

EXODUS

REDEMPTION : THE STORY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING
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WEEK 5 | EXODUS 19–24



NORTHPARK
Community Church

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READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please read the following section prior to the Wednesday night Bible study. This will prepare you for the study and group discussion.

You may read any version. Most of the studies will utilize the NLT and NIV.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS READINGS

Week 1	September 8	Exodus 1-4
Week 2	September 15	Exodus 5-10
Week 3	September 22	Exodus 11:1-15:21
Week 4	September 29	Exodus 15:22- 18:27
Week 5	October 6	Exodus 19-24
Week 6	October 13	Exodus 25-27; 30-31
Week 7	October 20	Exodus 28-29
Week 8	October 27	Exodus 32-40

Exposition Exodus 19:1-20:21

Session 5A – Hear the Voice of God

God gave Moses encouraging promise → Ex. 3:12 → promise fulfilled

The Hebrews → at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:1; 4:27; 18:5; 24:13) →

God → redeemed His people (Ex. 1--8) → (Ex. 19-24 (Ex. 6:6-7)

Israel → meet their God at the holy mount and worship Him → heard God's voice speaking to them personally → (Deut. 4:32-33; 5:23-27)

I. A LIFE OF MATURITY (Ex. 19:1-4)

If freedom doesn't lead to maturity → imprisoned →

Bad → enslaved by Egyptian taskmaster → worse → enslave yourself →

The image of maturity → the eagle →

Moses → used same image in song → Deuteronomy 32:10-12

The young birds → must learn to fly

The adult birds → stay near the fledglings →

Three aspects of freedom →

Freedom from → out of the nest → redemption

Freedom in → in the air → maturity

Freedom to → purpose in life → ministry

True freedom → delivered from doing the bad → able to do the good → accomplishing God's will

God's point of view → Egypt a furnace of affliction for Israel (Deut. 4:20; 1 Kings 8:51; Jer. 11:4) →

The Hebrews → saw Egypt as a "nest" → (Ex. 16:1-3; Num. 11:1-9)

God → delivered them from Egypt → they had to "try their wings" →

When maturing → series of open doors →

Refuse to let God mature us → a series of confining iron bars →

Birth to death → the “turning points” of life →

At each “turning point” → lose something → gain something → the maturing process →

The Hebrews complained about God’s dealings → craved to go back to Egypt → acted like little children → God had to discipline them →

II. A LIFE OF DIGNITY (Ex. 19:5-8)

In Egypt → the Hebrews → slaves →

The Hebrews → God’s special people → be a blessing (Gen. 12:3)

A. God’s treasured possession (Ex. 19:5)

All nations → belong to the Lord → Maker and their Sustainer (Ex. 9:29; Ps. 24:1; 50:12; Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-28)

Israel → chosen → treasured possession (Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ps. 135:4; Mal. 3:17)

Choice not because of Israel’s merits → none (Deut. 26:5–11) → God’s love and sovereign grace (Deut. 7:6-8) →

The Hebrews → set apart → Lord’s special work →

Romans 9:4-5 → the spiritual treasures God has given Israel → “salvation is of the Hebrews” (John 4:22) →

Treasures and privileges → a greater responsibility → (Luke 12:48)

B. A kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6)

Aaron and his sons → later consecrated as priests (Ex. 28-29) → God’s intent → all Israel live as priests →

Israel → God’s “showcase” to the Gentiles → one true and living God → (Isa. 42:6; 49:6)

The Hebrews → adopted religions and lifestyles of the Gentiles → Babylonian captivity.

