

Exodus 22

God's Care for His People

I. Responsibility for Property

- Word of God tells us what is right/wrong. Period
 1. Moral Laws
 2. Societal Laws

Deuteronomy 4:40 You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it **may go well with you** and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

Deuteronomy 5:29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it **might be well with them** and with their children forever!

Exodus 21-24 Tell us how to deal with one another

Galatians 5:14 ...all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

1 "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.

- If a man steals?

Man will steal. Again God accommodates man's sin with law/punishment

- **If a man steals ox/sheep and...**
 1. Slaughters and eats or...
 2. Sells it
- **NOTE:** No jail if able to pay back
- Restore oxen w/ratio 5:1 and sheep 4:1

2 If the thief is found **breaking in**, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.

- Thief breaks in and is killed by homeowner? Done deal...homeowner not guilty
- **Right to self-protection in view**

3 [But] If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

- If escapes [sun risen on him] and **found/killed** by homeowner...**homeowner guilty**
- If **caught outside** by homeowner the thief is to pay all he has stolen **in full**
- If he has spent all he stole and has nothing to pay...**he is to be sold as slave**

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|---|-----|--------|
| 1. Poor | Lev | 25:39 |
| 2. Sold by parent | Ex | 21:7 |
| 3. A thief caught with no means to repay | Ex | 22:3-4 |

4 If the theft [stolen animal] is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double.

- If the thief caught with homeowners live animal[s] he is to **pay back double**

5 "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.

- Man is **not vigilant** in keeping his animal on his own property
- Animal goes to neighbors field and eats

Man is to pay back neighbor *with his very best*

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- **Not only pay back but give our best:** Man's relation with man in view

6 "If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

- If a man **does not take precautions** when making a fire
- He is responsible for whatever damage it causes to another's property

7 "If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. 8 If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor's goods.

- Man is going away and asks neighbor to keep his things for him
- Man comes back looking for his things and neighbor claims they are stolen

1. If a **thief is caught** the **thief pays double**
2. If **thief is not caught:** Neighbor regarded as a "suspect/Person of Interest"
 - Case is brought to judges to decide if guilty

9 "For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which another claims to be his...

- **OT Small Claims Court:** Any kind of trespass; i.e. crossing the line of law
 1. Ox, Donkey, Sheep
 2. Clothing

3. Any claim/accusation against another

9b...the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

- **Pay double:** Simple Financial Deterrent

10 If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing it...

- Man allows another man to use his animals. Rents the man his animals...
 1. Animal dies/gets hurt: Not the same condition
 2. Renter says it ran away but there are no witnesses

11 ...then an oath of the Lord shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor's goods; and the owner of it shall accept that, and he shall not make it good.

- Renter of Animal Swears before God and in hearing of the man

"I had nothing to do with what happened"

- Owner must be satisfied the man is telling the truth:
- **No restitution/He Trusted Renter/**Did not do due diligence; i.e. check credit

12 But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it. **13** If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.

- **Turns out to be stolen:** Renter of animal is responsible because he was careless
- **Turns out to be eaten:** Renter of animal is not responsible because "stuff happens"

14 "And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good. **15** If its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.

- Not taking precautions with someone's animal and gets hurt/dies: **Pay up**
- Took precautions with someone's animal and gets hurt/dies: **Not guilty**

Given to use for work and sometimes animals get hurt unintentionally. Stuff Happens

SUMMARY Responsibility for Property: Break it you bought it. Take precautions.

II. Ceremonial Principles meet Moral/Social Laws

16 "If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife. **17** If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins.

- **Entice:** heb. pä·thä' Lit. to deceive, persuade, flatter, allure...
- **Implied in def.** Victim Open-minded, simple, naive, gullible
- **Man entices virgin:** Girl not engaged to anyone else and a man sleeps with her

1. If the father agrees the man must marry her and pay father a dowry
2. If father says no to marriage the man must pay penalty for violating the girl

Law does not legitimize pre-marital sex: Requires man to marry and/or provide for girl

- **Casual sex forbidden in OT/NT:**

1. Sex within marriage is a "holy thing"

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

2. Lasting consequences of sex apart from marriage

1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- **Wise Law:** No one night stands and goodbye

Next, Three crimes deserving the death penalty in OT

1. Sorcery
2. Bestiality
3. Sacrificing to other gods

18 "You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

- **Sorcery:** heb. kä-shaf' Lit. Witch; i.e. one who practices witchcraft and/or sorcery

Earlier this summer, the Satanic Temple released this incredibly creepy promotional video to promote its new After School Satan Clubs. Shortly thereafter, Centennial Elementary School, a public school in Mount Vernon, Washington, decided to open its doors to the Satanic Temple, and is permitting an After School Satan Club chapter to hold meetings and events for students on school grounds this school year. The Seattle Satanic Temple is also considering starting chapters of the club in the Tacoma and Puyallup school districts...the framers of the Constitution would likely find it inconceivable that the First Amendment is being used to defend the inclusion of atheistic clubs, using the name of Satan, in public schools. [Family Policy Institute of Washington August 23, 2016]

- Sorcery related to drug abuse...

