

# WILDERNESS LESSONS # 8 (B)

November 15, 2015

## I. Review:

**A. Camp #11 - the wilderness of Sinai** (Nu 33:15-16; Ex 19:1-2).

**B. Definition of Sinai** = My thorns; Bush of the Lord

**C. Other names for Sinai** = "the mountain", "the mountain of God", "Mount Horeb", "the mountain of Horeb", and "the mountain of God in Horeb"

**D. Outline of this period of Israel Journeying** (Ex 18:1 - Num 10:10)

**I. The constitution (Old Covenant) of Israel** (The Law of God; Ex 20:1 - Lev 20:27)

1. The Moral Law: The 10 Commandments (Ex 20:1-26; 24:1-18; 31:18)
2. The Civil Law (community laws): (Ex 21:1 - Lev 20:27)
3. The Ceremonial Law (laws about priesthood, feasts, sacrifices, etc.); (Lev 1:1 - 22:33)

**II. The sin and failure of Israel** (The Golden Calf);

**III. The restoration of Israel** (The Tabernacle)

## E. Significance of the Sinai wilderness

**1. Moses and Sinai;**

- a. Mount Sinai is where Moses encountered the burning bush. (Ex 3:1-2; Ac 7:30, 38).
- b. Sinai is God's sign to Moses (Ex 3:12).

**2. Comparing Sinai to Zion** (Heb 12:18-23; Rom 9:4-6)

Nine things found at Sinai that aren't part of our life in Zion:

A mountain that can be touched; a blazing fire; darkness; gloom; a whirlwind; a trumpet blast; smoke, fear, and words spoken to them, that they begged not to hear them.

Nine things given to Israel at Sinai, that are ours also in Zion:

To the heavenly Jerusalem, to angels, to the general assembly, to the church of the firstborn, which is enrolled in heaven, to God the judge of all, to spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood.

There are seven other things that belong to Israel; which we receive and enjoy in Christ:

We are called Jews (the people of God), sons of God, and the temple of the Lord, God's law is written on our hearts, we receive the glory, the covenants of promise, and all the promises

**3. This (the giving of the Law) is the inauguration of the O T church.**

Israel agrees to follow the Law covenant exactly 50 days after the Passover (blood of the lamb) was offered (to spare them from the angel of death).

Ex 19:7-8 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

The Feast of Pentecost (50) is celebrated every year, 50 days after the Feast of Passover.

Ac 7:38 Israel's called the congregation [ecclesia; church] in the wilderness.

The New Testament church begins when the Holy Spirit is poured out, on the day of the Feast of Pentecost, after Jesus, God's Passover Lamb was sacrificed (Jn 1:17; Ac 2:1).

## II. God's Covenantal purpose of redemption

Ex 19:3-6 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4' You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

He " bore you on eagles' wings" (Ex 19:4; see also Dt 32:11; Isa 40:31; 63:9)

### A. There are 3 main purposes for redemption

(with Israel in the OT and the church in the NT).

#### 1. To be My own people, possession

possession = means 'special treasure'; belonging privately to a king.

Ex 34:9 ...take us as Your own possession.

Dt 4:20 .. the Lord took you ... to be a people for His own possession ...(Dt 14:2)

Dt 7:6 ...the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession ...

Dt 9:26 ... they are Your people, Your inheritance ... (Dt 9:29)

Dt 26:18 the Lord has declared you to be His people, a treasured possession

Dt 32:9 the Lord's portion is His people, the allotment of His inheritance

1Ki 8:53 You have separated them ...as Your inheritance ...

Ps 28:9 Save Your people and bless Your inheritance

Ps 33:12 Blessed is the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance

Ps 74:2 ...redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance

Ps 78:71 the Lord took David to shepherd Israel His people, His inheritance

Ps 94:14 He will not abandon or forsake His people, His inheritance.

Ps 135:4 the Lord has chosen Israel for Himself, for His own possession

Isa 19:25 Blessed is ... Israel My inheritance

Isa 41:8 ... Israel My servant, whom I have chosen

Isa 43:1 ... I have retained you, I have called you by name, you are Mine

Isa 63:17 ...Return for the sake of Your servants, the tribes of Your heritage

Jer 10:16 ...Israel is the tribe of His inheritance ...

Hos 2:23 I will call those who are not My people, My people (Rom 9:23)

Mic 7:14 Shepherd Your people ...the flock of Your possession

Mic 7:18 ... A God like You, who pardons iniquity ...of the remnant of His possession

Mal 3:17 they will be Mine, ...My own possession ...

Rom 8:33 who will bring a charge against God's elect? ...

Eph 1:14 ...the redemption of God's own possession ... (Eph 1:11)

Eph 1:18 ...the glory of His inheritance in the saints ...

Col 3:12 ...those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved ...

