



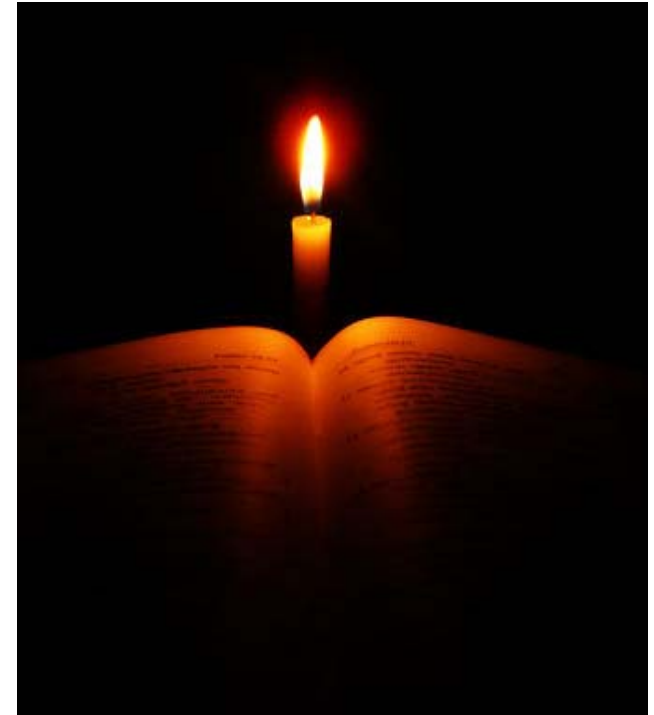
Teacher: Yvon Prehn

Exodus, Leviticus,
Numbers

The Books
of the Bible
Everyone Skips

Introduction and Overview

- “The period covered by [Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers] is, in many respects, the most important in Old Testament history, not only so far as regards Israel, but the Church at all times.” Old Testament Bible History, Alfred Edersheim
- ***Our plan for this lesson:***
- Brief overview, history of each book
- Typology, a hermeneutic tool
 - More than interesting trivia, pivotal to understanding the unity of OT & NT and the character of God, application
- Applications—throughout and then more at the end



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Exodus

- Opens after 430 years of silence since Joseph's death
 - *Note times throughout*
- 1446 BC for the exodus
- <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-date-1440bc.htm>
- Opens with story of Moses
- Tried deliverance his way
- 40 years in Midian
- One day a bush was burning. . .



Deliverance of a Nation

- Confronts Pharaoh, work gets harder
- Plagues lasts 10 months
- Against gods and pride of Egypt
- People leave the land
- Trial & Victory at the Red Sea
- Celebration
- More trials, Marah and Elim—3 months journey to Sinai
- Manna given Ex. 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.