Israel → will see the Messiah → cleansed of her iniquities (Zech. 12:10-13:1) → become a nation of holy priests (Isa. 61:6)

C. A holy nation (Ex. 19:6)

"You are to be my holy people" Ex. 22:31 → a people set apart for God

"Be holy, for I am holy" → 6 times in Leviticus (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8) → 2 times in 1 Peter 1:15-16

In every area of life → Israel's activities belonged to God →

During the plagues in Egypt → difference between them and the Egyptians (Ex. 11:7) →

The Jewish priests → set the example → teach the people → *"put [a] difference between holy and unholy, and between clean and unclean"* (Lev. 10:10; 11:47)

The priests → failed (Ezek. 22:26; 42:20; 44:23; 48:14-15) → their sin → defilement and destruction (Lam. 4:13)

Moses shared good news → enthusiastically promised to obey (Ex. 19:7-8)

May sincere → God knew that their hearts (Deut. 5:27-29)

Repeated vow → 2 more times → didn't change their hearts (Ex. 24:3, 7) → Israel would succumb to idolatry → make a golden calf / worship it (Ex. 32)

D. God's people today (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

Peter → Exodus 19:6 → called the church → *1 Peter 2:5, 9*

Israel → God's people today → point people to the Lord → reveal by their words and deeds how wonderful He is →

III. A LIFE OF SANCTITY (Ex. 19:9-25)

Moses reported to the Lord → people's promise →

The sanctity of the nation → the holy people of God → three images →

A. Changing clothes and washing (Ex. 19:10-11, 14-15)

Bathing and changing clothes → marked a new beginning, → God restored Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21) → Jacob and his family returned to Bethel (Gen. 35:2)

Other examples →

- Joseph leaving prison (Gen. 41:14)
- Healed lepers returning to society (Lev. 14:8-9)
- David turning back to God (2 Sam. 12:20)
- King Jehoiachin being shown mercy by his captors (Jer. 52:31-34)

Washing and changing clothes → Old Testament equivalent of 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 7:1

B. The distance between God and the people (Ex. 19:12-13, 20-25)

Mount Sinai → a matter of life or death → the presence of God sanctified the mountain

Moses put up barriers → posted guards →

Trumpet sounded → Moses ascended the mountain → God sent him back → to warn the people →

→ God teaching the people → distance between a holy God and sinful people → danger of rushing into the presence of the Lord →

Nadab and Abihu → (Lev. 10)

Old Testament worship → emphasized man's sinfulness / God's "otherness" →

→ The fence → the veil → only priests minister in the tabernacle → only the high priest enter the Holy of Holies → **"Keep Your Distance!"** →

New Testament → emphasizes nearness of God → Son of God became flesh (John 1:14) → His name "Immanuel → God with us" (Matt. 1:23)

His death / resurrection → Jesus opened a new way into the presence of God (Heb. 10:1-25) → New Testament → **"Let us draw near!"**

Hebrews 12:18-29

C. The storm (Ex. 19:16-19; 20:18-20)

Storm → a symbol of the awesome presence and power of God (Ps. 18:1-15; 29; Hab. 3:1-16)

Cloud / darkness → thunder / lightning → earthquake / fire → the greatness of God (Deut. 5:22-23, 27) → produced a holy fear →

Moses → trembled with fear (Heb. 12:21; Deut. 9:19)

God → about to teach His people His law → *“the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge”* (Prov. 1:7)

The Hebrews saw the plagues → mighty demonstration of God’s power → (Ps. 105:26-45)

Called to be a sanctified people → God’s special treasure and His holy nation

IV. A LIFE OF RESPONSIBILITY (Ex. 20:1–17)

Freedom → responsibility → glory of God →

Ten Commandments → much more than laws → part of the covenant God made with Israel → (Ex. 6:1-8; 19:5-8)

Abrahamic covenant → God gave the Hebrews the Promised Land (Gen. 12:3; 13:14-18) → possession and enjoyment → depended on obedience to the Mosaic covenant

The tragedy → disobeyed the law → defiled their land → grieved their Lord

The law → not a way of salvation → Gal. 2:16

Salvation → not a reward for good works → the gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9)

The law → reveals God’s righteousness → demands righteousness → can’t give righteousness (Gal. 2:21) → only Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)

The law → a mirror reveals you’re dirty → don’t wash your face with mirror (James 1:22-25)

Only the blood of Jesus Christ → can cleanse us from sin (1 John 1:7, 9; Heb. 10:22)

God doesn’t give His Spirit because we obey the law (Gal. 3:2) → because we trust Christ (Gal. 4:1-7) → doesn’t He give us our inheritance through the law (Gal. 3:18)

