

## **The Bible From 20,000 Feet** **Part 11: Exodus 19 - 31**

Tuesday Night Bible Study, September 23, 2008

### **--OUTLINE**

- THE MORAL LAW
- THE CIVIL AND CEREMONIAL LAW
- THE NEW TESTAMENT PHASE OF THE LAW
- LITERAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN ISRAEL'S MIDST
- SYMBOLIC PRESENCE OF GOD THE FATHER IN ISRAEL THROUGH THE TABERNACLE

### **--the law given at Mt. Sinai...**

--the two main pillars of revelation in history are the law and the gospel of Christ...

--John 1:16-18 – "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

--civil and ceremonial law temporary for Israel only.

--moral law timeless for all people.

### **--moral law for all people...**

--purpose for all... guide for all to follow, standard to make us realize we can't follow it perfectly and therefore need forgiveness.

--Romans 3:19-24: "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

--ten commandments...

--can be divided into two categories

--the first 4 deal with our relationship to God and the last 6 deal with our relationship to fellow man.

--Jesus summarized the entire law with two commands – love God and love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31)

--key insight derived from the structure of the ten commandments...

--the commands relating to God were given first...and in order to be in proper relationship with fellow man we must first be in proper relationship with God!

--as we love God and focus on Him He empowers us to love each other in a supernatural way!

### **--civil and ceremonial law for Israel...**

--civil law... for general purpose of governing Israel...

--a new nation had just been born... God established a new calendar and now He is establishing a new government for this nation...

--ceremonial law... laid foundation for ministry of Christ...

--moral law taught us our need for forgiveness... ceremonial law teaches Israel (and the rest of the world when they study Israel's history) insights into how that forgiveness is possible

--at the heart of the ceremonial law was the tabernacle...

--profound symbolism... (refer to section on the tabernacle)

### --New Testament phase of the law...

--ceremonial law made obsolete by the ministry of Christ... once Christ fulfilled His earthly ministry that which was a foreshadow of His earthly ministry became obsolete.

--Hebrews 10:1-12: "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 .... 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ... **He takes away the first that He may establish the second.** 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God..."

--Galatians 3:24-25: "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

--civil law replaced by New Testament commands for the church... such as communion and qualifications for pastors.

--the moral law still teaches us that we need forgiveness (Romans 3) and obedience to the moral law is taken to a new level...

--John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

--Christ demonstrated a new standard of love that is only attainable through God's Spirit working in us.

--Christ's "new commandment" to love one another as He loved us, coupled with His statement about the two greatest commandments being loving God and loving others points to the higher level of morality empowered by the Spirit... when we walk in the love of the Spirit we naturally follow the moral law

--Paul spoke of the higher level of Spirit-led morality in Galatians 5:16-26: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.** 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

### --literal presence of Christ in Israel's midst...

--Exodus 23:20-24: "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. 22 But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I

speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off. 24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars."

--"Behold, I send an Angel before you... obey His voice ... for My name is in Him ..."

--this Angel spoken of by God is mysteriously identified with Him yet spoken of as being distinct from Him... this is one of a few places in the Old Testament where we see a faint insight into the triune nature of God... the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

--application of the word "obey" throughout the Bible...

--in NKJV translation 108 occurrences of the word "obey"... apostles spoke of obeying people (ie "obey your parent's in the Lord", "obey those who rule over you") but every instance, apart from Exodus ch. 23, where God directly commands us to "obey" He never says obey a person but rather "obey Him", which suggests that the "Angel" He speaks of in Exodus ch. 23 is actually a part of Himself, a preincarnate appearance of Christ.

--"for My name is in Him..."

--God's self-disclosed, unpronounceable name represented by the Hebrew word "YHWH" or the Hebrew "Jehovah" is literally in the name of Christ... the name "Jesus" which God the Father gave to God the Son means "Jehovah is salvation".

--Colossians 2:9 states that "in Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

--the Angel spoken of here appeared to Joshua on the plains of Jericho right before Israel entered the Promise Land...

--He appeared as a soldier going before Israel in fulfillment of what God promised here at Mt. Sinai – "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared..." (Exodus 23:20)

--Joshua 5:13-15: "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. "

--if this "soldier" was not a preincarnate appearance of Christ then He would not have said "the place where you stand is holy", echoing what He said to Moses at the burning bush...

--Exodus 3:2-6: "And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him [*Moses*] in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.... 4 ... God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

### **--symbolic presence of God the Father in Israel through the tabernacle...**

--what set Israel apart from all other nations is that they worshipped the one true God.

--God originally planned for them not to have a human king because He was there King.

--because God the Father dwells in heaven, He gave Moses detailed instructions to build a tabernacle that housed the Ark of the Covenant which was symbolic of God's throne.

--key symbolic structures in the tabernacle that point to Christ...

--only one entrance through the fence that encircled the tabernacle tent... Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father!

--John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

--the brazen altar stood directly in front of the one entrance through the tabernacle fence...

--the altar is where animals were symbolically sacrificed as payment for sin.  
--only through the sacrifice of Christ can we enter God's presence

--the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat inside the tabernacle... symbolic of God's throne (Exodus 25:10-22)

--Exodus 25:17-22: "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. 20 And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. 21 You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. 22 And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."

--altar of incense...

--in front of the Ark of the Covenant inside the tabernacle was the altar of incense which symbolized our prayers before the throne of God (Revelation 5:8)

--shape of Israel's assembly around the tabernacle...

--in Numbers ch.2 God commanded Moses to assemble Israel on four sides of the tabernacle according to their tribes...

--North: Dan, Asher, Naphtali (157,600 people)

--South: Reuben, Simeon, Gad (151,450 people)

--East: Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (186,400 people)

--West: Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin (108,100 people)

--the numeric proportions form the shape of a cross!! >>beyond coincidence!!