



# Calvary of Albuquerque

Exodus 23:14-24:18 - Exodus 23:14-24:18

From the Series, Exodus

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this study from Exodus 23-24, we discover some interesting parallels between Israel and the church. We'll consider three Jewish feasts, the Promised Land, and the covenant relationship between God and his people through a mediator.

## OUTLINE

Justice for All - Read Exodus 23:1-9

The Law of Sabbaths - Read Exodus 23:10-13

Three Annual Feasts - Read Exodus 23:14-19

The Angel and the Promises - Read Exodus 23:20-33

Israel Affirms the Covenant - Read Exodus 24:1-8

On the Mountain with God - Read Exodus 24:9-18

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

#### A. Purpose of the Law

1. Safety
2. Responsibility
3. "The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate," (1 Timothy 1:9)
4. paidagōgos - a boy's guardian or tutor, a slave who had charge of the life and morals of the boys of a family, not strictly a teacher; (See Galatians 3:24)
5. Points us to Christ
6. Tethers the raging of the old nature
7. "Do this and live, the law demands, But gives me neither feet nor hands. A better word the gospel brings, It bids me fly and gives me wings."

#### B. Believers and the Law

1. Not bound by the law
2. Slaves of Jesus Christ
3. Not lawless lives, but better lives than the law could ever provide
4. Our motivation is love for Jesus;

#### C. Precepts of the Law

1. According to Rabbi Shammai, Moses gave 613 laws
  - a. 365 prohibitions
  - b. 248 positive commands
2. David reduced them to 11 precepts (See Psalm 15)
3. Isaiah reduced them to 6 (See Isaiah 33:14-15)
4. Micah reduced them to 3 (See Micah 6:8)
5. Habakkuk reduced them to 1: "The just shall live by his faith." (Habakkuk 2:4)
6. New testament reiterates: The just shall live by faith

### II. Exodus 23:14-33

#### A. Annual Feasts

1. Feast of Unleavened Bread
  - a. Followed the Passover; the 15-21 of the 1st month (mid-March - mid April)
  - b. Unleavened bread
    - i. Bread without yeast
    - ii. When leaving Egypt, no time to let bread rise
  - c. Eat matzah bread (5 grains); no leavened bread
  - d. Not "empty;"
    - i. Empty handed: "They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed." (Deuteronomy 16:16)
    - ii. Give in proportion to how you've been blessed
2. Feast of Harvest
  - a. Pentecost; 50 days after the sheaf offering
  - b. 6th day of the 3rd month
  - c. Feast of Weeks; שבועות Shavuot: weeks- 7 weeks after the Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. Feast of Ingathering: 15-22 of the 7th month
4. Given based on the agricultural year
5. Common names



- a. Redemption
  - i. Feast of Unleavened Bread
  - ii. Deliverance from Egypt; blood of the lamb
- b. Pentecost
  - i. Provision
  - ii. Feast of Harvest
  - iii. Gratitude for the harvest
- c. Tabernacles
  - i. Protection
  - ii. Feast of Ingathering
  - iii. Remind them of the wilderness
- 6. Three times a year came before the Lord in Jerusalem
  - a. Families went
  - b. Socially and spiritually uniting
  - c. We gather frequently; "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)
  - d. The Jewish year revolved around God
- B. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." (v. 19)
  - 1. Straightforward command
  - 2. Jews separate meat from dairy
    - a. Say if you eat meat with dairy the food churns, boils in your stomach
    - b. Breakfast: fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh grains, dairy
    - c. Lunch: if meat served, no dairy
  - 3. Ras Shamra excavations
    - a. Canaanite practice
    - b. Worship of pagan gods
    - c. God will be worshiped differently
  - 4. Jewish prohibitions are a stretch
    - a. Far-fetched as Jehovah's Witnesses who refuse blood transfusions based on the prohibition of drinking blood
    - b. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees...who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" (Matthew 23:23-24)
- C. The Angel
  - 1. We may entertain angels unaware (See Hebrews 13:2)
  - 2. "My name in Him"
  - 3. Key to victory
  - 4. Joshua's encounter with the Captain of the Lord's Army (See Joshua 5:13-15)
    - a. Joshua worshiped
    - b. The Angel told him "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." (As God told Moses)
    - c. Angel of the LORD could be a Christophany: pre-incarnate, visible form of Jesus Christ
    - d. "They drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:4)
    - e. "We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes." (1 Corinthians 10:9)
- D. God promised to miraculously preserve them and displace their enemies
- E. The Promised Land
  - 1. Canaan was a free gift
    - a. They didn't earn it
    - b. Received by grace
    - c. Like Salvation: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - 2. Occupying Canaan was a process
    - a. Dependence on God every day
    - b. Christian maturity is not instantaneous
      - i. Daily dependence
      - ii. "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." (Philippians 3:12)
      - iii. "Walk in the Spirit," (Galatians 5:16)
  - 3. Canaan was never totally possessed
    - a. God promised Egypt to the Euphrates
    - b. They had to appropriate the promise for themselves
    - c. Of the 300,000 miles promised, they took 30,000 (1/10)
    - d. Christians often settle for far less than what God has promised
    - e. "Most Christians, as to the river of experience, are only up to the ankles; some others have waded till the stream is up to the knees; a few find it breast-high. And but a few--oh! how few!--find it a river to swim in, the bottom of which they cannot touch."--C. H. Spurgeon