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- **Sorcerer:** gr. pharmakeus; one who prepares "magical" remedies
- Druggist/pharmacist/poisoner: Not just "street drugs"

- Mind-altering drugs will be part of end times deception in order to gain control

Revelation 18:23 [Babylon the Great] ...your merchants were the great men of the earth, for **by your sorcery** [pharmakeia] all the nations were deceived.

19 "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

- **Sexual relations with animals:** Penalty is death
 1. Nation, individual forsake true God
 2. God gives them over to depravity
- **2016:** Many types of bestiality are now legal in Canada
- **God calls us to be Holy.** God makes the rules. God set the boundaries

Ephesians 5:1 ...be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But **fornication** and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it **not even be named** among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, **unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Jeremiah 19:4 "Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents 5 (they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, **nor did it come into My mind**), 6 therefore behold, the days are coming...[Judgment of God]

- **Bestiality:** Capital Punishment
- **Child Sacrifice:** Capital Punishment; Began by turning to other gods...

20 "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

- Sacrifice to "any other god": **Penalty is death**
- **Sacrifice:** heb. zabach. Lit to kill or slay

God is a jealous God who knows that our faithfulness to Him alone is life and to worship something else is Spiritual Suicide. His command was to stop worshipping other gods.

Those who worship other gods/encourage others to worship other gods are held responsible

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but **woe to him through whom they do come!** 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

- **Condoning Worship of other gods:** Serious crime with severe penalty in OT
- What would happen today?

1. Colleges
2. Media
3. Hollywood

- **Sacrifice to any other god apart from Creator...**Death Penalty

21 "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, **for you were strangers** in the land of Egypt.

- **Remember where you came from**
 1. Don not mistreat a stranger
 2. Do not oppress a stranger

1 Corinthians 6:9 [Read] Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And **such were some of you**. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- Cannot forget: Such was I; i.e. "There but for the grace of God Go I..."
- **Spiritual Growth is "stunted"** when we forget where we came from...

2 Peter 1:5 [Read] But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins**.

- **Forgot:** Shortsighted even blind to Spiritual things/growth
- That person you are looking down at... is YOU
 1. You were bound up in sin
 2. You were helpless to get free from sin
 3. You needed to be shown unconditional love

Colossians 1:21 And you, who **once were alienated and enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Ephesians 2:12 ...at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Don't mistreat/oppress the stranger...such were some of us

22 "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; 24 and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- God does not like those that pick on the helpless
- Children of Israel would remember the bullies that attacked the helpless...

Deuteronomy 25:17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, [Exodus 17] 18 how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

- Don't pick on widows/fatherless; i.e. easy pickings. Afflict them in ANY way:
 1. I will hear their cry
 2. My wrath will become hot
 3. I will kill you with the sword
 4. Wives will be widows and children orphans and I will take care of them

Any Questions?

25 "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.

- Law for lending money specifically to the poor: Charge no interest

26 If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. 27 For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

- **Take someone's garment for collateral:** Give it back before it gets cold at night
- Or...I will hear his cry "**I'm cold**" and you will be in trouble

Next: Laws regarding Separating ourselves unto God. Be holy as I am holy

28 "You shall not **revile God**, nor **curse a ruler** of your people.

- **Don't revile God: Revile:** Treat with light esteem; i.e. not giving proper respect
- **Don't curse the ruler God has place over you: Curse:** Bitterly detest

Our mouth makes or breaks our day!

James 3:2 [Read] ...we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

29 "You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. 30 Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep.

- Separate ourselves unto God by giving him our first and best
 1. Fruits and juices
 2. Firstborn son
 3. Animals

30b...It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

- **Nurse for seven days then sacrifice**
- Health and Safety of mother in view: Relief obtained by suckling offspring

31 "And you shall be **holy men to Me**: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

- **Be holy men to Me:** Separated unto God for a purpose
 1. Man is to be the Spiritual leader of his home
 2. Man is to be the provider of the home. Not lazy. No road kill.

God has real identifiable gender roles. God is Creator. God makes the rules. Period.

SUMMARY

- Responsibility for Property
- Ceremonial Principles meet Moral/Social Laws