

The Book of the Covenant
Lesson #16
Exodus 20:18-23:19

Moses and Aaron had been called back up the mountain but only Moses was allowed to enter into the cloud of God's presence. It was at this time that God gave Moses the Book of the Covenant which was how the Ten Commandments were to be lived out.

The Prologue - Exodus 20:18-21

1. When the Israelites saw and heard the presence of the LORD on Mount Sinai, what was their reaction? (Exodus 20:18a)
 - Why do you think this was their response?

2. As a result of this, what did they say to Moses? (Exodus 20:18b, c)
 - Why?

3. Rather than to tremble with their own fear, who did Moses say they were to fear? (Exodus 20:20)
 - Why?

4. While Moses was up in the darkness and had approached the LORD God, what were the people doing? (Exodus 20:21)

The Covenant Details - Exodus 20:22 - 23:19

The Ten Commandments are the summary of this covenant referred to as the "Mosaic Covenant" because it was given by God to the people of Israel through Moses.

5. The very first commandment was to have no other gods before the LORD God of Israel. The instructions began with proper worship. Using Exodus 22:24 - 26:
- What materials could be used to build a proper altar to the LORD?

 - What two offerings were given as acceptable to the LORD?

 - What animals could be used as a sacrifice?

 - What was forbidden and why?
6. The next section (Exodus 12:1 - 23:9) gave the instructions on how to live with one another. God's laws were different than any other laws at this time because He is a God of mercy and of justice. Read through these laws. Does anything stand out to you? If so, what and why?
7. The sign of the Mosaic Covenant was to keep the Sabbath as holy (Exodus 20:8). What additional instruction regarding the Sabbath was given and what was God's reason for this? (Exodus 23:10, 11)

8. In addition to remembering the Sabbath, Israel was also to celebrate annual festivals to the LORD to help them remember His faithfulness. What was the first festival they were to keep? (Exodus 23:15)
 - How long was this festival?
 - What were they to remember during this festival?

9. What was the second festival (Exodus 23:16a)
 - What were they to bring to the LORD on this festival?

10. What was the third festival? (Exodus 23:16b)

11. The LORD will give Israel a total of seven festivals but these three were unique. What did the LORD require on these three festivals? (Exodus 23:17)

12. At these festivals the LORD set out four restrictions. What was to be done or not done on these? (Exodus 23:18, 19)
 - Do not offer

 - Do not keep

 - Do bring

 - Do not cook