

SESSION #17 (30 Mar 10); Deut 5:6-21; The Societal Implications of the Decalogue Structure

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	2 nd 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	

Framework thinking: Mt Sinai event & revelation

To maintain peaceful social order there must be a [common] ethic

The Ethics Question “who are you to tell me how to live my life?” Who is the “who”?

1. Source in man

- which man or men? (where is the source of moral authority?)
 - Solitary individuals? → personal taste? → anarchy
 - Consensus? → why 51% ? → tyranny of the majority that disqualifies reformers such as Martin Luther King
 - Elite? → what superior source of ethics? → tyranny of the elite
- can't go from “is” to “ought”
- we know all men lack insight, motivation, and enablement to live perfectly ethically without reliance upon external divine authority and salvation

2. Source in Creator, Savior, Judge → how do I know His will? → He must speak His mind for me to know → doctrine of revelation → where in the biblical record do I go to best focus on this area of truth?

- Simple picture = Mt. Sinai, but this event must be understood
- The Mt. Sinai event has a historical context, not an [isolated] event that “just happened”
 - Prior historic revelation (Abrahamic Covenant, Noahic Covenant, fall, creation)
 - Later historic revelation (prophetic interpretation of Israel's experience of living in this relationship with God for next millennium and a half).

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**)

- 3. How to interact with the cosmic environment using this framework approach:
 - Always press home the central issue “who is the ‘who’?” It has to be either God or man. Man as the source *doesn’t have sufficient authority*.
 - Mt. Sinai *interpreted in the biblical context* shows the only sufficient “who.”
 - Refusal to accept biblical authority merely *begs the question* of whether divine revelation has ever occurred in history.

II. THE DECALOGUE (5:6-21)

Point: The 10 commandments “fit” with the imagehood of God in man—everyone recognizes them deep down and from moral tradition.

A. STRUCTURE

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

What are the implications of this structure? [Discuss]

LIFE (protected)	LIFE (jeopardized)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of PERSONAL COMMUNICATION (really embraces truth)	INTEGRITY of PERSONAL COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes “truth”)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)

This is the divine _[design]_ of society according to God Himself!!

B. STATEMENTS

5:6 brought you out of. . .the house of bondage

Every society organized around pagan ideology destroys *[freedom]* by disrupting the God-designed structures and dynamics.

5:7-10 no other gods. . .not any image. . .nor serve them

Why?

The basis of the community life must be rooted on the only true foundation: the Creator, Judge, and Savior. Every idolatry perverts the foundational truths of life because it replaces the *[Creator]* with the *[creature]* (Mother Nature).

worship and serve

refers to entire national direction—values (ethics), policies, economy (taxes),

a jealous god attending to the punishment of the fathers to the children, to the 3rd and 4th of the haters of me

jealous--God will make the foundation the center of His relationship with the nation. OT prophets and, later, Jesus had to get back to this basic point.

attending to—Heb participle → His abiding nature (will NEVER violate His own integrity); Israel's history reveals this truth so powerfully that after the exile, the Diaspora spread this truth throughout many nations. 7 religions—all ethically reforming the previous mythological and priestly pagan religions—sprang up within a century of 586 BC!!

- Persia (Zoroastrianism)
- India (Jainism, Buddhism, Vedanta Monism)
- China (Taoism, Confucianism)
- Middle East (Judaism)

to. . .3rd. .4th

family sin patterns can be transmitted to *[grandkids]* and great *[great grandkids]*
True of

- Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-12 sons
- the Amorites who had to be exterminated (original “Palestinians”)
- Herod family (NT)
- Our families??

of the haters of Me

haters—Heb participle → emphasis upon their dominate characteristic

- 1) opposite of “love” in the sense of loyalty which we studied in the previous session
- 2) doesn't dissolve individual responsibility: cf. **Ezk 18:20** “*The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son.*”

and doing *chesid* to the thousands of the lovers of me and keepers of my commandments

doing—Heb participle → cf. attending to in v9

chesid—one of 2 Hebrew expressions for “love”

(1) *ahav* = choosing to love someone (participle in this verse opposite to “haters” above)

(2) *chesid* = loyalty to adhere to a defined relationship; “covenant-loyalty”

Condescension of God = He “comes down” to our level and binds Himself to His Word-contract!!

Here is the powerful foundation for life in ancient Israel = revelation to the nations of God’s character (Israel is a “light to the Gentiles”)

thousands. . .deliberate contrast to “3rd, 4th” of His judgments

Gen 12:3 bless those. . .curse him

Matt. 25:41 fire prepared for the devil and his angels (not man)

Rom 9:22-23 prepared for destruction (Mid/Pass Pf Participle) vs. **which He prepared beforehand for glory** (Act aor)

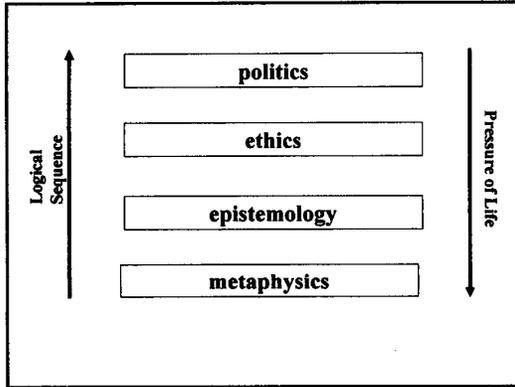
Summary of 5:6-10

Basis of the nation’s entire existence is Yahweh (*Creator* of heaven and earth, *Covenant Keeper* with Abrahamic Cov; *Deliverer* from ancient superpower, Egypt; *Covenant Maker* in new dispensational arrangement)

That solves the metaphysical question: “What is the meaning and purpose of the nation’s existence?” Answer: a special demonstration nation for God in the flow of human history. . . . not a random, meaningless group of people embedding in a cycle of Mother Nature going nowhere.

That solves the epistemological question: “How are they supposed to attain truth and justify the claim that their ethic and political structures are more righteous than any other nation?” Answer: a revelation-based contractual relationship with God to be administrated with a sequence of prophets down through history.

That solves the ethical question: “Who is to tell the nation how to live?” Answer: its Creator and Deliverer.



The Ethics Question: "who?"

Source in <i>Man</i>	Source in the <i>Creator, Judge, and Savior</i>
Where is the source of moral authority? <small>(Personal taste? 51% consensus? Eternity?)</small> Can't produce "ought" from "is" All men lack motivation & enablement to live ethically consistent lives	Mt. Sinai event !! Self-revealing God of history

KEY EVENTS & DOCTRINAL IMAGES

<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 • Sanctification, Religion • Canon, prayer.
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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)

Chiastic Structure (X)

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

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God's Design of Society

LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)