The dead sinner needs → life (Eph. 2:1-3) → the law can’t give life (Gal. 3:21)

We must → cry out for the mercy and grace of God →

God gives His Holy Spirit → believe on His Son → Spirit enables us to obey God → fulfill the righteousness of the law (Rom. 8:1-3)

The law → prepare the way for the birth of Christ (Gal. 4:1–7)

The nation of Israel → an immature child →

The Jewish *ceremonial system* → Exodus and Leviticus → fulfilled by Christ

The *moral content* of God's law still remains → nine of the Ten Commandments repeated in the New Testament →

Ten Commandments → our responsibilities toward God → first four are Godward
→ last six manward

How we relate to others → depends on how we relate to God → for if we love God and obey Him → we'll love our neighbors and serve them (Matt. 22:34-40; Rom. 13)

A. Recognizing one true God (Ex. 20:1–3)

The LORD your God → 5 times (Ex. 20:3, 5, 7, 10, 12) →

Moses → Ten Commandments →

Bear witness of the true and living God (Ps. 115) →

Phrase → “before Me” (Ex. 20:3) → “in opposition to Me” → Deut. 6:4

B. Worshipping only the Lord (Ex. 20:4–6)

Idol → substitute for God → not a god → only one true and living God

Religious pluralism → unbiblical and illogical →

God is God → He is → infinite → eternal → sovereign →

→ He can't share the throne with another being → who is also infinite, eternal, and sovereign → Isa. 42:8

Idol worship → illogical and unbiblical → intensely immoral → demonic (1 Cor. 10:10–22)

Lord commanded Israel → destroy the temples, altars, idols of the pagans (Deut. 7:1–11)

Apostle John's final admonition to Christians → (1 John 5:21)

Idol → anything that takes the place of God →

God → “jealous God” → expresses His love for His people → (Zech. 1:14; 8:2)

Scripture → idolatry → equivalent of prostitution and adultery (Hos. 1-3; Jer. 2-3; Ezek. 16; 23; James 4:4-5)

God desires / deserves → exclusive love of His people (Ex. 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 5:9; 6:15)

God → punishes those who refuse to obey Him →

God doesn't punish → children and grandchildren → for somebody else's sins (Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18:4) → **sad consequences of ancestral sins** →

Abraham's faith → brought blessing → David's ministry helped people →

C. Honoring God's name (Ex. 20:7)

Name → character and reputation → what you are and what you do (John 17:6, 26)

God's → name the greatest / must be honored

Lord's Prayer is → "Hallowed be Your name" (Matt. 6:9)

Making a promise or taking an oath in God's name → not fulfilling the commitment → cheapens His name / blasphemes God (Lev. 19:12)

D. Honoring the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8–11)

Sabbath → "rest"

The Sabbath tradition part of Israel's life (Ex. 16:23, 25) → part of Israel's law → covenant relationship with God

Sabbath rooted in creation (Gen. 2:1-3) → a special sign between Israel and the Lord (Ex. 31:12-17; Neh. 9:13–15; Ezek. 20:12, 20) → (Ps. 147:19-20)

Moses → Sabbath → Israel's deliverance (Deut. 5:12-15) → rest in their promised inheritance (Deut. 3:20; 12:10; 25:19)

Hebrews promoted own welfare → acknowledged lordship of Yahweh (Ex. 23:12)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ → (John 20:19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2) → (Col. 2:16-17; Gal. 4:1-11; Rom. 14:1-15:7)

Israelites → disciplined (2 Chron. 36:14-21; Ezek. 20; Isa. 58:13-14; Jer. 17:19-27)

Scribes and Pharisees → observing Sabbath → a burden (Mark 2:23-3:5)

E. Honoring one's parents (Ex. 20:12)

Hebrews taught to respect age → care for senior citizens (Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 19:3, 32; Deut. 27:16; Prov. 1:8; 16:31; 20:20; 23:22; 30:17) → (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 5:1-2)

F. Honoring human life (Ex. 20:13)

Life → a gift from God → only He has the authority to take life →

Made in God's image → murder → an attack against God (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6)

Protecting life → responsibility of every member of society → (Rom. 13)

