

Thou Shalt Not Raise a False Report

Exodus Chapters Twenty-Two and Twenty-Three

~ Social legislation is the order of business in this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We're going to examine certain personal laws being enacted and commissioned for mankind. All of these property related laws are completely necessary to establish what we know as a civilized society today. Our universities and colleges teach that truth is relative and, as a result, many people want to raise objections and questions about what's right and what's wrong. Well, right and wrong are objective - they're never relative. They are as diametrically opposed to each other as everything and nothing. You and I may think two different things are right; but we had both better make absolutely sure we base our conclusions on an educated understanding of the sound doctrine of the apostles from the Word of God - or we are wrong - every time.

I'll be honest with you dear readers - because I always am honest with you - there are certain places where I feel the standards commanded by God could be lowered a little; but, on the other hand, this basic standard has produced a measure of law and order throughout the world that works - or used to. Man has totally abandoned the tenets of truth and precepts found in the Word of God today. As a result, we get what we have in the world - a terrible mess that's only getting worse. This really gets down to our every day living; right where we wake up and wash our faces. To simply pick the Bible up and read through the section covered in this report is about as boring as we can find. Interestingly, our laws today are all based largely on this framework. To read that thou shalt not kill gives me some relief as it implies protection for my family and me. Thou shalt not steal should protect what little I own; but thieves sure seem to get mine a lot. The last two chapters are related to personal protection; but these are property interactions that are basic to any orderly system of society....

XXII

1 If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

~ I don't know why the oxen rank higher and are more valuable than sheep but, apparently, they were. This is what we could call restoration and restitution. We don't do it this way today, but I think we probably should. The Bible just seems to nail the essence of the matter in every regard to human nature. From four thousand BC to two thousand AD human nature has not changed one little bit. Well, God is always the same, too; and God deals with mankind on the same spiritual basis today that He did with the children of Israel at the time in which we are studying....

2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.

~ Of course, we have self-defense outlined here rather clearly. There have been ridiculous stories about thieves getting shot and the thief suing the homeowner who was protecting himself and his property. The thief got the judgment by way of directive verdict. This is the most asinine and outrageous true incident that leaves little wonder why we are dead as a nation. This man that was defending himself was forced to sell all of his property to pay off the judgment. Under that reasoning, we cannot protect our property, so we're not safe in our own homes. Well, God gives us the right to protect our property and defend ourselves; because that is sometimes absolutely necessary. I wouldn't want to do it, but I would. We cannot have judgments against defense and property rights; although many seem to want that to happen today.

These are very practical and very necessary and realistic laws that govern routine human interactions within any society. They are very basic principles that result in law and order and they were given to the nation that was to be the example to the world. If our country today had followed these legal principles and statutes that God set down here in Exodus since the beginning, we would not have half of the problems that we do today. Unfortunately, that Ivy League legal degree or medical license is a product of abject liberalism. Liberalism is now dealing with the fallout of a Biblical legal basis in a country that doesn't understand how to handle the Word of

God because they are totally and completely and frighteningly ignorant of basic ideas. The lawyers and judges that hold the highest honors in society are so far from honor they can't see straight. They do not know the background for the law, so they are completely inadequate to interpret it and enforce it. We are in serious trouble as a nation, friends.

The men who wrote our constitution were not Christian men – or – I should say very few were. Most of them were strict deists at that time; but they had a total respect for the Word of God as such. Modern quotes that say our founding fathers ridiculed the Bible are complete lies; it's more than painfully clear by documentation that these men adopted their ideology at every step in the process based on the Word of God. What we have here is basic to our society as we know it today in America. Men want to get rid of God, so they are attempting to change our ways as American's based on the ideology that God is not part of this country's heritage. This section of Scripture is very important to pay attention to and learn....

3 If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

4 If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.

5 If a man shall cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall put in his beast, and shall feed in another man's field; of the best of his own field, and of the best of his own vineyard, shall he make restitution.

6 If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

7 If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double.

8 If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges, to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbour's goods.

9 For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.

10 If a man deliver unto his neighbour an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep; and it die, or be hurt, or driven away, no man seeing it:

11 Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.