1Thes 1:4 ...knowing His choice of you ...

Tit 2:14 He gave Himself up for us to ... a people for his own possession ...

Heb 8:10 (the New Covenant) ... I will be their God and they shall be My people ...

1Pt 2:9 you are a royal priesthood, a royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession

Rev 21:3 ...they shall be His people and God Himself will be among them ...

#### 2. To be a kingdom of priests

Ex 19:6 you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests ...

Isa 61:6 you shall be called priest of the Lord

Isa 66:21 some from the nations will be taken for priests and Levites

Rom (Paul ministered) as a priest the gospel of God ... offering up the Gentiles ...

1Pt 2:5 you are a holy priesthood

1Pt 2:9 you are a royal priesthood  
Rev 1:6 He has made us a kingdom and priests  
Rev 5:10 You have made them a kingdom and priests  
Rev 20:6 they (those first resurrected) will be priests of God and of Christ

### **3. To be a holy nation**

Dt 7:6 ...you are a holy people to the Lord your God ... (Ex 22:31; Dt 14:2, 21  
Dt 26:19 He will set you high above all nations ... that you shall be a holy people  
Dt 28:9 the Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself ...  
Isa 4:3 those left in Zion and will be called holy  
Isa 62:12 they will call them, 'the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord' ...  
Jer 2:3 Israel was holy to the Lord ...  
Ezra 8:28 You are holy to the Lord ...  
Rom 12:1 present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God  
1Cor 3:17 ...the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are  
2Cor 7:1 ...perfecting holiness in the fear of God  
2Tim 1:9 God saved us and called us with a holy calling  
1Pt 2:9 you are a ... Holy nation  
Eph 5:27 ...church ... that she should be holy and blameless (Eph 1:4; Heb 3:1)

### **B. Note:**

Beginning with Ex 19 and continuing to the cross of Christ (Col 2:14), the people were under the Mosaic system. This is called "the Law of Moses;" "the Law," and sometimes "the Law of God."

For the sake of convenience, we often speak of:

"the Moral Law" - referring to the 10 Commandments;

"the Ceremonial Law" - relating to the types and symbols found in the sacrificial system;

"the Civil Law" - meaning the everyday laws that govern the lives of the people

## **III. Perspective on the Law**

### **A. Purpose of the Law**

1. To close every mouth (Rom 3:19).
2. To make the world accountable to God (Rom 3:19).
3. To bring knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20).
4. To bring about wrath (Rom 4:15).
5. To increase sin (Rom 5:20).
6. To make sin alive (Rom 7:9).
7. To give sin power (1Cor 15:56).
8. To make you unjust (Gal 2:16).
9. To put you under a curse (Gal 3:10).
10. To make you imperfect (Heb 7:19; 10:1).

### **B. The purpose of God for giving the Law: (Wiersbe)**

God did not give the law to save anybody, because it is impossible to be saved by the keeping of a law (Gal 3:11; Rom 3:20).

He gave the law to Israel for the following reasons:

1. To reveal His glory and holiness (Deut 5:22-28).
2. To reveal man's sinfulness (Rom 7:7, 13; 1Tim 1:9; Jas 1:22-25).
3. To mark Israel as His chosen people, and to separate them from the other nations (Ps 147:19-20; Eph 2:11-17; Acts 15).
4. To give Israel a standard for godly living so that they might inherit the land and enjoy its blessings (Deut 4:1; 5:29; Judges 2:19-21).

5. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ (Gal 3:24).

6. To illustrate in type and ceremony the Person and work of Christ (Heb 8-10).

### **C. Things the Law couldn't do**

1. Justify from sin (Rom 3:20).
2. Take away sin (1Cor 15:56).
3. It could not make us walk in God's requirements (Rom 8:3-4).
4. Make you righteous (Gal 2:21).
5. Impart life (Gal 3:21).
6. Make you perfect (Heb 7:19; 10:1).
7. Give peace to the heart (Heb 9:9).

### **D. The Law is compared to:**

**A mirror**, because it reveals our sins (Jas 1:22-25).

**A yoke**, because it brings bondage (Acts 15:10; Gal 5:1; Rom 8:3).

**A child trainer** because it prepared Israel for the coming of Christ (Gal 3:23-4:7).

**A shadow** in contrast to the reality and fulfillment we have in Christ (Heb 10:1; Col 2:14-17).

**Letters written on stones** (2Cor 3); in contrast to the law of love written on our hearts by the Spirit.

### **E. Jesus Christ and the Law:**

Gal 4:4-6 Jesus was made (born) under the Law

Mat 5:17 Jesus fulfilled the Law in every respect.

Lk 24:44-47 His Person and work are seen in the Law.

Rom 10:1-13 Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness for the believer.

Gal 3:10-14 Jesus bore the penalty of the curse of the Law for us.