The issue here → premeditated murder → (Matt. 5:21-26)

The Hebrews → allowed to defend themselves (Ex. 22:2) → murder a capital offense (Ex. 21:12-14)

G. Honoring marriage (Ex. 20:14)

Adultery → considered a capital crime (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22)

The family → basic unit of the nation → faithfulness → foundation

Adultery → robbery (1 Thess. 4:1-8) → rob themselves (Prov. 6:20-35)

Lord can forgive the sin of adultery (1 Cor. 6:9-11; John 8:1-11) →

David → must live with consequences → of forgiven sin (2 Sam. 12:13-14; Ps. 51)

Adultery → desire in the heart → second look (Matt. 5:27-30)

H. Respecting personal property (Ex. 20:15)

God gave laws to govern the land → belonged to Him → stewards (Lev. 25:2, 23, 38)

Ephesians 4:28 → three ways to get wealth → work for it → given to you → steal it → stealing is wrong

I. Speaking the truth (Ex. 20:16)

Speaking the truth and honoring promises → is the cement that holds society together.

Lies in court → undermine law itself → Moses required the witnesses to be the executioners (Deut. 17:6–13)

Slandering people (Ex. 23:1; Prov. 10:18; 12:17; 19:9; 24:28; Titus 3:1–2; James 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1)

J. Controlling desires (Ex. 20:17)

Covetous people → break all of God's commandments → at the heart of sin → is the sin in the heart (Matt. 15:19)

To covet → inward desires for anything God says is sinful

This commandment convicted Saul of Tarsus → successful Pharisee → he was a sinner (Rom. 7:1-14; see Luke 12:15, Eph. 5:3, Col. 3:5)

Emphasis → be a good neighbor → love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:34-40; Lev. 19:18)

Love → the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:8-10)

God can change our sinful hearts (Heb. 10:14-18) → give us the love we need to obey Him → care for others (Gal. 5:22–26; Rom. 5:1-5)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Session 5A

1. In which areas or activities of life were the Israelites to be holy, set apart, or different? (19:6)

How are believers today to be set apart?

2. What is an idol?

What other religions include idol worship?

What are some less obvious idols that entice us today?

Exposition Exodus 20:22-24:8

Session 5B – The Book of the Covenant

Exodus → basic laws → protection of human life and property →

“The book of the covenant” (Ex. 24:3-8) → a special relationship with Yahweh → obligated to obey Him

These laws → based on character of God → unchanging moral principles →

Law → powerless to change human nature →

The time of the judges → “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

I. GOD IS UNSEEN: HEAR HIS WORD (Ex. 20:22-26)

Forty years later → when Moses reviewed the law with the new generation → he reminded them that their ancestors had seen manifestations of God’s glory and power at Sinai → and heard His words → but they “saw no form of any kind” (Deut. 4:15).

God → no form / shape → no dead idol → Isa. 40:18

The Hebrews → people of the Word → hearing God’s Word, believing it, and obeying it →

Israel → worship an invisible God → no idols → (2 Kings 16:10–20)

A simple altar of earth or uncut stone →

No interaction with temple prostitutes →

Hebrew priests → wear special garments (Ex. 28:42-43; Lev. 6:10) → (Ex. 28:35, 43)

Moses on the mountain → golden calf / idolatrous orgy → (Ex. 32:1-6, 25-29)

II. GOD IS JUST: OBEY HIS LAWS (Ex. 21:1-23:19)

Justice → practical outworking of the righteousness of God (Ps. 33:5; Isa. 30:18; 61:8)

God → judge the world in righteousness → His judgment → just (Acts 17:31)

A. Laws about servants (Ex. 21:1-11; see also Lev. 25:39-43; Deut. 15:12-18)

Hebrews → slaves from other nations, → prisoners of war → not to enslave their own people →

Two scenarios →

→ Man voluntarily becomes a servant (Ex. 21:1-7) →

→ Woman sold to be a servant (Ex. 21:8-11) →

If poverty → indentured servant →

If family affection → remain in service →

A female servant →

If poor man sold his daughter → receive the sale price →

If man's concubine didn't please him → birth family could redeem her →

If chosen for his son → son dislike her / married another woman →

If father failed → woman was free →

B. Capital crimes (Ex. 21:12-17)

These laws are the logical application of the sixth commandment, → *"You shall not kill"* (Ex. 20:13; Lev. 24:17).