12 And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof.

13 If it be torn in pieces, then let him bring it for witness, and he shall not make good that which was torn.

14 And if a man borrow ought of his neighbour, and it be hurt, or die, the owner thereof being not with it, he shall surely make it good.

15 But if the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good: if it be an hired thing, it came for his hire.

16 And if a man entices a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.

17 If her father utterly refuses to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.

18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

~ We're going to deal with this section of Scripture in its entirety in Deuteronomy; but, in this report, I would note that we are seeing an accelerated interest in the supernatural in the form of everything from zombie fetishes to vampire infatuations. Large segments of society claim to be witches and demons and all sorts of crazy things. The problem is actually going crazy in world society today - because its big business. It's very potent psychologically, too - and it's highly superstitious. We don't live in eighteenth century New England, but we are seeing this type of fanaticism re-appear today; and we're really going to see witchcraft appear over in the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy.

Moving along, these following commandments show that God knows how low mankind will go. None of this is anything new at all. The depravity of man can sink as low, if not lower than, the beasts of the field. This law is evidence of this statement being true. God wouldn't have made a law against it if it were not being done at that time! These all bring a severe penalty of law, I agree; but if we had followed these as we should have then we would have a much better society than we do today. I recognize this is hard to accept because we have gotten so far away from these principles. The further we get away from them the more we want to throw them out altogether. This is all very harsh; but these infractions are cancerous tumors in a society - and if you want to get them out and keep them out you may have to do some radical surgical cutting. That happens to be the picture of the diagnosis we are looking at....

19 Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.

20 He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

21 Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

22 Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

23 If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

24 And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

25 If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

26 If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down:

27 For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.

28 Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

29 Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

30 Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, and with thy sheep: seven days it shall be with his dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it me.

31 And ye shall be holy men unto me: neither shall ye eat any flesh that is torn of beasts in the field; ye shall cast it to the dogs.

XXIII

1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

3 Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause.

4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.

5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

6 Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of thy poor in his cause.

7 Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

8 And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

9 Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

10 And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof:

11 But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard.

12 Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

13 And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty)

16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

18 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.

19 The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill.

27 I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

32 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

~ Let's be careful what we say and what we report, friends. If we get it bungled, it may be punishable by death! These laws will put you completely out of the marching against and protest business altogether, friends. If you are trying to "find your identity" and if you want liberty and freedom, you are going to have to be a little bit different today. You are going to have be a person that dedicates their lives totally and completely to the Lord Jesus Christ! Don't follow the multitude to do evil.

Judgment should be swayed to favor neither the rich nor the poor. We all agree on that, but we secretly ignore it because there are two courtrooms in this world: one for the rich and one for the poor! The Romans depicted Justice as being a woman - meaning it must be tender hearted; but also, she is blind-folded so as to not be a respecter of persons. The sword in her one hand means that if a guilty verdict and judgment is handed down,

there will be a swift and sure execution of the penalty. In the other hand are the scales that represent the process being equal, balanced, just and fair.

God mentions the Sabbath here; but we're skipping over it because we'll get the full Sabbatical treatment in Leviticus when we learn about the Sabbath Day, the Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee together at one time. This is very important information and notice how God gives it in a very brief way. The Lord expounds on these issues later in Scripture so we will deal with all of those things together! Another important aspect are the feasts that God gives Israel. Notice there is no mention of fasting? Numbers is the book that will bring this all together for us in detail. What we have here is an abridged edition of law that will be useful when they get over into the land.

Of course, the Angel we see in verse twenty, as most of you already know, I believe is the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus Christ. That's my interpretation of this and since I provide the spiritual drink this is what we drink out here on safari. We are to obey the Lord Jesus Christ today, without a doubt! God fully intends to put His people into the Promised Land. The Promise Land has inhabitants in it at this time we are studying; but the inhabitants are being displaced by God because they are out of the will of God - and they refuse to listen to Him. He says not to make any relationships with the people of the land and the children of Israel are not to observe any of their Gods; which should go without saying, but I guess doesn't! Well, they still didn't. Joshua will make his biggest mistake with the Gibeonites in this connection. Ultimately, the reason for the Babylonian captivity of Judah is because they went and served other Gods. God is now dealing with their everyday affairs on every level of their lives ~

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