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Exodus 20

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Exodus 20.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- The LORD gives Israel the Ten Commandments.
- There is, thunder, flashes of lightning and smoke covering Mount Sinai.
- The people fear and tremble as they saw the Mountain and heard trumpets.
- The people tell Moses to speak to the LORD and they will listen.
- Moses draws near to the darkness where God was, the people remain far off.
- The LORD talked with Israel from heaven and they heard His voice.
- Israel was to make an altar of earth and of hewn stone for their sacrifices.
- Israel will be blessed in places the LORD causes his name to be remembered.

INTRODUCTION: in the book of Exodus, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by multiplying Abraham's descendants into a great nation delivering them from slavery in Egypt to journey to the Promised Land, and then binding them to Himself with a covenant at Mount Sinai. Moses, under the direct command of God and as leader of Israel, received the Ten Commandments from God, along with other laws governing Israel's life and worship. He also led the nation in building the Tabernacle, a place where God's presence can dwell among his people and where they can make sacrifices for sin. Most Jews and Christians recognise Moses as the author, writing sometime after the Exodus from Egypt (about 1445 B.C.). Note: the promise God made to Abraham will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ returns in glory and all those (Jews and Gentiles) who belong to God's Kingdom are gathered to him. (See also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

The previous chapter ended with the LORD descending on the top of Mount Sinai. When the people heard the trumpet and saw the thunder and lightning and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood far off from the mountain. Out of the thundering cloud and lightning surrounding Mount Sinai God speaks to Moses and the people of Israel standing at the foot of the mountain and all the people hear the voice of the LORD. God tells Israel that he is the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery and then gives Israel the Ten Commandments. When all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking and heard the voice of the LORD, they feared the LORD and remained standing far away from the mountain.

NOTE: the following three things would have contributed to the peoples fear of the LORD:

1. The mountain trembling and the fearfully dramatic thunder and lightning surrounding it.

2. The trumpet supernaturally sounding out of the dark cloud.
3. The fact all the people of Israel have just heard the voice of the LORD speak the Ten Commandments out of the thick cloud. Imagine standing before the Almighty God and have him speak to you the Commandments this in itself would certainly be a fearful thing indeed (especially without knowing the mercy and grace of God that we do today through the Lord Jesus Christ).

The people said to Moses, you speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die. Moses tells them not to fear, for God has come to test them that the fear of him may be before them so that they will not sin. The people stood far off, while Moses left the people and walked far closer toward the thick cloud where the LORD was and then goes up the mountain. The LORD tells Moses to tell Israel that they have seen for themselves how the LORD has talked with them from heaven. Following are the Ten Commandments the LORD spoke to the people out of the thick cloud

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make carved image of anything and you shall not bow down to them or serve them.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's. (Ex. 20:1-18).

They are not to make gods of silver or gold to be like the LORD, but they could make an altar of stones providing they did not carve them or an altar of earth to sacrifice on and so that their nakedness would not be exposed on the LORD'S altar they were not to go up steps to it. This probably carries the following two ideas:

- The altar is not to be exalted.
- Pride is not to be given the chance of being exalted by being elevated above others. This does not mean it is wrong to be on a platform when proclaiming the Gospel, there is a difference for doing something for practical purposes (i.e., so everyone can see and hear) and doing something to exalt self above others and make one feel superior.

Nakedness: from Strong's Concordance literally means nudity, but figuratively it means to expose or make bare a person's disgrace, to make one feel shame or unclean before others.

The LORD'S promise to Israel: when the LORD gave Israel the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai he said to Israel, in every place where the LORD causes his name to be remembered He will come to Israel and bless them (Exodus 20: 24).

The fear of God: notice the people of Israel say to Moses, "Do not let God speak to us, lest we die," and Moses says, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin" (Exod. 20:19-20). This shines a spotlight on the truth that the

fear of God is about being afraid to sin (i.e., doing what is wrong), because of judgment to come. It could be said that the statement, "Fear of God," is the same as saying, "Fear of sin and wrong-doing." God is not only a God of love; He is also a God of justice so when we break the law justice will prevail and a punishment will result. This is why the book of proverbs says, "The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD."

HONOUR YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR FATHER

In Exodus twenty verse twelve God's tells Israel to:

- Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you (Exod. 20:12).

In the New Testament the apostle Paul wrote:

- Honour your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise) (Eph. 6:2).

Though the divine words, "honour your father and your mother" were addressed emphatically to Israel they set forth a universal principle of national life. Our parents stand between us and God in a way in which no other man or women can. This is because the command for reverence to parents lays the foundation for the whole of society and social life. If a child learns to respect their parents, they will not only respect and honour God in the same manner, but will also respect other authorities in societies as they grow (i.e. teachers, police, bosses, governments etc.). This is the reason it is important for children to learn to respect and honour their godly parents.

It is through honouring and obeying parents that a child learns that they are not always able to do what self and the flesh desires and a child who grows up with self-control is an asset to any relationship, community and society. The command to honour your father and your mother is not limited to only obeying our parents, but also carries with it the idea of doing what we are able to help them when they fall weak, feeble, or sick (especially in their old age) in the same manner that God required them to love, feed, nourish, support, instruct, and defend us when we were children.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE

Though no particular promise is promised with the observance of the four first commandments it should never be supposed that keeping them does not result in a blessing since within these four commandments God states:

- He will show steadfast love to thousands of those who love him and keep his commandments (Exodus 20:3-6).

These first four commandments are focused on our relationship toward God whereas the fifth commandment is the first of the six commandments that are focused on our relationship toward our neighbour. It is in this sense that the commandment: honour your mother and father is the first commandment given with a promise. The promise was that as long as the nation of Israel could rejoice in the possession of obedient children they were assured of a long existence in the Promised Land of Canaan. From generation to generation no nation would be able to drive them out and their children's children would continue to inherit the land.

Though these laws, promises and blessings were given specifically to Israel they extend to all mankind. This is because those who respect their godly parents and endeavour to live their life in a manner that brings honour God may be sure that they will avoid much trouble that comes to the wicked and that they will be resurrected to eternal life in everlasting glory the heavenly Promised Land of Canaan which God has promised to all who keep his laws and trust in his eternal plan of salvation.

- Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death (Exod. 21:17).
- Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God (Lev. 19:3).
- Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin (Deuteronomy 24:16).

These laws were given to Israel so that from generation-to-generation children would grow up to respect God and respect those who God appointed as authorities over them and to respect men and woman amongst their society and respect those deserving of respect outside of their nation. Family respect is the foundation of national permanence and national peace.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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