We're made in God's image → so to murder a fellow human being → is to attack the image of God (Gen. 9:6).

If a person was found guilty of murder → on the testimony of two or more witnesses (Num. 35:30-31) → then the murderer was killed.

Premeditated murder → accidental manslaughter

If killed somebody accidentally → flee to God's altar (1 Kings 2:29) →

Israel → set apart six cities of refuge → manslayer could flee → protected → until investigated (Num. 35; Deut. 19; Josh. 20)

Israel → no police force →

C. Children and parents (Ex. 21:15, 17)

Specific cases of murder →

Man's mistreatment of his parents → abusing them physically and/or verbally → a violation of fifth commandment (Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9; Deut. 27:16)

The "prodigal son law" (Ex. 21:18-21) → son desperately in need of discipline

Children → no respect for their parents → no respect for authority →

D. Kidnapping is prohibited in Exodus 21:16 (Deut. 24:7)

If wrong to steal property (Ex. 20:15) → then greater crime to steal people made in God's image → sell them as slaves →

E. Injuries (Ex. 21:18-32)

People aren't supposed to argue → to the point of blows (Prov. 15:1; 25:15) →

If victim died → aggressor pays with his life →

If victim recovers → aggressor is cleared →

F. Slaves (Ex. 21:20-21)

This principle → applied to a master and his slaves →

The Lord didn't want slaves → looked upon as property → but as humans made in God's image → deserving human rights →

If disciplining a slave (Prov. 10:13; 13:24) → master went too far / killed the person → master punished

Punishment → determined by the judges (Ex. 21:22) →

If slave recovered → master wasn't punished →

G. A pregnant woman injured (Ex. 21:22-23)

Wife of one of the combatants → husband losing the fight →

Disagreement on the translation → Ex. 21:22

→ "and she gives birth prematurely" (NIV) → "and she has a miscarriage" (NASB)

First translation is to be preferred →

No serious injury → mother or child → court required to fine guilty man

If serious injury → mother and/or child maimed or killed → court to follow *lex talionis* (Ex. 21:23-25) → “The punishment must fit the crime”

Legal system developing → this law made sure punishment → equal to the seriousness and severity of the crime →

If broke enemy’s finger → then court ordered you to be blinded → that wouldn’t be fair →

Principle not enforced → when a master injured a slave → slave’s compensation → freedom (Ex. 21:26-27)

Jesus → prohibited His disciples from retaliating against those who hurt them (Matt. 5:38-44; 1 Peter 2:19-21) → encouraged personal forgiveness

Jesus → came to fulfill the law and not to destroy it (Matt. 5:17-20)

believers → privilege of waiving our “legal rights” → to the glory of God (1 Cor. 6:1-8)

H. Injured by an animal (Ex. 21:28-32)

Law is clear → owner responsible →

If bull → killed somebody → owner responsible → owner and animal put to death

No difference → between the death of male or female (Ex. 21:29, 31)

Difference → when it came to slaves → (Matt. 26:14-16)

I. Property damage (Ex. 21:33-22:15)

In the Promised Land → Israel agricultural society → farmer’s animals important → couldn’t work the land

J. Animals injured or killed (Ex. 21:33-34)

If man’s carelessness / negligence → caused an animal to be injured or killed → then he had to pay →

If animal killed another → two owners divided the carcass → money received from the sale →

K. Stealing animals (Ex. 22:1-4)

A difference → stolen animals killed or sold → stolen animals still in the possession of the thief →

Thief found guilty → repay five to one / oxen → four to one / sheep →

If couldn't pay → sold as a slave → money given to man whose animals he stole →

A difference → night thief / daylight thief →

Daylight →

Night →

Law of restitution for stolen animals → David's words → 2 Samuel 12:6 → Zacchaeus's promise → Luke 19:8

Nathan → King David a sheep stealer → Bathsheba the stolen lamb → adultery is thievery (1 Thess. 4:1-7)