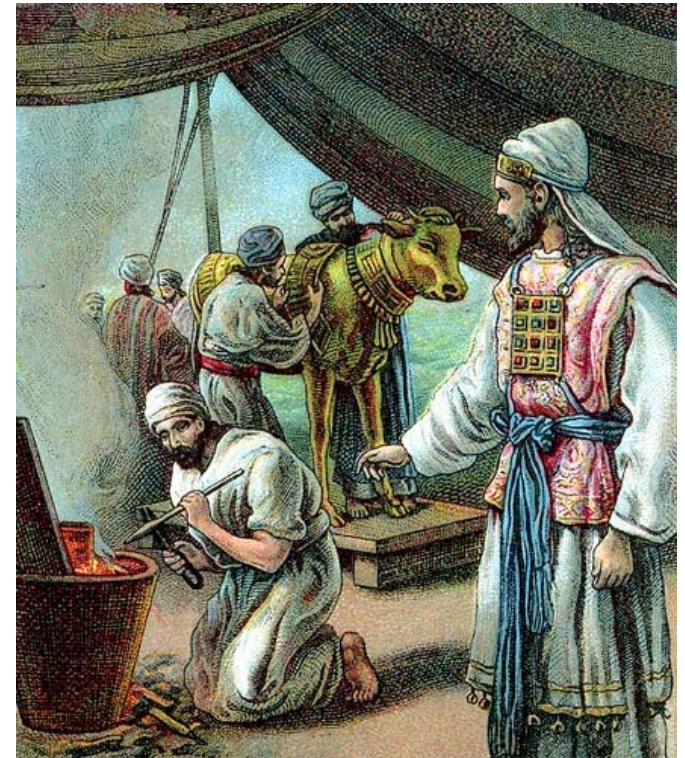
More travels Arrive at Sinai

- Water from the Rock
- Amalekites defeated, combination of prayer and battle
- Shows they could fight and win
- Jethro comes, teaches Moses delegation
- Moses goes up Mt. Sinai, God gives him
- 10 Commandments
- Various laws
- How to build Tabernacle
- Institution of priesthood
- Preparation to be God's people



While Moses is speaking to God

- ***The people saw that Moses took a long time to come down from the mountain.*** So they gathered around Aaron. They said to him, “Come. Make us a god that will lead us. This fellow Moses brought us up out of Egypt. But we don’t know what has happened to him.” Exodus 32:1
- **The Golden Calf**
- As Moses approached the camp, he saw the calf. He also saw the people dancing. So he was very angry. He threw the tablets out of his hands. They broke into pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ He took the calf the people had made. He burned it in the fire. Then he ground it into powder. He scattered it on the water. And he made the Israelites drink it. Exodus 32:19
- ***Timing always an issue in obedience***
- ***Saul, “it’s been 3 days,” us.....***



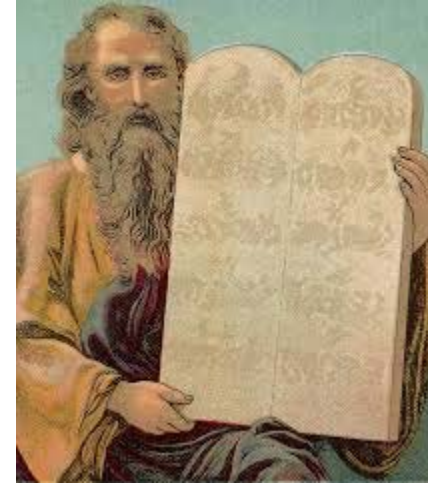
Covenant made—even after sin

- Pattern of covenants—the duties of a king and his subjects
- *Then the LORD said, “I am making a covenant with you. I will do wonderful things in front of all your people. I will do amazing things that have never been done before in any nation in the whole world. The people you live among will see the things that I, the LORD, will do for you. And they will see how wonderful those things really are.¹¹ Obey what I command you today. I will drive out the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites to make room for you. ¹² Be careful. Do not make a peace treaty with those who live in the land where you are going. They will be a trap to you. ¹³ Break down their altars. Smash their sacred stones. Cut down the poles they use to worship the female god named Asherah. ¹⁴ Do not worship any other god. Exodus 34: 10-14*
- If...then...results follow through the rest of the Old Testament
- ***BUT by Grace, the covenant NEVER revoked.***



Leviticus--How people of the covenant should live

- How sinful people can approach a holy God, the book sets forth these ways:
- Through mediation of priests
- Through Sacrifices
 - Shows us sin is ugly
- Commemorative Feasts
- Laws governing every aspect of life
- Punishments for violations



Sabbatical year and year of Jubilee, Lev. 25

- 23 “ ‘The land must not be sold without a way of getting it back. That is because it belongs to me. **You are only outsiders and strangers in my land.** 24 ... 39 “ ‘Suppose any of your own people become poor. And suppose they sell themselves to you. Then do not make them work as slaves. 40 You must treat them like hired workers. Or you must treat them like those living among you for a while. They must work for you until the Year of Jubilee. 41 Then they and their children must be set free. 42 **The Israelites are my servants. . . . I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.**
- **It was never obeyed**

