

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Exodus 23.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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 special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Exodus 23.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

Topics.

- Civil rules for the nation of Israel.
- Laws concerning the Sabbath and festivals.
- The feast of unleavened bread.
- The feast of harvest or firstfruits.
- The feast of ingathering.
- Rules for the LORD'S feasts.
- The boundaries of Israel's borders.

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.

This chapter is full of God's laws regarding the Sabbath and concerning festivals and the borders of Canaan.

Rules for Israel.

- Do not spread false reports or join with the wicked to be a malicious witness.
- Do not fall in with the many to do evil.
- Do not pervert justice as a witness in a lawsuit, by siding with the many.
- Do not be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.
- Do not leave your enemy's ox or his donkey if you see it going astray; take it back to him.
- Do not leave a donkey that is lying down under its burden because it belongs to someone you hate. Rescue it and refrain from leaving it.
- Do not pervert justice of a man's lawsuit because he is poor.
- Do not kill the innocent and righteous, but keep away from a false witness or a false charge.

- Do not take a bribe because a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.
- Do not oppress a sojourner because you know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
- For six years sow the land and gather in its yield and in the seventh year let it rest and lie fallow.
- Leave the beasts of the field, fruit from their vineyard and olive orchards so that the poor may eat.
- Work six days Israel, but on the seventh day rest so that the ox and donkey may have rest and the sons of the servant woman and the foreigner may be refreshed.
- Do not make mention of the names of other gods or let it be heard on the lips.
- Pay careful attention to the LORD'S angel that He sends before them and obey his voice.

If Israel does all the above, God says He would send an angel to guard Israel on their way and bring them into the land He has prepared.

The LORD warns Israel: -

- Not to rebel against the angel He sends before them because the angel will not pardon Israel's transgression because God's name is in him, but if they obey the angel's voice and do all that he says he will be an enemy to Israel's enemies and an adversary to their adversaries.
- Not to bow down to their enemies' gods or serve them or do as they do.

God tells Israel: -

- His angel will go before Israel and bring them to the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites and blot them out, he will utterly overthrow their enemies and break their pillars in pieces.
- If they serve Him he will bless their bread and their water and will take sickness away from among them.
- No woman will miscarry or be barren in the land and everyone will live the full number of his or her days.
- He will send His terror before Israel and throw their enemies into confusion and make all their enemies run from them.
- He will send hornets before them to drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites and the Hittites from before Israel, but He will not drive Israel's enemies out in one year because the land might become desolate and the wild beasts may multiply against them. Little by little He will drive Israel's enemies out from before them, until they have increased and possess the land.
- Their enemies are not to dwell in their land because they will be a snare to Israel and may cause Israel to serve their gods and sin against the LORD.
- Not to make any covenant with their enemies and their gods.

Three times in the year Israel is to keep the following three feasts to the LORD: -

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Israel was to eat unleavened bread for seven days in the month of Abib at the appointed time because on that day Israel came out of Egypt, no one was to appear before the LORD empty-handed.

Abib was established as the first month of the Jewish calendar because this is when God brought Israel out of the bondage of Egypt.

2. **The Feast of Harvest or Firstfruits.**

At the end of the year Israel is to bring the best of the firstfruits of their labour (what they sow in the field) into the house of the LORD. After offering it to the LORD it became food for the Levitical priesthood and their families.

3. **The Feast of Ingathering.**

At the end of the year, Israel is to gather in from the field the entire fruit (crop) of their labour.

Rules for the LORD'S feasts: all Israel's men were to appear before the LORD, they were not to offer any blood sacrifices with anything leavened or let the fat of the LORD'S offerings remain until the morning or boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

Israel's borders: were from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines and from the wilderness to the Euphrates.

End.