### III. Exodus 24

- A. Climax of Exodus: Children of Israel become a nation
  - 1. Covenant relationship: agreed to, written, and ratified
  - 2. A theocracy: one nation under God
- B. God's summons to worship-upreach
  - 1. Our highest privilege
  - 2. Our greatest responsibility
  - 3. Both inreach and outreach are predicated upon upreach
  - 4. They worshiped from afar; except Moses

5. Moses: the mediator
  - a. Acts as the go-between
  - b. Represents Israel to God (priest)
  - c. Represents God to Israel (prophet)
6. Jesus Christ our Mediator
  - a. "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5)
  - b. Jesus is the mediator in the new covenant
  - c. Not a priest, pope, or pastor
    - i. Direct access to God through Christ
    - ii. Perfect mediator
      - a. As God incarnate, He represents God perfectly
      - b. As Man, He can represent humanity before God perfectly
7. Under the Law worship was from afar
8. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)
- C. For the second time, the people promised to obey God in everything
  1. They were saying they were able to meet God's standards on their own
  2. Deception: "I can please God on my own."
    - a. Overestimate self, underestimate God's standard
    - b. God's standard is perfection
    - c. "There is none righteous, no, not one;" (Romans 3:10)
    - d. "Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is evil? Of course not! The law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, 'Do not covet.' But sin took advantage of this law and aroused all kinds of forbidden desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. I felt fine when I did not understand what the law demanded. But when I learned the truth, I realized I had broken the law and was a sinner, doomed to die. So the good law, which was supposed to show me the way of life, instead gave me the death penalty." (Romans 7:7-10 NLT)
- D. Written teachings
  1. First mention
  2. Critics say writing wasn't invented yet
    - a. 1000 years before Moses people were writing
    - b. Hieroglyphics
      - i. Rosetta Stone - parallel languages
      - ii. "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds." (Acts 7:22)
    - c. Tel Amarna Tablets: *lingua franca*, common language of the time.
- E. Sacrifices
  1. Young men: firstborn sons who acted as priests until the priesthood was established
  2. Sacrifice of blood
    - a. A sacrifice of blood had to be made to forgive sins
    - b. Blood represents the essence of life and the ending of life
    - c. "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)
  3. Vicarious atonement; substitutionary atonement: innocent life given up for forgiveness of sin
- F. Book of the Covenant
  1. Sefer ha berit: the Book of the Covenant
  2. Includes the instructions of Exodus 20-23
  3. New Testament also sealed by blood
    - a. Testament: Latin: *testamentum: covenant*
    - b. "For this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28)
    - c. New Covenant predicted by Jeremiah (See Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- G. They saw the God of Israel
  1. Seems to be a contradiction:
    - a. "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." (John 1:18)
    - b. "And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory.' Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.'" (Exodus 33:18-20)
    - c. Jacob: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." (Genesis 32:30)
  2. Rabbis explanation: Saw a manifestation of God
  3. They saw as much of the visible presence of God as they could without dying
  4. Maybe Angel of the Lord
  5. Maybe a vision: (See Isaiah 6)
  6. Perhaps a vision of the throne of God: "And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it." (Ezekiel 1:26) (See Ezekiel 10)
- H. Covenant sealed with blood and a meal
  1. Unity
  2. Intimacy
  3. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20)
  4. We confirm the New Covenant with the Lord's Supper

- I. Moses team (See Exodus 18)
  - 1. Joshua went with him up the mountain
  - 2. In Moses absence: executive team: Aaron and Hur (Caleb's son and the grandfather of Bezelel)
- J. Moses on the mountain
  - 1. שָׁכַן ; shakan - shekinah; to dwell
  - 2. Moses on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights
    - a. He will be there through Exodus 31
    - b. Blueprints for the tabernacle
    - c. 40 is a number of testing and probation
      - i. The children of Israel were being tested
      - ii. They failed (the golden calf)
- K. With every law came a choice: to obey or disobey
  - 1. "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;" (Deuteronomy 30:19)
  - 2. Eternal life through Jesus Christ
  - 3. Eternal damnation without Jesus Christ

Hebrew Terms: שבועות Shavuot: weeks; שָׁכַן ; shakan - shekinah; to dwell; sefer ha berit: the Book of the Covenant

Greek Terms: paidagōgos - a boy's guardian or tutor, a slave who had charge of the life and morals of the boys of a family, not strictly a teacher;

Figures Referenced: Rabbi Shammai; C. H. Spurgeon

Cross References: Genesis 32:30; Exodus 18; Exodus 33:18-20; Deuteronomy 16:16; Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 5:13-15; Psalm 15; Isaiah 33:14-15; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 1:26; Ezekiel 10; Micah 6:8; Habakkuk 2:4; Matthew 23:23-24; Matthew 26:28; John 1:18; Acts 7:22; Romans 3:10; Romans 7:7-10; 1 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Corinthians 10:9; Galatians 3:24; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:13; Philippians 3:12; 1 Timothy 1:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:22; Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 13:2; Revelation 3:20