

## **Let Not God Speak With Us Lest We Die**

Exodus 20:18 – 21:36

~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we examined how memories can be a very sweet and wonderful thing. My early memories are wonderful as a small boy at school. Memories of my birthdays and my mom and dad and sister. I remember the birth of my children and my mind's eye has very pleasant days and special views of physical places that could never be replaced. Unfortunately, there are some horrible things in my memory also. The child of God will also remember all of those things in eternity – all things that the Holy Spirit brings to our remembrance. Tragically, for the lost man in the torment of hell, his good memories will be bitter as he remembers family and friends and the good times they had - and how those days are gone and will never be again. Their bad memories will bring shame, regret and unbearable self-condemnation for rejecting Christ. Can you remember the time before you were saved? Well, when you get discouraged in your life today maybe you should think back over those days. It may just prepare your heart to receive the truth of the Word of God as it really is – for men and women as they really are – and it may just get you into the presence of our Holy Heavenly Father. It WILL make a difference in your life. God promises you that!

We also took liberty in our previous report from this so-called safari to overstate the obvious concerning portions of the law. I didn't drag you through every single scenario or we would have one hundred times as much reading on our hands as we do already in Exodus. These are things you could think about from now until the end of time; but I wouldn't suggest it except as the Holy Spirit causes that to happen. You can even pray that He will take the bad stuff away; maybe He will if you ask Him correctly! With that, our safari continues at the smoking mountain of Mount Sinai. This is where the moral code of law – the Ten Commandments - has now been given to Moses. Remember, the people are not to even look upon this mountain or they will be killed. For the next four chapters we will be examining social legislation. After that we will see the Levitical part of

the service in the law and it's all one package, my law loving friends – so read it all super-duper carefully....

**XX**

***18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.***

***19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.***

***20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.***

***21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.***

***22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.***

***23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.***

***24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.***

***25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.***

***26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.***

~ The giving of the law was not a beautiful event. There are people who think it was. They are generally the people who are completely ignorant of

it! The children of Israel didn't think it was very pretty! The law is presented as frightening and now the people have backed off of their position a little bit. Now the children of Israel are saying to Moses, "... we will obey God, but we want YOU to speak to us and not God." This is a wise choice, actually; because the law is perfect, and the law demands perfection. If you are not prepared to give the law your own perfection, then you better get yourself on some other standard of living because, if you don't, you have real problems. You're not making it on your own standards because the law is perfect and the law demands perfection – YOU, on the other hand, are not perfect and you cannot attain unto perfection! You better take the time to thank Him today that He will take poor sinners like you and me under grace and show us something of the wonder and goodness of Himself!

God does not appear in silver or in gold to us because He is the True and Living God. The idols around the children of Israel and all the gods in Egypt whereby they worshipped the created and not the Creator were all made of gold and silver. So, we have the altar given to us for sacrifice. The Bible is the perfect mirror of the law and it reveals the smudges on our faces when we look into it. Thank God we have the altar where we can wash up! The altar always speaks of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and the blood that He shed there. We must keep in mind that this is the altar that was to be used before the tabernacle proper altar was made. Everywhere the children of Israel journeyed they made one like this. Obviously, they made this altar until the instructions for the tabernacle were later given. The altar in the tabernacle will be one that can be transported. In the meantime, this altar is to be made of plain stone and they aren't to engineer it or tool it in any way. God says they aren't to even engrave flowers on it.

Today, we have gone so far past this that it's not even in sight. People today need a place that is beautiful and organized and smells good and all of that; they want soft lights and lots of color with a message given in low tones and in a very dignified, if not rambling, delivery that is as flowery as the donation arrangement set at the foot of the stage. That makes a great appeal to the world, but it does not appeal to the unsaved man at all. It just socializes already sociable people who want a certain sub-set of society to hang out with. In a word, it's called liberalism.

Liberalism has emptied the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ in this world. Liberalism would not have had enough members for two services per week just fifty years ago. Liberalism got involved in the social set-up and took the Bible in hand ONLY because they felt left out of the world. You can just write that down, friends. I don't march in protest – ever – because I am too busy doing what the Lord wants me to do. Someone asks me how I know what God wants me to do; well, I know because He has told me in the Word of God where He reveals His will for our lives. See, the Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword because you cannot defend against it. The Bible just happens to make sense. My message is not a protest message – this is a positive message of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ! As I give out the Word of God it seems to pierce many people through their heart with its arrows, I can tell you that. But it's not my archery – it's the Word of God; we're to give it out as it is for men and woman as they are!

I will never make any attempt to water down the message as I speak to you. This is a super delicate subject, so I want to make sure we are clear. I love an attractive place to worship, don't get me wrong. I love a beautiful building just as much as the next person and I urge believers to find the best and most lovely places available, to be sure. I like nice lighting and music and the smell of flowers, too; but when ANY of these things compromise the message of the cross and the preaching of the nitty gritty of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and take away attention from the Person Who is the One Who is the Light – the Holy Light – Who died on the altar of the cross - then that equates to a very real, very manufactured offense of the cross.

