

God's Law & Man

Exodus 24:3

So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."

The section that this verse ends begins in chapter 20. It records the first giving to the ten commandments.

But there are many other commandments in the intervening verses. And these would be further explained in the rest of the books of Moses.

We also want to examine what is the significance of law and even it's place in American history.

This morning we want to briefly look at the ten commandments.

And we want to also look at a better plan.

- I. What is the significance of law.
 - A. Our nation is founded on law.
 1. Not on the will of a king or a ruling class.
 2. The law applies equally to all regardless of position or standing.
 3. Our founders knew that because of the fallen nature of mankind that law was necessary.
 4. Our problem is that we no longer have a government of the people, by the people and for the people.
 5. In 2014 congress passed laws that would amount to a stack of paper 7 inches high.
 6. In the same period federal bureaucracy produced laws amounting to 11 feet. Laws that no elected official oversaw or produced.
 - B. Anarchy is what you have when you have no law and a fallen race of people.
 - C. Another thing that our founders believed about law is that it must be derived from the law of God.
 1. David Barton in several of his books brings this out.
 2. The authority of law lies not in the government but in the divine power.
 3. When government takes that power to its self then the nation is no longer a democracy.
 4. But in reality law is good.
 5. It sets the limits of acceptable human behavior.

6. And God has the authority to do that.

II. The Ten Commandments.

A. 3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

1. There really are no other gods since there is but one true God.

B. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

1. The only way a false god can exist is if someone makes them.

C. 7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

D. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

E. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

F. 13 "You shall not murder.

G. 14 "You shall not commit adultery.

H. 15 "You shall not steal.

I. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

J. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

III. There is a better way.

A. Jeremiah 32:38 'They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 'then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 'And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 'Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My

heart and with all My soul.’

- B. Hebrews 8: 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- C. Hebrews 10: 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"
- D. This is what God has done for all those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ.
 - 1. He has given us a new nature that loves God and desires only to do what He wants.
 - 2. But we still have the sinful nature that works against us.
 - 3. Romans 6: 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

The Children of Israel, being people and not angels were slaves to sin and thus needed the law to keep them in line.

That is why we cannot be without law. "The law is good," Paul said.

There is much profit in studying the law for it reflects the moral character of God and our need or a Savior.

As Paul said, "The law was our schoolmaster to bring to Christ."