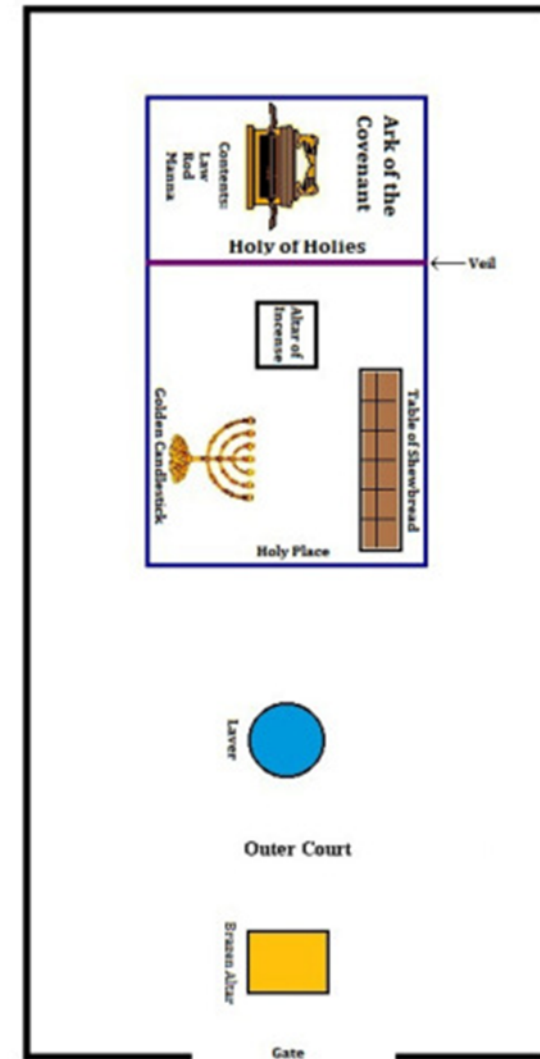


If/then Leviticus 28

- **3 “ ‘Follow my rules.** Be careful to obey my commands. 4 Then I will send you rain at the right time. The ground will produce its crops. The trees will bear their fruit. 5 You will continue to harvest your grain until you gather your grapes. You will continue to gather your grapes until you plant your crops. You will have all you want to eat. And you will live in safety in your land.
- 6 “ ‘I will give you peace in the land. You will be able to sleep because no one will make you afraid. I will remove wild animals from the land. There will not be any war in your country. 7 You will hunt down your enemies. You will kill them with your swords. 8 Five of you will chase 100. You will kill your enemies with your swords.
- 11 I will live among you. I will not turn away from you. 12 I will walk among you. I will be your God. And you will be my people. 13 I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of Egypt. I did not want you to be slaves in Egypt anymore. I threw off your heavy load. I helped you walk with your heads held high.
- **14 “ ‘On the other hand, suppose you do not listen to me.** Suppose you do not carry out all my commands. 15 Suppose you say no to my rules and turn away from my laws. And suppose you break my covenant by failing to carry out all my commands. 16 Then here is what I will do to you. All at once I will bring terror on you. I will send sicknesses that will make you weak. I will send fever that will destroy your sight. It will slowly take your strength away. When you plant seeds, it will not do you any good. Instead, your enemies will eat what you have planted. 17 I will turn against you. Then your enemies will win the battle over you. Those who hate you will rule over you. You will run away even when no one is chasing you.
-23 “ ‘After all those things, suppose you still do not accept my warnings. And suppose you continue to be my enemy. 24 Then I myself will be your enemy. . . .I will be angry with you. I will be your enemy. I myself will again punish you for your sins over and over. 29 You will eat the dead bodies of your sons. You will also eat the dead bodies of your daughters. . . .I will scatter you among the nations. I will pull out my sword and hunt you down. Your land and your cities will be completely destroyed. . . .I will fill your hearts with fear.

Numbers

- 2nd year, Tabernacle built, priesthood established, laws in place, battle experience
- Ready to go into the land
- Numbers 13: The LORD said to Moses, “Send some men to check out the land of Canaan. I am giving it to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of Israel’s tribes.”



