

Exodus 15:22-17:7 - 14 May 2020

“The Perfect Law Converting The Soul”

Introduction

The Book of Exodus opens up w/ millions of Israelites having been in Egypt for 430 years & become slaves.

They've been brought out to be God's chosen people

God has just engulfed the Egyptians in the Red Sea and all that is behind them.

This is story of their 1st days toward Promised Land.

God promised Abraham 3 blessings of covenant

A nation of descendants, a land for his descendants, & a specific descendant

We know why he promised this specific descendant, Jesus. To fulfill all righteousness and redeem us!

But why a nation with a land? (3 Reasons)

To be our example (I Cor 10:6-11)

To bring His Word (Psm 119:11, John 17:20)

To bring about the Messiah (Isa 61:1)

But why bring His Word to Israel?

We'll look at 3 reasons Israel should follow God's Law.

1st Reason Israel should follow God's Law – So they'll be healthy & safe (Chap 15:22-27)

Read Chap 15:22-25a

1. Remember God is leading them w/ cloud & fire
 - a. They are right where they should be
 - b. Yet they have difficulty b/c of no water
 - c. God's leading them into difficulty b/c...
 - i. They have things to learn about themselves
 1. They're sinners and helpless
 - ii. They have things to learn about God
 1. He's perfect, He can/will provide all that they need if they just obey.
2. Vs 25 – Not tree (symbol of cross) but God that healed water.

- a. 3 days (vs 22) after Passover is Jesus rising
- b. When you apply Jesus to this world, it takes away the bitterness.

Read Chap 15:25b-27

1. Setting up of the principle of the Law of God.
2. “If you obey My Law, it will be well with you.
3. Specifically, If you obey My Law, you will be healthy as possible.
4. God’s complete Law will be given to Israel very shortly and there are different types of laws.
 - a. Civil, Ceremonial and Moral.
 - b. Often called Statutes, Ordinances & Laws
5. Should we keep the Law today?
 - a. It was given to the Nation Israel, not for all
 - b. We need to remember the Law is perfect
 - c. Civil/govt laws don’t apply today
 - d. Health Laws can still be very beneficial
 - e. Christ has fulfilled the Law ending our burden to keep it for righteousness.

2nd Reason Israel should follow God's Law – So they'll see their endless need of God's Righteousness (Chap 16)

Read Chap 16:1-3

1. They long to have full bellies again.
2. These earthly desires will never be satisfied!
3. Earthly, fleshly desires have no contentment

Read Chap 16:4-6

1. God wants to provide daily bread at no price
2. Can they take His grace (no cost) & free gift?
 - a. Or would they desire to earn their bread in the world of Egypt?
3. God says, “this is a test for them”.
 - a. Read Deut 8:3
 - b. Teaching - their own provision isn't enough
 - c. Teaching – Having a full belly won't satisfy
 - d. Only a life dependent on God's provision & righteousness will satisfy & end our longings!!
4. An independent life is rebellion to God.

Read Chap 16:7-12

1. “What are we, that ye murmur against us”?
2. They act like Moses is establishing their ways and methods. No, it’s God that’s doing that.
 - a. This is good for pastors to remember, for parents to remember.
 - b. Their disobedience isn’t against an imperfect person, but against a perfect God.
3. God wants them to come to accept thru experiencing Him that He & His ways are perfect!
 - a. Do you believe that?

Read Chap 16:13-16

1. Manna means ‘what is it’.
2. They can’t recognize what God is doing & why
 - a. Is this just about receiving food from God?
 - b. This is to speak of our need of God’s provision
3. We’ll come back to this thought – end of chap

Read Chap 16:17-21

1. They couldn't even obey God's method of collecting the manna.
2. They're showing themselves that they're helpless to follow God into perfection.
3. Many of them wasted time by collecting more than they needed for that day.
 - a. We need God daily...daily bread.
 - b. Yesterday manna will fade, need to walk with God today, hear from Him today.
 - c. There's always more of God to learn, today.

Read Chap 16:22-26

1. God doesn't do things without great meaning.
2. Sabbath rest commemorates His work of creation and resting on the 7th day.
3. Sabbath rest has bigger meaning
 - a. Our salvation rest in Jesus (see Heb 3-4)
4. Manna has a bigger meaning, it not just face-value, but has meaning in the story of redemption!

Read Chap 16:27-31

1. Some went out on 7th day - Wasting time/effort
2. God blesses them w/ rest yet they wanted more
3. Pictures salvation rest (again see Heb 3-4)
 - a. Salvation is upon belief that Christ did it!
 - b. We can't add to it! Or earn it or more.
 - c. We need to appreciatively rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross!

Read Chap 16:32-36

1. Ultimately this manna, the rod and 10 Commandments are placed in the Ark.
2. This demonstrates that living by this manna has always been intended to elude to something much bigger and more important.
3. Turn to Gal 3:16-24 especially 16,19, 24
 - a. The Law was to lead us to Jesus Christ
 - b. Read Rom 3:19
4. Turn to John 6:30-35
 - a. Jesus gives us full provision that we need!!

3rd Reason Israel should follow God's Law – So they'll please the One who had provided all things (Chap 17:1-7)

Read Chap 17:1-4

1. In a time of great need, do you...
 - a. Get mad at God & the church?
 - b. Or trust that they'll help?
2. Remember God lead them here on purpose to grow their faith in Him.

Read Chap 17:5-7

1. Massah = temptation, Meribah = strife
2. Israel's temptation led to strife
 - a. God wants our temptations to build faith.
3. God was provoked to wrath by their disobedience and lack of faith here.
 - a. Read Deut 6:16, 9:22, 33:8
4. We're either pleasing our own lusts or God.
 - a. Read I Cor 10:1-6
 - i. We should strive to please Christ the Rock!

Conclusion

So God's perfect law should be obeyed by Israel

1. So they'll be healthy and safe

- a. There's a practicality to God's Law that it is physically helpful for them.

2. So they'll see their endless need of God's righteousness

- a. The 40 years of picking up manna for food was to show how they couldn't keep a very simple law (They're helplessly sinful)
- b. But it also shows God's perfect provision

3. So they'll please the One who has provided them all things

- a. When we're tempted, it's an opportunity to praise God with dependence on Him.
 - i. Not fear or strife
- b. I no longer ask the question, "Is this right or wrong" but instead ask myself, "will this action please my Heavenly Father"?