

Exodus: Journey of Revelation Week 5

Sermon Date 10/16/2016

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Looking back at your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

We have arrived at the place in Exodus when God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments. But, we will not be unpacking all ten in one study. Rather, we will be breaking them into manageable sections and studying both their cultural context and their implications for us today. The study will include several study notes, intended to provide context for the commandments, from various resources. Please share the notes with your group. Our goal this week is to focus on the first three commandments and discuss their implications for us today. However, we will be primarily focused on commandments two and three.

MY STORY

- 2) From last week, were you able to figure out the four elements of your "How?" If so, please share them with your group in two minutes or less. (There is no pressure to share.)
- 3) When thinking about the 10 Commandments, what do most people unusually associate them with?
- 4) What was your take away from last week's study?

DIGGING DEEPER

From *The New American Commentary: Exodus, Vol. 2*

"This verse specially emphasizes that God spoke the Ten Words/Ten Commandments himself directly to Israel rather than through the intermediation of Moses. So frightening was this for the people to experience that as soon as God had finished, they demanded no further direct audition of God's commands (20:19). Part of their reason may have been their sense of sin and guilt once they heard the sort of standards to which they would be held by the covenant God was making with them, but the stated and therefore main reason was simply that hearing God's voice overwhelmed them (20:18) so that they feared they would die if they had to keep enduring it ("Do not have God speak to us or we will die," 20:19). The uniform witness of the Old Testament accounts of the revelation of the Ten Words at Mount Sinai (this and 20:18-19; Deut 4:10-14, 32-40; 5:4, 22-27; 9:10; Neh 9:13) includes the same sort of emphasis, that is, that the people heard the voice of God for themselves and thus could not doubt his presence among them, a presence more directly manifest at Sinai than in any other mode previously since they had first learned of his

interest in them (2:25; 4:31). All the people were hearing the voice of God just as Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, and the patriarchs had heard it and as Moses had heard it earlier at Mount Sinai when God first called him. And this time, the voice of God was accompanied by such audio and visual displays (19:16-19; 20:18-21) as to leave no doubt in their minds as to both his presence and his uniqueness.”¹

Exodus 20:1-7 (ESV)

And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ²

- 5) From the passage above, what is the first commandment God gives the Israelites? Why do you think it is first?

“You shall have no other gods before me,” (Exodus 20: 3).

- 6) When most of us hear you shall not make or bow down to an Idol, it would be easy to think we've got that covered, (Exodus 20: 5). Yet, many of us are unaware that an Idol, or another god, can be anything in life that we've made more important than God. With that in mind, what are some potential idols for us?

The following are some possible modern idols: (This is not a complete list.)

- Possessions: 1 John 2:15-16 (NLT) ¹⁵Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.
- Relationships: Galatians 5:13 (NLT) ¹³For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.
- Perfectionism: Romans 3:23 (NLT) ²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- Work: Luke 10:40-42 (NLT) ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”³
- 7) How should we determine the fine line between a priority and something being an Idol?
 - 8) If we find that we are worshiping idols, what practical steps can we take to change?

Special note from *The New American Commentary: Exodus, Vol. 2*

“This explanatory section of the second commandment, with its assertion that God is “jealous ... punishing the children for the sins of the fathers,” has been widely misunderstood. It does not represent an assertion that God actually punishes an innocent generation for sins of a predecessor generation, contrary to Deut 24:16 (“Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin”; cf. 2 Kgs 14:6). Rather, this oft-repeated theme speaks of God’s determination to punish successive generations for committing the same sins they learned from their parents. In other words, God will not say, “I won’t punish this generation for what they are doing to break my covenant because, after all, they merely learned it from their parents who did it too.” Instead, God will indeed punish generation after generation (“to the third and fourth generation”) if they keep doing the same sorts of sins that prior generations did. If the children continue to do the sins their parents did, they will receive the same punishments as their parents.”ⁱ

- 9) What is the third commandment spoken to the people in Exodus 20, and what is its significance today?
- 10) What does taking the Lord's name in vain mean to you? What do you think that most people take it to mean?

Special note from *The New American Commentary: Exodus, Vol. 2*

“The primary meaning of “misuse the name of the LORD” (*nāsāh šēm Yahweh*, lit., “raise up Yahweh’s name for no good”) would appear to be invoking his name as guarantor of one’s words. Examples would include promising someone something “by Yahweh,” meaning: “I guarantee you that my promise is true, or Yahweh may kill me or otherwise punish me if I don’t keep my promise,” or giving legal testimony with the meaning of “I swear that my testimony in this legal matter/before this court is true with the guarantee that Yahweh may kill me or otherwise punish me if it isn’t.” In other words, the most basic, core idea behind this commandment is the prohibition of perjury. **We must remember, however, that the commandment is worded generally**

enough to encompass any misuse of Yahweh's name from making light of it or overtly mocking it, to speaking about Yahweh in any way disrespectfully, to using it as the theophoric, meaning derived from or bearing the name of a god, element in a personal name under social pressure to have one's family "look orthodox" when in fact their beliefs were pagan/idolatrous."⁴

An Additional Note from the *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*

The words [nasa', nacah /naw·saw/] are also translated as "bear" or to "carry."^{vi}

TAKING IT HOME

In addition to the prohibition of perjury and any general misuse of God's name, the third commandment also refers to the people of God's call to carry God's name well. For example, the original Greek meaning of the words nasa', nacah, and, naw·saw, mean to carry.⁵

Of course, we should not be abusing God's name and this commandment **does** speak to that. But, a more Jewish rendering of this verse brings out further meaning, flavor and application of this commandment. The original Hebrew word for this clearly speaks to the fact that one is "**carrying God's name**" and in light of the fact that the people of God are called to bear His name and be **THE** witness to the world, the idea of **doing things in God's name that do not speak well or authentically of God is a major meaning to this commandment. The people of God are to think clearly about how they conduct themselves in light of who they speak FOR as they carry God's name.**

11)What does it mean for us to carry God's name?

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV)

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.⁶

12)As we grow more in our faith and understanding of the Word of God, how does Deuteronomy 6:1-9, which follows immediately after the 10 Commandments

listed in Deuteronomy 5, inform our understanding of how to apply the principles of the 10 Commandments in our lives?

13) In the above passage from Deuteronomy, what actions does God want the people to take? How do they still apply to us today?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Often people view the Ten commandments as restrictive or confining to their lifestyle. In verse 2 God reminds them He has delivered them from slavery, then the start of the Ten Commandments. What is interesting here, is God is giving instructions to deliver them (us) from slavery to sin, an umpire life. If we stop and think about the Ten Commandments and we follow them, they free us from bad decisions, consequences that cause difficult times in our lives, or complicate our lives, or can cause worry. Do you find these instructions confining or liberating? Do you find them bringing you closer to Christ?

Hebrews 2:1–4 (NLT)

A Warning against Drifting Away

So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. ² For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. ³ So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak? ⁴ And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.

14) Taking into consideration everything we learned in our study this week, how does this passage in Hebrews speak to you?

Review Deuteronomy 6:1-9 again and think about how to apply it in your daily lives.

¹ Stuart, Douglas K. 2006

Exodus, vol.2. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version 2001. Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

³ North Coast Church, 2016. <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/sermons/sermon-archive/>

⁴ Merriam- Webster, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/theophoric>, accessed October 6, 2016 at 9:41 am.

⁵ Strong, J. (1995). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

⁶ The New International Version
2011. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

^{vi} Strong, J. (1995). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.