This is what I will not permit to happen on this Spiritual Safari. You'll quit reading before I compromise. Out here in the bush you get unleavened bread and fresh spring water and that's all! We don't even have mustard unless the birds of the air bring us some mustard seeds. Paul went to Corinth - and they were abjectly philosophical about this. They had many priests from many religions trying to identify all the different sins in the city - and some did pretty well; but they still had protests every day. Paul came there and saw the situation of the secondhand philosophers who wanted to discuss, ad nauseam, and then argue after the discussion so they could

appear intellectual and superior to all. Paul said he didn't want to know anything but the cross of Christ crucified – that is, the Gospel! If the Gospel is not the center of the message then I don't care how high your steeple is, or how loud the bells ring, or how beautiful the sanctuary is or how deep the music is and I DO NOT care about the educational background of the preacher in the pulpit; if the Gospel is not the epicenter of your message then what you have is polluted as far as God is concerned. You may want to write this down today. You cannot give out the message of the Word of God if you are totally and completely ignorant of it! When you try to dress it up and do something with it that isn't offensive you have missed the point, my beloved. Those are the instructions for the altar: to present the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection. That should be our ONLY message today because that is the ONLY message that saves lost souls!

We also have here a peace offering - but no sin offering - and we wouldn't find out why until we get to Leviticus unless I point out here that the reason is because there can be no sin or trespass offering until the law is given. The peace offering reveals that man needs a sacrifice to reconcile himself to God; Christ made peace for us with God by His blood at the cross. The burnt offering speaks of His ability to save us and His worthiness of Who He is! Anything that is done of our flesh – God hates it and He won't use it. God does not accept a display of yourself in any way, shape, form or matter that has to do with His work. This is very personal; and we should make notes here. We must constantly be aware of and guard against that type of thing. Disturbingly, most people only see the presenter and not the One he is trying to present! Honestly, I do not want you saying, "... what a beautiful writer Andrew is" - and most of you won't say that anyways – but – after you read the Spiritual Safari commentary, I want you to say, "... what a beautiful Savior the Lord Jesus Christ is!" My only goal is to show you how wonderful Jesus is....

## XXI

***1 Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them.***

***2 If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.***

***3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.***

***4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.***

***5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:***

***6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.***

~ Social legislation is the order of the day in this chapter. The children of Israel know all about slavery, so the first topic open for discussion is the relationship of master and servant; and here is another beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ if ever there was one. The picture is this: Christ came to this world and took upon Himself our humanity while we were all slaves to sin. Christ could have done whatever He chose to do – He didn't have to die on any cross, friends; but He did come down to this earth and He became a servant. He was obedient even unto death and when He died, He went through the same doorway we'll go through in our physical death; with all of this culminating in Christ receiving a bride unto Himself. Crucifixion is an absolutely necessary component of this plan.

The writer of the Psalms takes that picture and re-paints it vividly when he says, ".... sacrifice and offering Thou didst not desire. Mine ears has Thou opened; burnt offering and sin offering hast Thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do Thy will, Oh, God, yeah, thy law is written upon my heart." We know this speaks of Christ because the writer to the Hebrews says, ".... wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:" Christ took upon Himself a body that

He will have throughout eternity. Christ could have left this earth without dying; but He loved the church and He loved the sinner, so he died for them to have a way to God. Christ became obedient unto death; even unto the death of the cross. What an incredible picture of Christ we have immediately after we have been given the Ten Commandments....

***7 And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not go out as the menservants do.***

***8 If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her.***

***9 And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters.***

***10 If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish.***

***11 And if he do not these three unto her, then shall she go out free without money.***

***12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die , shall be surely put to death.***

***13 And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.***

***14 But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.***

***15 And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.***

***16 And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.***

**17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.**

**18 And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed:**

**19 If he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed.**

**20 And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished.**

**21 Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money.**

**22 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follows: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.**

**23 And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,**

**24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,**

**25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.**

**26 And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye's sake.**

**27 And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.**

**28 If an ox gore a man or a woman that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be quit.**



**29 But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.**

**30 If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him.**

**31 Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto him.**

**32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.**

**33 And if a man shall open a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit, and not cover it, and an ox or an ass fall therein;**

**34 The owner of the pit shall make it good, and give money unto the owner of them; and the dead beast shall be his.**

**35 And if one man's ox hurt another's that he die; then they shall sell the live ox, and divide the money of it; and the dead ox also they shall divide.**

**36 Or if it be known that the ox hath used to push in time past, and his owner hath not kept him in; he shall surely pay ox for ox; and the dead shall be his own.**

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with a series of laws that deal with injuries to other people. These are the basis on which capital punishment is formed. I realize the social distortions that have been hatched through quasi-Biblical propaganda against executions and soldiering because of the phrase "... thou shalt not kill" and that entire sort of misguided thinking; God just told us the government has a sovereign and absolute right to take the life of its citizens in order to enforce the laws of the land! I don't think we could have it told to us much clearer than that!

Friends, you'll do well to look at the TOTAL Word of God before you make your protest banners up. We're going to return to the cities of refuge so we can talk about all of this again later. If the murder is premeditated, then the killer is to be executed immediately. If the murder is not malicious then the killer needs a place to flee to for a fair trial and the refuge of justice. These laws show us God protecting the home life. They also show us how God deals with a system that He did not approve of: slavery. The slave was never to be a slave indefinitely. They had a very certain day they would be free again which brought hope. God didn't approve of slavery at all; that is just another manufactured myth of the atheistically ignorant.

What we have in this section of Holy Writ are the entire basis for the laws of our land and throughout the world today. That fact cannot be refuted or even diminished with any sort of caveat. I highly recommend that you dear readers read these chapters concerning the Mosaic System of Levitical Law properly, correctly - and very, very carefully. There is a law of reciprocity and a law that simply must be enforced if there is to ever be any semblance of law and order within a nation, protection for the people, dignity and purpose for human life and enforceable rights concerning property of the citizens within. There is no grace in that legal message, though. There is only ONE Who is willing to extend grace and mercy to us in our guilt that we might not be condemned ~

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