

Session Eleven:  
Instructions for God's People and His Dwelling Place:  
A Note on Structure:

1. See Ex. 16:35. How many verses did Moses use to write about this period of time? Now, without reading it all, how many verses and chapters does Moses spend writing about the laws and instructions? Why did Moses spend so much time writing about the laws and instructions for the tabernacle? What does this say about the significance of such instructions?
  - a.
  - b.
2. What does this say about service under God as compared to service under Pharaoh?
  - a.
  - b.

An Outline:

Laws:

Read Ex. 21:1-32

1. See Ex. 21:1-11 for laws on slaves
  - a. Why do we have confirmands memorize the ten commandments, but I bet no one here has these laws memorized? Why isn't this a concern? How do we rightly understand this when someone accuses us of only hearing some of God's word? Consider 1 Sam. 8:4-5 for a hint.
    - i.
    - ii.
    - iii.
  - b. Why did they have to ask for a king? I'm looking for the simple answer. How had God ruled over Israel before they asked for a king?
    - i.
    - ii.
  - c. There's another reason we don't obey these laws. Consider: are you an Israelite or a Gentile?
    - i.
    - ii.
2. See Ex. 21:12-17 for laws on homicide.
  - a. Here we see that God's laws for the nation of Israel were severe. What is the purpose of these laws? Recall the wider narrative of Exodus. While Pharaoh was King, what did the Israelites do under him? Now that God is King, what happens?
    - i.
    - ii.

- b. Another famous code of laws is that under King Hammurabi. What was the purpose of this set of laws? Consider the purpose of Pharaoh's various commands through the Exodus narrative. Why did he make commands? How did this cause conflict between Pharaoh and God? Yet, what happened when God delivered his people from Egypt?
      - i.
      - ii.
      - iii.
  3. See Ex. 21:18-32 for laws on bodily injuries.
    - a. Another distinction between these laws and the ten commandments is that these laws more so answer the question: what should a person do if x,y, or z happens? While most of us no longer have oxen or live in the same culture and time of Israel, do the ten commandments still apply? Why or why not?
      - i.
      - ii.
  4. For further consideration of the laws given to the nation of Israel:
    - a. See Ex. 21:33-22:15 for laws on property damage.
    - b. See Ex. 22:16-31 for laws of society.
    - c. See Ex. 23:1-9 for laws on justice and neighborliness
    - d. See Ex. 23:10-19 for laws on sacred seasons

More Narrative: (4 mins)

Read Ex. 20:22-24

1. What specifically does God command his people not to do? How is this significant, considering what the Israelites later do? For a plot spoiler, see Ex. 32.
  - a.
2. In prior studies we have noted the significance of speaking and listening as pertains to God having Aaron speak for him and Moses representing him. After the listing of the governing regulations, who is going to speak? Who is supposed to obey? See Ex. 23:20-22.
  - a.
3. What does God promise to his people? See Ex. 23:23-30.
  - a.
4. Why does the LORD warn the Israelites not to make a covenant with other peoples'? See Ex. 23:32.
  - a.

Read Ex. 24:1-18

1. How were the laws given to Moses? See Ex. 20:22; 21:1; 24:3. How do the people respond?
  - a.
2. How is the covenant sealed? See Ex. 24:4-8.
  - a.

3. How many verses does Moses take to write about his forty days on the mountain? See Ex. 24:15-18. What is the significance of this brevity?
  - a.

#### Instructions for the Tabernacle:

1. How many verses do you suppose Moses spent writing out the instructions for the tabernacle? You can cheat by skimming over Ex. 25-31.
  - a.
2. Why spend so much time on this? What does it say about the theme of Exodus and the importance of the tabernacle?
  - a.

#### Outline of Tabernacle:

1. Collection of materials (Ex. 25:1-9)
2. Ark and atonement cover (25:10-22)
3. Table of the bread of the Presence ((25:23-30)
4. Gold lampstand (25:31-40)
5. Curtains and frames (26)
6. Altar of burnt offering (27:1-8)
7. Courtyard (27:9-19)
8. Priesthood (27:20-28:5)
9. Garments of the priests (28:6-43)
10. Ordination of the priests (29)
11. Altar of incense (30:1-10)
12. Census tax (30:11-16)
13. Bronze basin (30:17-21)
14. Anointing oil and incense (30:22-38)
15. Appointment of craftsmen (31:1-11)
16. Sabbath rest (31:12-18)

#### Narrative of Tabernacle:

#### Read Ex. 25:1-9

1. How is the instruction for the tabernacle given? See Ex. 25:2, especially 8-9)
  - a.
  - b.
2. How is this further evidenced in Ex. 25:40; 26:30; 27:8?
  - a.
3. What is God doing through his tabernacle? See Ex. 25:8.
  - a.
4. How does God instruct his people to interact with him? See Ex. 28:1; 29:1. What are the priests to do?

#### New Testament/ new covenant Connection:

1. Today, how does God dwell among us? How is God revealed to us? See John 1:1-18.
  - a.
2. Today, who is our mediator with God the Father? See 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15.
  - a.
3. How does the new covenant work?
  - a.

**Take Away: (2 mins)**

1. This week I urge you to consider how God dwelled with the Israelites in the old covenant.
2. I also urge you to consider your own life under the new covenant. What greater gift can there be that Christ died for your sins so that you could live with him instead of dying his death?

**Closing Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for the ways you revealed yourself to the Israelites under the old covenant and how you have revealed yourself to us now through your Son. Please, grant that we may live in new service to you -- not out of fear for our salvation but out of gratitude for the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. Even as we fail to live as you would have us, always remind us of your new covenant -- that Jesus' death welcomes us poor sinners to have life with him. In Jesus' name, amen.