David → repay fourfold → baby died → Amnon and Absalom both slain → Tamar raped (2 Sam. 12:15-13:33; 18:1-18)

L. Crops (Ex. 22:5-6)

The boundaries marked by stones → at the corners → (Deut. 19:14; 27:17; Prov. 22:28; 23:10)

If → animals ate in neighbor's field → restitution to his neighbor →

During dry season → danger of fire (Ex. 22:6)

Whoever caused fire → should compensate the people →

Restore and restitution → 6 times (Ex. 22:1, 3-6, 12) → Hebrew → shalam → "to make whole, to make complete" →

M. Other people's belongings (Ex. 22:7-15)

Honesty and integrity → forms healthy / productive society →

One of three things →

→ Witnesses

→ Evidence → (Gen. 31:39; Amos 3:12)

→ Lacking these → an oath of innocence →

The judges →

If proved → make proper restitution

N. Miscellaneous laws (Ex. 22:16-23:19)

1. Rape (Ex. 22:16-17)

Unmarried girls →

The offender → required marrying the girl →

Girl engaged → considered adultery → different law applied (Deut. 22:23-29)

2. Sorcery (Ex. 22:18)

Moses' day dangerous demonic practice→

Hebrews commanded → to stay away from occult (Lev. 20:6; Deut. 18:10, 14; 1 Sam. 28; Isa. 47:12-14)

Galatians 5:20 → witchcraft → idolatry

3. Bestiality (Ex. 22:19)

Religious practices of the heathen nations → condemned (Lev. 18:23; 20:15–16; Deut. 27:21)

4. Idolatry (Ex. 22:20; 23:13)

No sacrifice to other gods →

Idolatry → Israel's greatest temptation → Lord warned → destroy the pagan temples and altars (Deut. 4:14-24)

5. Selfishness (Ex. 22:21-27; 23:9)

Hebrews → be kind to strangers and aliens, widows and orphans, and the poor→

Hebrews strangers in Egypt → treated kindly → widows and orphans are the special (Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 14:28-29; 16:11, 14; 24:19-21; 26:12-13; Ps. 10:14, 17-18; 68:5; 82:3; 146:9; Isa. 1:23; 10:2; Jer. 7:6; 22:3; Zech. 7:10; Mal. 3:5)

The rich → don't exploit the poor → (Lev. 25:35–38; Deut. 15:7-11; 23:19–20; 24:6, 10–13; Prov. 28:8) (Ex. 22:23, 27)

6. Abusing authority (Ex. 22:28)

Despising God's laws → generosity to others (Ex. 22:21-27)

Blaspheming God → capital offense (Lev. 24:10-16)

7. Delay in obeying (Ex. 22:29-30)

The firstfruits belong to the Lord → firstborn son → firstborn male animal (Ex. 13) → firstfruits of the field and orchard (Prov. 3:9-10) →

If wrong to withhold a man's garment (Ex. 22:26-27) or wages (James 5:4) → worse to withhold from the Lord gifts →

8. Defiled meat (Ex. 22:31)

This law → religious and hygienic → (Lev. 22:8)

9. Justice (Ex. 23:1-8)

Ninth commandment (Ex. 20:16) → warning not to endorse falsehood → and promote injustice Lev. 19:15-16)

Not influenced by wealth or poverty of the accused → or by bribes (Ex. 16:18-20; Isa. 1:23; Mic. 3:11)

Condemn innocent person → personal gain → guilty before God → (Ex. 23:7)

Moses → reminded them → be kind to their enemies → (Ex. 23:4-5; Deut. 22:13-15)

10. Observing the feasts (Ex. 23:10-17)

God → in charge of time → celebrate the weekly Sabbath →

Every seven years → celebrate a sabbatical year → (Lev. 25:1-7)

When settled in their land → gather to worship three times a year → at Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. (Lev. 23)

The men → accompanied by their families (1 Sam. 1 and Luke 2:40)

11. "Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk" (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; Deut. 14:21)

