



Go for God!

## THE BOOK OF EXODUS

### Chapters 23 – 24

### **“LAW & ORDER!”**

#### **> FOUR KEYS TO LAW AND ORDER:**

#1 – **INSPIRATION** - Evangelical Christians agree that the primary purpose of the Bible is to lead people to a personal relationship with God as Savior. But everything taught by the Bible on any subject is helpful and instructive for the complete Christian life (2 Tim 3:16-17). Because Christianity does relate to the real world, the Bible's declarations about the earth and history are completely trustworthy. Those who believe all that the Bible affirms should live faithfully according to its instruction in all personal relationships. Central to the Bible's teaching is love for God and love for neighbor. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

#2 – **INTEGRITY** - Honesty, sincerity, singleness of purpose. In the Old Testament, Noah (Gen 6:9), Abraham (Gen 17:1), Jacob (Gen 25:27), David (1 Kings 9:4), and Job (Job 1:1,8; 2:3,9; 4:6; 27:5; 31:6) were called people of integrity. Although Jesus did not use the word integrity, he called for purity of heart (Matt 5:8), singleness of purpose (Matt 6:22), and purity of motive (Matt 6:1-6). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

#3 – **INVESTMENT** – To invest one's life and livelihood in the Kingdom of God, to follow the laws of God as well as the laws of man without undermining the laws of the Word of God. Christian investment is a study of the Bible and developing wisdom, knowledge and understanding in affecting the ways of our world for godliness and righteousness. Our investment is with family, the body of Christ, people of the world and politics. Time, money, voting, community involvement are integral parts of our personal investment.

#4 – **I AM** – God is the source of all things, from breath to life, provision and protection, eternity and glory! Following God through His Son Jesus Christ we will exemplify truth, liberty, equality and justice for all. God is gracious, good, holy and righteous in all His ways; thus, we obey His Word and are partakers of His bountiful blessings.

#### **> NEW TESTAMENT INSIGHT: Romans 13**

#### **> Chapter 23 – “More Civil Laws to Create a Civil Society”**

**(v1-3) Civil laws (v1a) No false reports; (v2) No mob rule; (v3) No partiality to the poor (no socialism).**

- One commentator writes, “A judge or jury must judge according to principle, not according to popular appeal. In a day when there is popular movement toward civil rights, criminal rights, and relief of poverty, the rights of other citizens must also be protected.”

**(v4-5) Be kind to animals even if it belongs to your enemy, in other words help the one you might have ill feelings for, or he for you.**

- Jesus said Matthew 5:43-45 - *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

(v6-9) Equal justice for all!

(v10-13) Judgments regarding the land, the Sabbath, and do not consider or speak of other gods.

**(v14-19) Three national feasts are to be kept annually:**

**#1- The feast of unleavened bread (v15) – was connected with the Passover (cf. 12:14; Lev. 23:5). After the Passover the feast was continued seven days, this feast especially commemorated the flight from Egypt and was celebrated by bringing gifts to God.**

**#2- The feast of harvest (v16) was Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-22; Num 28:26-31; Deut. 16:9-12), at which were exhibited the firstfruits of the field where grain had been sown.**

**#3- The feast of ingathering - was also called “the feast of tabernacles” or (booths) (Lev. 23:34-43; Num. 29:12-40; Deut. 16:13-14). This was held in the autumn after all crops had been gathered. It was like a harvest-home celebration, and lasted for a week. It was a time of thanksgiving. The Bible teacher Rawlinson writes: “Viewed religiously, the festivals were national thanksgivings for mercies received, both natural and miraculous—the first for the commencement of harvest and the deliverance out of Egypt; the second for the completion of the grain-harvest and the passage of the Red Sea; the third for the final gathering in of the fruits and the many mercies of the wilderness.”**

**> JESUS is the fulfillment of the JEWISH FEASTS:**

**1) Passover (Leviticus 23:5) – Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) whose blood would be shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover at the same hour that the lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening (John 19:14).**

**2) Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) – Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life (as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.**

**3) First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10) – Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in 1 Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead."**

**4) Weeks or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16) – Occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and pointed to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile, who would be brought into the kingdom of God during the Church Age (see Acts 2). The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the gospel.**

**5) Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) – The first of the fall feasts. Many believe this day points to the Rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His bride, the Church. The Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:52).**

**6) Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27) – Many believe this prophetically points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when He will return to earth. That will be the Day of Atonement for the Jewish remnant when they "look upon Him whom they have pierced," repent of their**

sins, and receive Him as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6, 25-36).

7) Tabernacles or Booths (Leviticus 23:34) – Many scholars believe that this feast day points to the Lord's promise that He will once again “tabernacle” with His people when He returns to reign over all the world (Micah 4:1-7).

**(v20-33) Obedience to God brings victory, whereas, disobedience brings defeat!**

**> Chapter 24 – “Worship & the Word”**

**(v1-8) Moses told the people the words of the covenant**, known as the “Book of the Covenant” (v7) of which he had written them down and declared it to the people.

- The seventy elders were the heads of the tribes and families of Israel.

- The “*burnt offerings*” represented complete **dedication**.

- The “*peace offerings*” were for **thanksgiving**.

- The “*blood on the altar*” denoted the **consecration of the sacrifice**, which represented the people to God. In verse 8 we see that the blood is also sprinkled on the people and for the first time it is called “**the blood of the covenant.**”

- One commentator writes, “the new or second covenant as described in the NT replaced the old and was **sealed with the blood of Christ** (Heb. 8:6—9:28). If the old covenant required the **obedience of the people to the will of God**, certainly no less is expected of him who enters into the new covenant (Heb. 12:18-29).”

**(v9-11) This event is known as a Theophany in the Old Testament, an appearance of God, but not the fullness of HIS GLORY! Observe John 1:18 - *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.***

**(v12-18) Moses is called to teach the people! In the New Testament we are called to be disciples of Christ and we are called to make disciples of Christ!**

**- Matthew 28:16-20 - *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.***