

Exodus 49 – Man Accepts Law Over Grace

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 24:1-18

“Future” Parenthetical Crescendo

- Exodus 20:22-24:11 is a “future” parenthetical inserted as “present” tense summarizing certain aspects and events of the Law’s theme – Holiness
- Exodus 24:12 returns to the “present” tense with Moses going up Mount Horeb to receive the holy Law
- This will be contrasted with Israel’s abject unholiness

God’s Moral and Civil Law

- Moses’ summarized God’s civil law based upon His moral Law (Ten Precepts) which emphasized sin’s anger
 - No law can be understood apart from the religion that unifies its core values {Law legislates morality}
 - People bound to God’s Law via the blood of the Christ
 - The elders accept the Law via a covenant meal with God {Christ} {Contrast with Eucharist with Apostles}

Ritual Law Separated

- When Exodus returns to the “present” tense Moses goes up Mount Horeb and summarizes the ritual law
 - Building of the tabernacle
 - The articles and their placement in the tabernacle
 - Misc. aspects for building the articles for the tabernacle
- Thus Exodus separates God's holiness from the people's unholiness in space as well as time

Meeting God – From a Distance

- God calls Moses to bring certain people partially up the Mount to meet with Him, below the Cloud
 - Moses and Aaron: Current leader - future high priest
 - Nadab and Abihu (First to die violating God's holiness)
(Lev. 4:17)
 - Seventy Elders of Israel (Talmud traces its beginnings to this time placing man's opinion above God's Law)
 - People are not allowed to witness God directly, they are represented by their elders (Separation also in Tabernacle)

Law Codifies Separation

- Without blood there is always separation between:
 - Holy and unholy
 - God and people
 - Israel and the surrounding nations
 - Those who follow God and those who reject God
 - This will be further exemplified in the various laws of clothing, foods, etc.

Concise Synopsis of Events

- Moses writes then reads to the Tribes the Law of God
 - Conveys that this occurred sometime after Moses went into the "cloud" of God to receive the Law from God
 - This "giving" of the Law would take some time to write
 - Moses reads the Law to the people, separated by tribes
 - Then people agreed to follow the Law
 - Moses seals the covenant by blood (Dt. 9:12-26)

Covenant Ratified in Sinful Pride

- Israel arranged by tribes to ratify their acceptance
 - He also has twelve pillars built for the tribes to stand by
 - Moses has the altar built for the sacrifices
 - Young men are appointed to do the ritual since Aaron and his sons are not yet appointed and inaugurated into the priesthood until after acceptance of the Law
- They arrogantly agree to keep the Law vice seek mercy

Fallacy - Keeping the Law

- The people agree to keep the Law then immediately violate the Law proving they cannot attain the righteousness defined by the Law (Flesh hates the law)
 - The Law cannot confer righteous or eternal life
 - It reveals the weakness and rebelliousness of the flesh
- Those who recognize their failure look to the mercy of God and come under the yet future covenant of life
(Ro. 5:19-31)

Law – Conditional Covenant

- This covenant is different from God's other covenants
 - This is the only covenant requiring the consent of the people who are under the covenant (One time event)
 - Keeping the covenant bestowed blessings allowing them to stay in the land – linked *only* to ancient Israel
 - Violation of the covenant incurred punishments and removal from the land (return to the land act of God's grace; Israel yet to experience their future return)

No Blood–No Remission of Sin (He 9:22-29)

- Moses divided the blood of the sacrifices into two parts
 - First part sanctifies the altar of sacrifice (Christ)
 - Second part sprinkled toward the people as they agree to keep the Law (Covered by Christ's sacrifice – Grace)
- Blood of Christ
 - His death atoned for sin evidenced by His resurrection
 - God sees people sprinkled with His blood through Him

They Meet With God – Separation

- One of the most unusual meetings in Old Testament
 - The Elders receive a glimpse of God on His Throne
 - He sat on what appeared to be clear sapphire stone (Ex 1:26)
 - He did not share the covenant meal with them (Ex 22:14-15)
 - He did not lay hands on them, identify with them (Ex 6:6)
 - Conveys transfer of blessing or essence to the receiver
 - Sinners laid hands on the sacrifice identifying themselves as ones needing atonement for their sins

Flesh Shall Not Glory Before God (1Co 1:29, 30)

- If God had laid hands on the Elders
 - He would have conferred His blessing on them
 - He would have legitimized sinful pride of self-worth
 - He would have put His seal on their future Talmud which negates the sacrifice of Christ on Cross
- Reinforced the separation of the Holy and the unholy who did not repent and seek His mercy, even today

Covenant Meal Without Him

- They ate the covenant meal - He did not
 - Signified that the Law could not make them righteous
 - Only the righteous can live the Law {New Nature}
 - Only a broken and contrite heart can come to him (Ps 51:17)
- They were given a glimpse of God to show them the difference between holy {God} and unholy {them}

What Did Not Occur?

- Every person who saw God's holiness fell down as if dead
 - These people did not have an inkling of the difference between God and them
 - They probably bragged about having seen God, glorifying themselves, rather than understanding they missed the opportunity to humble themselves and receive His blessing of new life {Salvation}

“Present” Tense Begins

- We return to the “present” tense with God’s call to Moses to come up into the cloud and meet Him
- Moses delegates authority to Aaron and Hur should disputes arise in his absence
 - Hur is little known apart from a few selected entries
 - Aaron will lead the people astray in Moses’ absence

Appearance of Devouring Fire

- Moses ascends up into the Cloud of Smoke and Fire with Thunderings to meet with God
 - These all speak to separation and warning of God’s holiness compared to their sinfulness
 - Law given to highlight sinfulness (Ex 7:1-12)
- Moses chosen because God prepared him for this task
 - Moses was sinner in need of salvation - He knew this

This Begins Definition of Holiness

- Moses receives details of Tabernacle and its articles in a certain order pointing to Christ and His sacrifice
(2Co 3:9-11; Ga 3:10-14)
 - Christ is the center of all worship illustrated in the Law
 - Israel lost sight of God while glorying in their Law
 - The Law they worshipped condemned them before God
- Moses with Joshua spend six days on the Mount and Moses enters the Cloud on the seventh day, alone