

## Old Testament Basics

### Exodus Chapters 21-40

#### Chapters 21-23

##### Laws given to the people

- God gave Moses laws concerning:
  - the treatment of slaves
  - treatment concerning personal injury
  - theft, property damage, and dishonesty
  - immorality
  - civil and religious obligations
  - Sabbaths and feasts
- Exodus 21:32 gives an interesting note on the price of a slain slave.
- If a slave were slain or gored by an ox, the owner of the ox was to give a redemptive price of 30 shekels of silver.
- This was the price that Judas was given for his betrayal of Jesus-Matt. 26:15.
- Exodus 22:28 states one should not curse God or curse a ruler of the people.
- This explains Paul's statement in Acts 23:4-5.
- God gave the people a specific command in Exodus 23:10-11 (see Leviticus 25:2-7).
- The people were to work the land for six years and then let it rest for the seventh.
- This practice was not obeyed for 490 years.
- God brought judgment upon the people for this neglect and sent them into Babylonian captivity for 70 years.
- This would total 70-7's of Sabbaths that were neglected.
- This exile lasted from 605-536 B.C. God commanded the land to rest.
- Since the people did not obey this command, God forced them into exile for 70 years in order to make up for lost time (2 Chronicles 36:20-21; Jeremiah 25:11; Daniel 9:2).

##### Jewish Feasts

- Exodus 23:14-17 explained there would be three feasts a year to be celebrated:
  - the Feast of Unleavened Bread (a one week feast from the 15th of Nisan to the 21st),
  - the Feast of the Harvest or Pentecost (50 days after First fruits or the 16th of Nisan),
  - and the Feast of the Ingathering or Booths (the 15th of the seventh month of Tishri).

##### God's Promise to Israel

- God promised to go before the people in Exodus 23:20-21.
- The word "angel" translates the same as Genesis 16:9-11, that is, "God".
- God told the Israelites to completely destroy all the heathen nations when they entered the Promised Land. (This was not observed by the Israelites).

- God stated in Exodus 23:30-31 He would not drive out the enemies at first but would drive them out little by little until the Israelites had become fruitful and could take possession of the land.
- God did not want the land to become desolate and the beasts of the field to become too numerous for the Israelites.
- Verse 31 states the Israelites would rule over the lands from the Red Sea to the Euphrates River.
- These boundaries came close to being inhabited by Israel under the reign of Solomon.
- However, because of Israel's disobedience, this boundary will not take place until Christ's millennial reign.
- Verses 31-32 warned Israel against the people of Canaan; they would be a snare to Israel and would make Israel sin against God.

### **God's laws to Moses concerning the Tabernacle**

#### **Exodus 24-30**

- God commanded Moses to take a collection from every man whose heart moved him (Exodus 25:1-2). This collection was to help in the construction of the tabernacle.
- The tabernacle was to include the following: (see chart next slide)
- The Ark contained: the stone tablets; Aaron's rod; and a bowl of manna.
- The lid of the Ark was the Mercy Seat with two Cherubim's (order of angels that guarded the holiness of God) on each side.
- Satan was a Cherub before his fall (Ezekiel 28: 14-16).
- The Lamp typified Christ, the Light of the world.
- The table contained 12 flat cakes arranged in two piles.
- These cakes represented each of the 12 tribes.
- There was a border around the perimeter of the table.

#### **Clothing for the High Priest**

- The priest wore a tunic as a first layer.
- The next layer consisted of a robe, then an ephod.
- The ephod was a beautiful, two-piece, sleeveless garment, held to the body by a skillfully woven band and joined at the shoulders by straps.
- On each strap were placed two onyx stones with the names of the 12 tribes.
- Six tribes were on one stone and six were on the other (Ryrie).
- Over the ephod, the priest wore a breast piece of judgment.
- The Breastpiece was a square piece of beautiful material, folded in half and open at the top like a pouch. It was placed over the front of the ephod.
- The Breastpiece was adorned with 12 precious stones (in four rows), on which were engraved the names of the 12 tribes (Ryrie).
- Bells were worn on the hem of the robe.
- The bells would let those know if the priest was still alive while ministering in the Holy of Holies.

- The priest also wore a turban with an engraved plate of pure gold which stated, “Holy to the Lord.”
- This plate was to be fastened by a blue cord and placed on the front of the turban (Ryrie).
- Aaron’s sons were also to wear holy garments.
- The priests were to consecrate themselves before ministering.
- Aaron was to burn fragrant incense on the altar of incense.
- The alter of incense was in the Holy Place and in front of the veil that separated the mercy seat from the altar.
- Aaron was to make atonement for the sins of the people once a year.

## **Chapters 31-34**

### **The Golden Calf**

- The Lord commanded Israel to observe the Sabbath for it was to be holy.
- Chapter 32 tells how the people sinned against God by worshiping a golden calf.
- Moses came down from the mountain and broke the stones in anger.
- Moses challenged the people stating whoever was for the Lord to side with him. The tribe of Levi sided with Moses.
- Later we will see the tribe of Levi become the priestly tribe.
- Remember, the tribe of Levi had been condemned for their cruelty in slaying the Shechemites (Genesis 34:25).
- Moses interceded to God on behalf of the people.
- God listened to Moses and saved Israel.

## **Chapters 35-40**

### **The Construction of the Tabernacle**

- God told Moses to take a contribution from those who had a willing heart.
- The people gave in such abundance they were told to stop contributing.
- The Tabernacle was erected one year after the Exodus from Egypt and nine months after Israel arrived at Sinai (Ryrie).
- The cloud of the Lord was on the Tabernacle by day and fire was in it at night.
- All the people of Israel observed God’s glory.

### **Conclusion**

- God’s Old Testament plan of redemption was a forerunner to Christ’s ultimate sacrifice.
- The tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the intricate parts of the Jewish Law pointed to Christ.
- Even though Israel did not understand all the symbolic meanings, they were still told to obey.
- Sometimes God asks us to trust Him even though we might not understand His ways.
- God sees and knows everything about us and He has our best interest at heart.

- As Aaron's breastplate bore the names of Israel's tribes, God bears our names near His heart.
- We are special to God and His love for us is unfailing.
- God will care for us as He cared for Israel during their time of wandering.