Col 2:13-15 our (certificate) indebtedness has been nailed (forgiven) to the cross of Jesus.

Eph 2:11-14 the Law no longer makes a distinction (separates) Jew and Gentile.

## **IV. Events** (lessons to learn)

### **A. Jethro's counsel to appoint judges** (Ex 18:1-26; Dt 1:9-15).

### **B. The Golden Calf** (Ex 32:1 - 34:17)

1Jn 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols

"idols" here may well refer to a wide range of God-substitutes.

#### **Definition of idolatry:**

**Dictionary of Bible Themes** - The worship or adoration of anyone or anything other than the LORD God. Idolatry includes the worship of other gods, such as those of the nations surrounding Israel, images or idols and the creation itself.

#### **Merriam Webster's Dictionary** -

1: the worship of a physical object as a god

2: immoderate attachment or devotion to something

**The New Bible Dictionary** - The NT reinforces and amplifies the OT teaching, recognizing that idols are both nonentities and dangerous spiritual potencies. Rom. 1 expresses the OT view that idolatry is a decline from true spirituality, and not a stage on the way to a pure knowledge of God. The NT recognizes that idolatry exists even when there are no physical idols

Idolatry is associated with sexual sins (Gal 5:19-20; Eph 4:19; 5:3; 1Thes 4:6; 1Cor 10:7,14).

Idolatry is linked with covetousness (1Cor 5:11; Eph 5:5; Col 3:5),

John says that any deviation is idolatry (1Jn 5:19-21).

An idol is whatever claims loyalty which belongs to God alone (Is 42:8).

### **NT teaching on idolatry:**

1Cor 5:11 Do not associate with a brother who is an idolater

1Cor 10:7 Do not be idolaters.

1Cor 10:14 Flee from idolatry

2 Cor 6:16 what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

Gal 5:19-21 Idolatry is a deed of the flesh

Col 3:5 Consider the members of your earthly body as dead to ... passion, evil desire, and greed, which

amounts to idolatry.

1Thes 1:9 ... you turned to God from idols.

Rev 9:20 they did not repent of their idolatry.

### **There are 3 kinds of spiritual idolatry in the temptations of Jesus (Mat 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13)**

#### **1. Possessions**

Mat 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (Lk 4:3)

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (Lk 16:13)

Phil 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

1Tim 6:9-10 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

#### **2. Prestige and self-esteem**

Lk 4:9 And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; (Mt 4:6)

#### **3. Power**

Lk 4:6-7 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." (Mt 4:8-9)

Jas 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (Jas 4:10; 1Pt 5:5; Jas 4:6; Pro 3:34)

### **C. Nadab and Abihu** destroyed for offering strange fire (Lev 9:22 - 10:2; 10:1-20; Nu 3:4)

Barely had the consecration ceremonies concluded with the priests entering upon their sacred functions, than an act of sacrilege was perpetuated by Aaron's eldest sons, Nadab and Abihu. Chapter 9 shows the way in which the people were to approach God in worship, and the blessings and benefits which would result. Chapter 10 makes clear how swiftly divine retribution came upon those who refused to follow the guidelines, and insisted instead upon pursuing an independent course. The situation was more tragic because of their privileged position which they enjoyed along with Moses, Aaron and 70 of the elders of Israel, as they had been allowed to see a manifestation of the God of Israel on Mount Sinai (Ex 24:1-11).

### **D. Stoning to death for blasphemy** (Lev 24:10-23)

Sin produces death.

Gen 2:17; 3:3 When you eat of the tree you will surely die.

Ps 34:21 evil will kill the wicked  
Prov 14:12; 16:25 a way which seems right to man but its end is the way to death  
Prov 11:19 he who pursues evil will bring about his own death  
Ezek 18:4, 13, 18, 20, 24, 26 The soul who sins will die.  
John 8:21-24 unless you believe in Jesus you will die in your sin  
Rom 2:12 all who have sinned without law will perish without law  
Rom 5:12 through the one man, death entered the world through sin, ...  
Rom 5:12 ... so death spread to all men, because all sinned.  
Rom 5:14 death reigned from Adam until Moses, over those who had not sinned like Adam  
Rom 5:15 by the transgression of the one the many died  
Rom 5:17 if through the transgression of the one, death reigned through that one  
Rom 6:16 obeying sin leads to death  
Rom 6:21 the outcome of sin is death  
Rom 6:23 the wages of sin is death  
Rom 7:5 sinful passions will bear fruit for death  
Rom 7:11 sin deceived me and killed me  
Rom 7:13 sin brings and works death in me through what is good (God's commandments)  
Rom 7:24 who will set me free from the body of this death?  
1Cor 15:21 by a man came death  
Eph 2:1, 5 before Christ we were dead in our trespasses and sins  
Jas 1:15 when sin is completed it gives birth to death

**References used in this study:**

Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament  
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