

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures,**

Last week, we began chapter 20 which introduces us to the Ten Commandments, also called the “Decalog” or “Decalogue.” They were introduced in Ex. 20 and repeated in Deut. 5. The entire Mosaic Law consists of 365 negative commands and 248 positive commands for a total of 613 commands.

The Mosaic Law is typically viewed in three parts:

- 1) **The moral law** consisting of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:2-17; Deut. 5:6-21),
- 2) **The civil law** which addressed slavery, marriage, property rights, economics, etc., (Ex. 21:1–24:18),
- 3) **The ceremonial law** which addressed the tabernacle, priests, worship and the sacrificial system as a whole (Ex. 25:1–40:38). We will focus only upon the Ten Commandments.

To begin the study of the Law, we considered several aspects:

I. THE CLARIFICATION

- ❖ God gave the Ten Commandments for the personal well-being of His people. In Exodus 20:2, God had already redeemed His people and brought them out of slavery.
- ❖ The Mosaic Law was never a means of justification before God, as that has always been by faith alone in God and His promises (Gal 2:16).

- ❖ The law was given for their personal well-being, which applies today. Rom. 13:1-10
- ❖ In the Old Testament, keeping the law did not save people. That was impossible. No man could be saved by keeping the law because no man could keep the law.
- ❖ We're saved the same way whether in the Old or the New Testament. Every person is saved by grace, which is appropriated through faith. God gave the law, not to save His people but to teach them how to live.

II. THE CONNECTION

- ❖ The law was given to serve as a foundation for the nation of Israel.

III. THE CONDEMNATION

- ❖ God gave the law to remind the people of their own sinfulness.
- ❖ In the book of Galatians, Paul refutes the Judaizers, who thought the law was what saved them. Paul said no. He explained, “The Law was a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.” (Galatians 3:24). A tutor in Paul’s day was a slave who would walk the child to school. And Paul is saying that the law is like a tutor, an attendant who leads us to Jesus Christ. Gal. 3:24-25
- ❖ The law doesn’t save us. It reminds us of how much we need God’s forgiveness for salvation.

Tonight, we begin taking a closer look at chapter 20, observing the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments can be divided into two parts: The first four Commandments deal with our relationship with God, and the last six Commandments deal with our relationship with one another. God wants mankind to know the truth about Him and His will. Satan will do his best to deceive mankind, hoping the masses will believe the wrong thing, denying any absolute truth.

❖ The Ten Commandments were preparation for life.

Deut. 6:1 Now these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, **which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do *them* in the land whither ye go to possess it:**

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, **thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life;** and that thy days may be prolonged.

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and **observe to do *it***; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

❖ The First Commandment initiates the proper mental and spiritual understanding of God.

I. THE RECEPTION OF THE LAW

Ex. 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,
2 *I am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

Deut. 5:6 *I am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

7 **Thou shalt have none other gods before me.**

❖ The first commandment begins with “*I am* the LORD thy God,” indicating the first declaration of the Ten Commandments is emphasizing God’s priorities for mankind to know.

Isa. 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for ***I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,***

Ex. 34:14 For ***thou shalt worship no other god:*** for the LORD, whose name *is Jealous, is* a jealous God:

❖ A one who worships God is also His servant.

Mt. 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

❖ An important principle is to remember that the Apostles considered themselves to be servants of the Lord Jesus.

Rom. 1:1 **Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ**, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Jas. 1:1 **James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 Pet. 1:1 **Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ**, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:1 **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ**, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

- ❖ The First Commandment is the essence of the “one mediator” between God and man.

1 Tim. 2:5 For **there is one God, and one mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**;

II. THE REASON FOR THE LAW

Gal. 3:24 Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But **after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**

Jn. 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

III. THE RELEVANCE OF THE LAW

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God *is one***
LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Be Convincing

“And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:” (Deuteronomy 6:6). If you don’t believe and practice it, you will never teach it. Don’t send your children to a Christian school and think you have done your duty. It must be in *your* heart. You will teach it convincingly because you are convinced.

Be Creative

“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:7). Teach them with Bible reading, Bible stories, Bible games, Bible memorization, and Christian books.

Use some incentive—it is not a bribe, it is a reward. A bribe is an inducement to do evil, but a reward is recognition for doing good. God rewards; parents should reward.

Be Consistent

Teach *diligently*. “For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little:” (Isaiah 28:10). Don’t think, “Well I told them that. What’s next?”

2 Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Be Conversational

“*And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What *mean* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?*

(Deuteronomy 6:20). When the curiosity factor is high, the answer should be given with a sense of seriousness and enthusiastic importance.

Be Conspicuous

“And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.” Deuteronomy 6:8).

By “frontlets between thine eyes”, God means that **what you think** must be controlled by the Word of God. “As a sign on your hand” shows that **what you do** must be controlled by the Word of God.

Then He said, “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

” (Deuteronomy 6:9). Hang up the Ten Commandments in your office, in your living room, in your children’s bedrooms. The visibility of the Ten Commandments is a manifestation of their importance as well as an aid for memorization.

Summary

- ❖ The Ten Commandments were preparation for life.
- ❖ The first commandment begins with “*I am* the LORD thy God,” indicating the first declaration of the Ten Commandments is emphasizing God’s priorities for mankind to know.
- ❖ An important principle is to remember that the Apostles considered themselves to be servants of the Lord Jesus, worshipping Him as God.

Conclusion

Rom. 3:20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:** for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that **a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**