The 12 spy's return

- ²⁷ They gave Moses their report. They said, “We went into the land you sent us to. It really does have plenty of milk and honey! Here’s some fruit from the land. ²⁸ **But** the people who live there are powerful. Their cities have high walls around them and are very large. We even saw members of the family line of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev Desert. The Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the central hill country. The Canaanites live near the Mediterranean Sea. They also live along the Jordan River.”
- ³⁰ Then Caleb interrupted the men speaking to Moses. He said, “We should go up and take the land. We can certainly do it.”
- ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him spoke. They said, “We can’t attack those people. They are stronger than we are.” ³² The men spread a bad report about the land among the Israelites. They said, “The land we checked out destroys those who live in it. All the people we saw there are very big and tall. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And that’s also how we seemed to them.” The family line of Anak came from the Nephilim.



People rebel, then repent

- But it's too late
- ***Look back at pattern of complaining:***
- The people weren't happy about the hard times they were having. Num. 11:1-3
- Some people with them began to wish for other food. Num. 11:4
- Leadership issues Num. 12
- ***Little issues create a pattern hard to break, fail when test comes***
- So they wander for 40 years
- The effect on their children
- Suffered for sins of parents
- Conquered the land



A warning to us

Prepare for big tests in little ways

- “Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.”
— [C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*](#)
- Look at obedience in your life in little ways.
- Saying “sorry” without a plan to change doesn’t impress God.

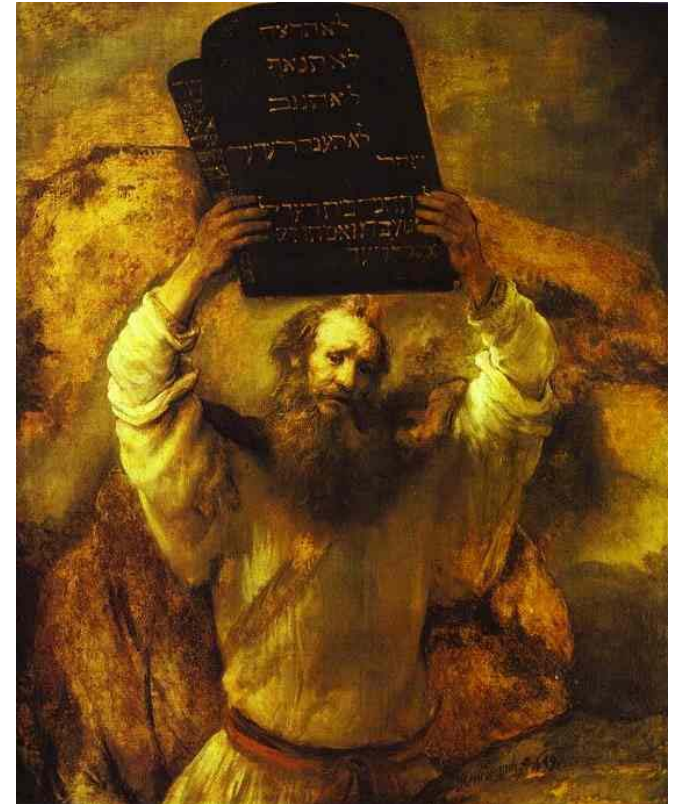




- The effect on their children
- Suffered for sins of parents
- **Conquered the land**

Comments overall

- Laws seem harsh, some very strange
- Historical context: idolatry, sexual immorality in Egypt, Canaan, Israel needed to be different as God's people
- Some a reflection of pagan worship
- Actually the most humane laws in history
- “eye for an eye” a limitation
- Laws applied equally
- Laws that apply today clarified, repeated in New Testament



End result of the Law



- “Now we cannot...discover our failure to keep God's law except by trying our very hardest (and then failing). Unless we really try, whatever we say there will always be at the back of our minds the idea that if we try harder next time we shall succeed in being completely good. Thus, in one sense, the road back to God is a road of moral effort, of trying harder and harder. But in another sense it is not trying that is ever going to bring us home. All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, "You must do this. I can't.”

— [C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*](#)

- *Here is what we know. No one is made right with God by obeying the law. It is by believing in Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:16*
- *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8,9*

Great stories but so much more

- These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 1 Cor. 10:11
- For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Rom. 15:4
- How?
- You must read and know the OT so we can take the warnings and be encouraged
- Pray to understand “the whole counsel of God.”
- Which means that you learn to think as our Lord does so you can live a life that is pleasing to him.