Young goat → favorite food → cooking in milk → improved taste

The mother's milk to cook her own offspring → reveal attitude of heart →

Cooking a *kid* this way → Canaanite pagan ceremony →

Feast of Booths → harvest festival → pagan ritual → do with prosperity

The milk → sprinkled on the trees and fields → promote fertility →

III. GOD IS WISE: FOLLOW HIS LEADING (Ex. 23:20-24:8)

The Israelites → at Sinai about eleven months → then to Kadesh-Barnea → to enter the land (Num. 10:11-14:45)

Israelites failed to trust God / claim their inheritance → condemned to the wilderness →

Thirty-eight years → God guided His people → back to borders of Canaan

The angel → Angel of the Covenant (Ex. 14:19)

God prepared a place → for His earthly people (Ex. 23:20) → Jesus is preparing a place → for His heavenly people (John 14:1-6)

The Lord warned → idolatry → worshipping false gods →

If → Israel devoted themselves wholly to the Lord → He would go before them → (Josh. 2:11; Ex. 15:16)

The “hornet” in 23:28 → (Deut. 7:20; Josh. 24:12)

Joshua and his army → seven years to conquer the land →

God’s plan → take the land gradually → control things, → some tribes never fully conquered (Judg. 1-2)

God set the boundaries (Gen. 15:18-21) → David and Solomon (2 Sam. 8:1-14; 1 Kings 4:20-25) → nation divided →

IV. GOD IS FAITHFUL: TRUST HIS COVENANT (Ex. 24:1-8)

Ex. 24:1-2 → Exodus 20:21 → God called Moses to ascend Sinai → seventy elders, Aaron, and Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu →

Moses spoke to the people → they promised to obey (Ex. 24:3; 19:8)

Ten Commandments and the book of the covenant →

More than promises → to ratify the book of the covenant →

Moses → built an altar to the Lord → set up twelve pillar-like stones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel →

The young men → priests → offered sacrifices to the Lord → necessary to seal the covenant with blood →

Blood sprinkled on the altar → signifying God had forgiven His people →

Moses → read the book of the covenant to the people → they affirmed their willingness to obey →

Moses → took the rest of the blood → sprinkled the book and the people (24:8; Heb. 9:19-20) →

The covenant → ratified by blood → God would hold them to their promises

The promise of the Lord → Exodus 6:6-8 → now about to move into third phase →

God redeemed His people (Ex. 1-18) → taken them to Himself (Ex. 19-24) →

Now → God was about to come and dwell among them and be their God (Ex. 25-40)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

Questions to consider on your own, during the week:

1. God told the Israelites that He bore them on eagles' wings (Ex. 19:4). What does this mean? What does Wiersbe say eagles and eaglets have to teach us about the life of maturity and freedom?
2. What has been your most recent turning point in life?
What new freedoms, privileges, and responsibilities came with it?
3. What does it mean that the Jews are God's chosen people, His treasured possession (19:5)? Where does that leave the other nations?
4. Why couldn't the people (besides Moses) touch Mount Sinai (19:12)?
What was God teaching them?
5. What was the purpose(s) of the giving of the Ten Commandments?
6. In the Ten Commandments, what is the significance of the repeated phrase the Lord thy God?
7. What do the first and the tenth commandments have in common?
8. In what way is love the fulfillment of the law?
9. What does it mean to say that the laws in Exodus are based upon God's character?
10. What can the law do, and what can it not do? How have you seen this in action?
11. What are some differences between the religion of the one true God and the false religions (Ex. 20:22–26)? How have you seen this in our society?

12. What does this mean: "Justice is the practical outworking of the righteousness of God in human history"? Give an example.
13. In Exodus 21:15, 18, God ordered the death penalty for striking or cursing parents. What principle can a Christian parent learn from this? What would be an appropriate consequence of such sins today?
14. As we read biblical passages dealing with specific laws governing the everyday affairs of Israel, how, if at all, do we make personal application?
15. How do you understand the Old Testament justice of "an eye for an eye" alongside Jesus' teaching of "turn the other cheek"? (See Matt. 5:38–39.)
16. "It takes more than confession of guilt for an offender to make things right; it also demands effort on his part to compensate the people who were hurt." What were some ways of compensating those who were hurt?

