaron's forehead so that he would bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelite would consecrate.

It would be on Aaron's forehead continually so that the gifts would be acceptable to the LORD. The tunic and the turban would be of fine linen. The sash would be embroidered. Moses was to anoint and ordain Aaron and his sons after they had put these garments on. They would be consecrated to serve the LORD as priests. They would wear linen undergarments from the waist to the thigh whenever they entered the Tent of Meeting or ministered in the Holy Place so that they would not incur guilt and die.

"This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants."

Now, all of these four chapters are just the instructions that Moses was to follow. Moses is yet, still on the mountain.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Marc Hermon:

This was a lot of work for the children of Israel. Doing good hard work and being busy for the Lord is good. It's when we start being consumed by our own work and business that we many times lose focus. What we might call a great work ethic could actually be a form of idolatry. We can spend a lot of our time working on our own special project golden calves.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Butch! Even now the tabernacle would have been an amazing site! So much symbolism and object lessons of God's redemption can be made. My favorite is the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Thanks be to Christ for believers having direct access to the presence of God!

May 22 : Exodus 29-32 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, May 22, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 29-32

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 29

Moses is still on Mount Sinai receiving information and instructions/commands to bring to the Israelites.

GOD continues. To consecrate Aaron and his sons as priests, they were to take a young bull and two rams without defect, along with bread made with fine wheat flour without yeast and cakes mixed with oil and wafers spread with oil. Then they would present them in a basket along with the bull and rams.

Then they were to Aaron and his sons at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, then dress them in the priestly garments that are described in chapter 28. In this way they would be ordained.

The priesthood would be theirs by a lasting ordinance.

They were to bring the bull to the front of the Tent of Meeting, where Aaron and sons would lay hands on its head and it would be slaughtered there in the LORD's presence. Some of the blood would be put on the horns of the altar and the rest would be poured out at the base of the altar. All the fat and the kidneys would be burned on the altar. The flesh, hide, and offal would be burned outside the camp for a sin offering. They would take a ram, after laying hands on its head, slaughter it and sprinkle its blood against all sides of the altar, then cut it into pieces, washing the inner parts and the legs, then burn the entire ram on the altar as a burnt offering to the LORD. A pleasing aroma to the LORD. After the laying of their hands on the other ram, it would be slaughtered and some of its blood would be put on the lobes of the right ears, the thumbs of their right hands, and the big toes of their right feet of Aaron and his sons. Blood would be sprinkled on all sides of the altar and some blood and some of the anointing oil would be sprinkled on Aaron and sons and their garments. Then he and sons and garments would be consecrated. From this ram the fat, fat tail, fat around the inner parts, covering of the liver, kidneys with the fat, and the right thigh would be taken. (the ram for the ordination) From the basket before the LORD, a loaf, a cake, and a wafer, along with the ram parts would be put in the hands of Aaron and sons to be waved before the LORD as a wave offering, then burned on the altar with the burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

Aaron and sons were to eat the bread of the basket and the meat of the ordination ram, which had been cooked in a sacred place, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Anything left over would be burned up because it was sacred.

For seven days they would continue with sacrifices to ordain Aaron and sons. One bull a day as a sin offering, two lambs a day, a year old, specially prepared, as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, an offering made by fire. This would be a regular offering made for generations at the entrance to the Tent of Meetings.

GOD would consecrate the Tent of Meetings, the altar, and Aaron and sons as priests.

"Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God."

"I am the LORD their God."

Chapter 30

This chapter deals with explicit instructions/commands regarding the altar of incense, atonement money, basin for washing, anointing oil, and incense. The LORD is exact and precise in all of HIS instructions to Moses in these items. Any variations would not be tolerated. The extensive instructions/commands in these chapters, 25 through 31 gives me a better understanding of why Moses was on the mountain for as long as he was. Not that the LORD needed 40 days and nights to relay HIS instructions/commands, but that Moses needed the time to be able to take it all in and comprehend it all. Just a thought.

Chapter 31

The LORD told Moses that HE had filled Bezalel (in the shadow of God) and Oholiab (tent of his father) with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts, able to do the work required, and that HE had also given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything that GOD had commanded him.

