

SESSION #16 (23 Mar 10); Deut 5:1-21; The #1 Public Theophany in Human History & Post-salvation Lordship

I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

1:1-5	Introduction to God's spokesman, the 1 st Prophet Moses
1:6 - 4:40	1 st Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from (1) <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh and (2) sovereign <u>destiny</u> of the nation (<u>future gracious actions</u> of Yahweh)
4:41-49	Editorial comment on context of 2 nd Exposition of the Torah
5:1 - 26:19	2nd Exposition of the Torah = proper response to Yahweh in heart and soul
5:1 - 11:32	Loving Yahweh with all the heart
5:1-33	The Mt. Sinai event & ramifications

Background concepts:

1. "Love" in a superior/inferior relationship

ANE parallels:

Missing element? < sure destiny was [impossible] on a pagan basis >

NT parallel:

- "Lordship" is central for Phase #2; in the background in Phase #1

Upper-Room discourse of John

14:15 "If you love Me, keep my commandments"

14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

14:23 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words. . . ."

15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love. . . ."

1 John 2:3-4 "By this we know that we [have come to] know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him."

2:15 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

2. Law and Grace:

"law" in OT = verbal revelation of [God's will] (also exists in NT "law of Christ"); wholly centered in the nation Israel rather than individual believers as in the Church age

"law" in NT context = Pharisaic distortion of the law into the means of salvation in Phase #1 and/or means of sanctification in Phase #2

- Mt. Sinai law → blinding, scary overwhelming holiness of God with which no fallen man could co-exist
- Pharisaic distortion → trivialization to externals (see Sermon on the Mount)
- Pauline correction → **Rom 3:19-20** "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

"grace" in OT = acts of God in condescending to entering into covenants and to giving extra deliverances and blessings to Israel; also cleansing from sin through authorized [substitutionary] rituals; Exodus < Mt. Sinai → law cannot justify

NOTE: That law is thought to be a tool of human redemption is a common belief among socialists and Marxists. Al Gore, for example, in his March New York Times Op Ed (March 10, 2010) wrote: “From the standpoint of governance, what is at stake is our ability to use the rule of law as an instrument of human redemption.” Decoded this belief means “use the rule of law as an instrument of totalitarian rule.”

“grace” in NT context = (1) once-for-all sacrifice of Christ on the cross freeing believers from rituals of cleansing, (2) providing both a new human spirit to those who believe (eternal life) and (3) also the indwelling Holy Spirit for empowerment to express that eternal life trans-nationally.

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE DECALOGUE (5:1-5)

5:1 Moses called all Israel

2nd Exposition—very long (no sermonette here!)

statutes and judgments

precepts/standards. . .case law outcomes. . . .

1 **Kings 6:12** example of distinction

Lev 24:10-16 shows how “judgments” developed

Steps in fulfilling the purpose of the Word of God

- (1) learn
- (2) guard, pay attention to
- (3) do

PRINCIPLE: Every citizen was to be informed of the law in order that they could choose to apply it to everyday details in their lives (i.e., they were to be responsible).
“Living in the Word” = focus on those portions of the Word of God that apply to the immediate situation; involves mental focusing on *already learned* doctrine.

5:2 Yahweh. . .made. . .in Horeb

Historic event; God speaks and acts in history unlike all religions outside of the Bible.

5:3 not with our fathers. . .but with us who are alive.

Emphasis upon the present 2nd generation → (1) new dispensation; and (2) within Israel all ancestral generations of the exodus generation.

DISPENSATIONS: Different administrations of God in history but not different ways of salvation and not independent of each other.

Basis of salvation = Cross of Christ

Means of appropriation of salvation = faith alone

Content of salvation message = changes (enlarges going forward)

Will of God in sanctification = changes (engages evil powers more comprehensively going forward)

5:4 spoke face to face (emphasized in Heb)

FRAMEWORK:

Key event = Mt. Sinai

Doctrines = Revelation, Inspiration, Canonicity

Doctrine of Revelation

1. Verbal: not mystical feeling (Temple quote vs. **Deut 30:11-14**)
2. Personal: not a code or abstract principles (typical pagan law codes vs. relation with a personal king **Ps 95:6-11**)
3. Historical: continuity and memory from generation to generation, not usually immediate encounter experiences (**Exod 12:24-27; 1 Cor 11:23-26**)
4. Comprehensive: God speaks with implications spanning all of life, not limited to a “religious sub-compartment” (**Deut 12-26**)
5. Prophetic: involving a line of prophets with a horizon to the end of history, not limited to one figure’s speculations (**Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet 1:10-12**)

midst of the fire

strange physical phenomenon to represent the aseity and condescension of God
 I AM → God exists independently; all else exists dependently
 “comes down” → to the creature level and enters binding relationships

5:5 standing between Yahweh and you. . . afraid. . .

