

Sermon Scripture Passage

Exodus 19:3-6

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

Exodus 19:17-19

17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. 19 As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

Exodus 20:18-21

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

When you encounter an OT Law that is troubling or difficult to understand?

Note your immediate reaction but then pause and ask questions:

- Why was this law given?
- What behavior was it trying to stop?
- Who is it directed to and what limits are specified in how the law is applied?
- What reasons are given for this specific law?
- Is there a broader principle beyond the specific admonition?
- What effect would this law have on society over the long term?

Consider the context of the Bible as a whole!

- Where does this law come up later in the OT?
- Was the law reaffirmed in the writing of the prophets?
- Is the specific command relevant by the time of the NT?
- Is this specific law addressed, changed, or revoked in the New Testament?
- What did Jesus say or do that relates to this general topic?
- Is this law meant to apply within the church (for believers) or to society as a whole?

East Glenville Church – Sermon Notes Handout – October 9th 2022

The Big Story: A Lamp to My Feet #5 – Exodus / Deuteronomy – A Restored Image

What are two reasons God gives the Torah to Israel? See Exodus 19:6 and Leviticus 11:45

The laws/commands in the Torah/Pentateuch break down into 4 Categories – (maybe 5)

The Big Ten

Ceremonial/Worship Laws

The Moral Laws

Societal Laws (+ Case Laws)

A Sample of Commands in the Torah

Pay Your Workers on Time: *Leviticus 19:13 “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.*

Do not mistreat the Disabled: *Leviticus 19:14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.*

Do not hate your brother: *Leviticus 19:17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.*

Gleanings Law: *Leviticus 19:9-10 “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.*

Care for the poor: *Leviticus 25:35 “If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. 36 Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you.*

Protect Runaway slaves: *Deuteronomy 23:15-16 “You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.*

Clear Evidence: *Numbers 35:30 “If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.*

Roadside Assistance: *Deuteronomy 22:4 If you see your fellow Israelite’s donkey or ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help the owner get it to its feet.*