They were to observe the Sabbaths. Six days they would work and the seventh would be Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD.

It would be a sign between the LORD and the Israelites forever.

When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, HE gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of GOD.

Chapter 32

The people became impatient that Moses was on the mountain for so long that they besieged Aaron to make them gods because they didn't know what happened to Moses.

So Aaron collected all the gold that the Israelites were wearing and Aaron fashioned it into an idol shaped like a calf and they said: "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."

The people sinned in their worship the next day, and the LORD told Moses to go down the mountain while HE prepared to destroy them. Then HE would make Moses into a great nation.

But Moses sought the favor of the LORD and reasoned with HIM not to bring disaster on the people that HE would look bad to the Egyptians. And to remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Then the LORD relented.

Moses went down the mountain with the tablets, inscribed on both sides, front and back, by the finger of God.

When Moses saw the calf and the people reveling, his anger burned and he threw the tablets to the ground, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.

Moses questioned Aaron and Aaron told him all that had happened, except for the part that Aaron himself had fashioned the calf.

At the entrance to the camp Moses said: "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." Then Moses had those go back through the camp, each slaying his brother, friend, and neighbor.

The Levites did as commanded and about three thousand people died. Moses pleaded again with the LORD to forgive them their sin, but if not, then blot him to out of the book YOU have written. The LORD said that HE would blot those who had sinned against HIM from the book. Moses was to lead the people to the place GOD had spoke of, and HIS angel would go before them. GOD would punish when the time came.

And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Paul Rutherford:

This aspect of God's dealings with Israel, namely justice, is the part of his being that men wish to ignore, and not talk about. Consequently, uncounted people over the millineum have found out the eternally hard way. Yes our Creator loves us as he gave his Son as a propitiation for our sins and desires that "no man should perish but that all should come to repentence." ~2 Peter 3:9. Yet, God's love will sometimes take us through fiery trials in order to strengthen us for his purpose. James 1:1-8

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:
Thank you

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

I apologize for being late on this, Butch O'Neal! I read your post Monday and also read the study but it was very late. I'm very grateful for your good works in encouraging us in the study of the law. Chapter 32 brings great sadness. Although Moses tried to be a mediator no sacrifice that Moses might bring could atone for this sin. Only Jesus, the Great Mediator, can offer himself as an atonement for His people.

May 29 : Exodus 33-36 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, May 29, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 33-36

*The most important thing here is to
read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 33

Now the LORD told Moses to leave that place and to take the people with him and go to the land of milk and honey that the LORD had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The LORD would send an ahead to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. But the LORD would not go with them, for he might destroy these stiff-necked people on the way. The LORD had them take off their ornaments while HE decided what to do with them.

Now Moses used to pitch a tent some distance from the camp

and he called the "tent of meeting." People inquiring of the LORD would go there. And when Moses went there, all the people would stand at the entrances to their tents until Moses went in. When Moses went in, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. When the people saw the pillar of cloud, they all stood and worshipped. When the LORD finished speaking with Moses, he returned to the camp, but his young aide Joshua did not leave the tent.

Now Moses wanted to know who the LORD would send with him to lead the people, and he wanted the LORD to teach him HIS ways. The LORD said, "My Presence will go with you. and I will give you rest."

Moses wanted to see the LORD's glory, and the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Then the LORD covered Moses as HE passed by, then HE removed HIS hand and Moses saw the back of GOD;s glory!

Chapter 34

Now the LORD had Moses chisel out two stone tablets like the ones he broke, and bring them up on the mountain in the morning, and GOD would write on them the words that were on the first tablets. Moses was to come by himself. There was to be no one anywhere on the mountain, not even flocks or herds grazing in front of the mountain. So Moses went up, and the LORD came down to Moses in the cloud and proclaimed HIS Name, the LORD, and proclaiming,

"The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God,

slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Yet HE does not leave the guilty unpunished; HE punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." Moses bowed and worshipped and asked forgiveness for the people. The LORD told Moses that HE would make a covenant, and that HE would do wonders never before seen in the world. Only obey what HE commands today. They were not to make a treaty with any of the people left in the land, they were to destroy everything associated with false gods, and they were not to worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. They were to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the month of Abib, the month that they came out of Egypt.