ALWAYS the case for sinful man: revelation → exposes sin → fear of judgment → need for a Mediator/Savior

Setting for the Decalogue: time/place of one of the greatest theophanies of history with resultant fear; key example of *what real “revelation” looks like*.

III. THE DECALOGUE STRUCTURE (5:6-21)

A. What’s “new” in the 10 commandments? What was known about God’s will for man in previous dispensations all the way back to creation? (“Point of contact” with unbelieving man) N** = Jewish tradition of commandments given to Noah

Prior Awareness (God-consciousness)	Ten Commandments
Knowledge of God in all men including His providential working (Rom 1:19-20)	#1 presupposes knowledge of God and that His benefits incurs our obligation N**
Awareness of God’s character enough to experience discomfort and motivation to pervert it (1:21-23)	#2 presupposes there exists truth about His character N**
Intuitively understand that language relates to reality—including God Himself (1:25)	#3 presupposes that language carries meaning about God N**
?	#4 presupposes creation & exodus events (only one of the 10 commandments not repeated in the New Testament)
Natural inclination toward procreation and family care	#5 presupposes that parents are God’s delegated representatives to children; presupposes the family N**
No one may take innocent human life	#6 presupposes value of human life N**
Marriage is valued over all other erotic relationships	#7 presupposes monogamous marriage N**
Personal property exists	#8 presupposes personal property that can reasonably be held N**
Universal customs of tribal judges	#9 presupposes public justice exists
We can help our feelings	#10 presupposes control of desires with regard to spouses and property

Point: The 10 commandments “fit” with the imagehood of God in man

Application: The Word of God speaks to man’s conscience and no one can live consistently as though it is false. *Everyone ultimately shows by their behavior that their heart-answers to the 3 basic questions are biblical-like after all:*

[Ethics] Who are you to tell me how I ought to live my life? (It’s not me; it’s an objective moral standard.)

[Epistemology] How do I know what you’re telling me is true? (Because truth can be known by you and me through reasoning and experience.)

[Metaphysics] What is the purpose and meaning of your life? (I don’t know the details, but I know my existence has a purpose.)

B. What is the structure of the 10 commandments?

Roman Catholic division (following Augustine): 5:6-10 is 1st commandment; 5:21a is 9th commandment with 5:21b being the 10th commandment.

Protestant division (following Jewish tradition): 5:6-7 is 1st commandment; 5:21 is 10th commandment

The Chiastic structure:

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service

5:11 Accuracy in language about God

5:12-15 Management of labor and property

5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family

5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved

5:18 Marriage is to be protected

5:19 Property is to be protected

5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

IV. CONCLUSION

The core of the Mt. Sinai theophany confirms the created imagehood of mankind and adds corrective requirements for the elect nation Israel. Loyalty is expressed by conformity with God’s Word (“Living in the Word”).

Contemporary pagan example: Rib-Addu to Pharaoh "to love Pharaoh is to serve him and to remain faithful to the status of vassal."

Johannine examples: "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (14:15)

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (14:21)

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words. . . ." (14:23)

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love. . ." (16:10)

"By this we know that we [have come to] know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:3-4)

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15)

- ### KEY EVENTS & DOCTRINAL IMAGES
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Fall • Flood • Covenant • Call of Abraham • Exodus • Mt. Sinai • Conquest & Settlement • Rise and Reign of David • Golden Era of Solomon • Division & Decline of Kgdm • Fall of Kgdm & Exile • Restoration. . . . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God, man, nature • Evil, suffering • Judgment / Salvation • God, man, nature • Election, Justification, Faith • Judgment / Salvation • Revelation, Inspiration, Canon • Sanctification • Sanctification • Sanctification • Sanctification, Religion • Canon, prayer. . . . |
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Doctrine of Dispensations

Basis of salvation	<i>constant</i> -Cross of Christ
Means of appropriation	<i>constant</i> -Faith alone
Content of salvation message (gospel)	<i>changes</i> -enlarges going forward
Will of God in sanctification	<i>changes</i> -enlarges going forward

Doctrine of Revelation

Verbal: includes <i>information transfer</i> from God to man (Deut 30:11-14)
Personal: includes <i>personal interaction</i> between God and man (Ps 95:6-11)
Historical: intermittent so depends upon <i>historical memory</i> (Ex 12:24-27; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
Comprehensive: implications <i>span all of life</i> (Deut 12-26)
Prophetic: line of self-consistent prophets with a horizon to the end of history (Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet 1:10-12)

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