

Bible Overview: 4 Exodus and the Law

Group Discussion from last time:

Read Exodus 34:6-7 – What is strange about these verses? (See also Proverbs 17:15)

Read Romans 3:25-26. What does the cross demonstrate/show? Why does it need showing? How does it show it?

Read 1 John 4:7-12. What does the cross demonstrate/show? How?

EXODUS

Old Testament = 2 Key events

- **Exodus**
- **Exile**

After Joseph – Israelites become slaves in Egypt.

What of the covenant promises (be a great nation, live in the promised land, God would bless them....)?

“The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he **remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them” Ex 2:23-25

God reveals himself to Moses = ‘Yahweh’ – “I am who I am” Ex 3:6 (Note the significance of Jesus ‘I am’ sayings in John’s gospel, esp John 8:58-59 – why do they want to stone him?)

Who is the King of Israel – Yahweh or Pharaoh (Let **my** people go)
Each plague demonstrates the superior might of the Lord over Egypt and its gods. Ex 12:12

Final plague: Passover and Passover Lamb Ex 12

“Then they are to take some of the blood and put in on the sides and tops of the door-frames of the houses where they eat the lambs...the blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (12:7,13)

THE Passover Lamb – John 1:29

"Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed" 1 Cor 5:17

Note Hosea 11:1, Matt 2:15, 3:15, 3:17, 4:1-2, Luke 9:31

Note also the number of times the blessing goes to the 'younger son' instead of the elder = Jacob not Esau, Isaac not Ishmael, Ephraim not Manasseh

The Goal of the Exodus

Exodus 19:4-6 – Importance of 'covenant' and 'mission'
Salvation in the Bible – not just saved '**from**' but saved '**for**'. (A God-centred gospel!)

The Giving of the Law

Significance of the Context – how do the 10 commandments begin?

OT and NT – Grace leads to good works not vice versa – Romans 12 & Eph 2:8-10

An intrinsic part of the law is to do with – sacrifices, priests and temple/tabernacle – what implicit message does this continually give to us?

Three-fold Use of the Law:

- 1- for society's good
- 2- to lead us to Christ Rom 3:20, Gal 3:23-25
The law as an 'x-ray' not a 'medicine'
- 3- as a guide for believers

Christians love the law

"Oh how I love your law....I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold" (Psalm 119:97,127)

"For in my inner being I delight in God's law" (Romans 7:22)

The law is my friend because it helps to expose and reveal to me my greatest enemy – 'indwelling sin'

BUT- the law is our guide but NOT our master!

3 Aspects of the Law:

- Ceremonial
- Moral
- Civil

39 Articles:

"Although the law given by God through Moses is not binding on Christians as far as its forms of worship and ritual are concerned (ceremonial) and the civil regulations are not binding on any nation state (civil), nevertheless no Christian is free to disobey those commandments which may be classified as moral" Article

All still applicable and all fulfilled in Christ

Ceremonial:

Sacrificial system, priesthood, temple/tabernacle = all concerned with how sinful men and women can be in communion with a holy God.

Jesus cry "It is finished" – does not mean that sins no longer need to be forgiven, but that this one sacrifice made once for all is sufficient to take away 'the sin of the world'. His 'one sacrifice' is still effectual.

Civil:

Israel was a 'theocracy' = a nation state governed by God's law. Now the gospel has gone to all the nations – so Christians need to obey the laws of their particular nation, but are also citizens of the Kingdom of God, under the authority of 'King Jesus'.

So, for example, the church does not 'stone someone to death' for adultery, but it is to exclude the guilty person until they repent, as a warning and pointer to God's final judgment

Leviticus 20:10

1 Cor 5:1-5,12-13

1 Cor 6:9-11

Part of the function of these laws is to mark out God's people as different. 'Holy' literally means 'set apart'. The dietary laws for example – all designed to keep

Israel distinct from surrounding nations. (Nb – the ultimate goal of this was always so as to be a 'light to the Gentiles', a 'kingdom of priests' – different to win the world – always prone to over-emphasise one or the other).
These specific laws no longer apply – eg Acts 10 "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" (v15) but the principle still does.

'Saints' = "set apart ones" – biblically all Christians are 'saints' – 2 Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1 Phil 1:1 – 'set apart' not by dietary laws but by behaviour, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus 'set apart' – "tempted in every way, just as we are yet was without sin"
Hebrews 4:15

Failure to grasp these distinctions leads to confusion – ie why insist on keeping moral law whilst ignoring others

Moral Law:

Still stands but the only person who has ever kept it = Jesus

But also transformed by Jesus:

"You have heard that it was said, "Do not commit adultery". But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery" Matt 5:27

Covenant with Abraham – ceremony with the dead animals = **unconditional**, because Abraham took no part in it.

Deut 28: Blessings and Curses = **conditional**

28:2 "All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you **IF** you obey the Lord your God"

28:15 "**If** you do not obey...all these curses will come upon you.."

Is the Covenant conditional or unconditional?

Yes!!

Jesus the True Israelite:

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" 2 Cor 5:21

- Jesus fulfils the conditions of the covenant

His perfect obedience means that all the covenant blessings are his

- We break the conditions of the covenant

Our disobedience means that the covenant curses belong to us

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" 2 Cor 5:21

The importance of being 'in Christ'

"In Him" – we receive all the blessings of the covenant

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing in Christ**"

He takes our place and becomes a 'curse' for us – Gal 3:10-14

We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone

The faith that saves – is never alone

We are not saved BY good works – but we are saved For good works

Paul – we are saved by grace through faith.

James – real faith reveals itself By works.