The first offspring of every womb would be the LORD's.

No one would appear before the LORD empty-handed.

They would work six days and rest on the seventh.

There were a few more commands including.

"Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk."

The LORD told Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water.

And HE wrote tablets the words of the covenant-- the Ten Commandments.

When Moses came down from the mountain, his face was radiant and Aaron and all the Israelites were afraid to come near him, but he called to them and they came near and Moses told them all the commands that the LORD had given.

Then Moses wore a veil until the times that he went in to speak to the LORD.

Chapter 35

Verses 1-3 has to do with the Sabbath regulations.

This was covered in chapter 31.

Verses 1-29 has to do with materials and construction of the tabernacle. This was covered in chapter 26.

Verses 30-35 has to do with the LORD's choosing Bezalel and Oholiab and giving them great skill and ability in all kinds of crafts. This was covered in chapter 31.

Chapter 36

This chapter has to do with the skilled craftsmen constructing the sanctuary and tabernacle with the material that the people provided. In fact, the people had to be told to stop bringing material because they had already brought more than what was needed.

The people built the tabernacle just exactly the way the LORD had commanded Moses when he was on the mountain the first time, for forty days and forty nights.

Comment or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Steven Wright:

Thank you Butch! When hearts submit to God, great things happen!

June 5 : Exodus 37-40 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, June 5, 2017

THE LAW

Exodus 37-40

*The most important thing here is to

read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 37

This chapter has to do with the crafting of the Ark, the Table, and the Lampstand.

These were to be made exactly to the specifications that the LORD commanded Moses on the mountain.

Exact in every detail. (Complete details in chapter 25)

Also in this chapter is the crafting of the Altar of Incense.

This would also be made to exact specifications of the LORD.

Exact in every detail.(Complete details in chapter 30)

Chapter 38

This chapter has to do with the crafting of the Altar of Burnt Offering and the Courtyard.

These also would be made to the exact specifications of the LORD.

Exact in every detail. (Complete details in chapter 27)

Also in this chapter is listed the amounts of materials used for the Tabernacle and the tabernacle of Testimony.

A little over 1 ton of gold. A little over 3 3/4 tons of silver, and about 2 1/2 tons of bronze.

Collected from a total of 603,550 men. WOW!

Chapter 39

This chapter has to do with the crafting of the priestly garments, the ephod, and the breastpiece.

All to the exact specifications of the LORD.

Exact in every detail. (Complete details in chapter 28)

Also in this chapter Moses inspected all the work when it was completed, in every detail, and when he saw that the Israelites had done all the work just as the LORD commanded, Moses blessed them.

Chapter 40

The LORD had Moses set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. Put the ark of the Testimony in it and shield it with the curtain. Bring in the table and what belongs on it. Bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. There were many more instructions pertaining to the gold altar of incense, altar of burnt offering, basin, the courtyard and the curtains.

They were to anoint the tabernacle and everything in it and it would be holy. Then anoint the altar of burnt offerings and it would be most holy. Aaron and his sons would be washed with water. Aaron would be dressed in the sacred garments, anointed and consecrated to serve as priest. The sons would be dressed in tunics and anointed also, to serve as priests.

A priesthood to continue for all generations to come.

And so, Moses set up everything just as the LORD had commanded him. Everything was in its proper place.

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Moses could not enter the

Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out--until the day it lifted.

So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night,

in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.

And so, next week, LORD willing, we begin the Book of Leviticus.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Butch O'Neal! We're so grateful for your faithfulness to the study! Just think... you covered 2,730 years with us in 5 months time! 😊 We are blessed by your efforts. ❤️

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Ginger Hermon! Wow, I hadn't really looked at it like that. In the start I was somewhat apprehensive, but now I am constantly thankful for the encouragement from Charles Fry and Marc Hermon to get involved. I thank you for your kind words and encouragement! You are a blessing!

Replies:

Ginger Hermon:

I'm so grateful you made the commitment! The Holy Spirit has been working through you. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we asked or imagined, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!"