

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

March 19, 2025

Exodus 20:22-26

### Introduction:

1. After speaking directly to the children of Israel, they reacted with fear, begging Moses, *"You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die"* (Ex. 20.19).
2. God wanted to instill fear into the hearts of Israel *"so that you may not sin"* (Ex. 20.20).
  - a) Fear is often used as a motivator to encourage obedience. (cf. Matt. 10.28; Lev. 10.1-3)
  - b) Yet God instills fear out of His love for us. (1 John 4.8,17-19)
3. Having revealed the Ten Commandments, God calls Moses to deliver the laws on which these commandments are based. (cf. Neh. 9.13,14)

### I. WORSHIP WAS TO BE EXCLUSIVE

- A. Israel was only to sacrifice to God.
  1. God is a spirit being. (Ex. 20.22; Deut. 4.15-18)
  2. Therefore, Israel was not to make images of God or create other gods.
    - a) **Exodus 20.23:** *"You shall not make anything to be with Me"*
    - b) **Exodus 20.23:** *"gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves."*
  3. Did Israel obey God's law concerning worship? (Ex. 24.18; 32.1; Isa. 40.18-20)
- B. God is still a spirit being and expects our worship to be exclusive. (John 4.23,24)
  1. **Matthew 4.8-10:** *"Him only you shall serve"*
  2. **Colossians 3.5:** *"covetousness, which is idolatry."*
  3. **Exodus 20.5:** *"For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God"*

### II. WORSHIP WAS TO BE SPECIFIC

- A. Three altars were to be made according to specific parameters.
  1. **Exodus 20.24:** A temporary altar for burnt offerings and peace offerings.
    - a) Made of either earth or unhewn stone. (v. 24,25)
    - b) It was to be made everywhere God put His name. (v. 24)
    - c) There were to be no steps. (v. 26)
  2. **Exodus 27.1:** The altar in the tabernacle on which burnt offers were made.
    - a) The instructions were very specific. (Ex. 27.1-8)
    - b) It was placed outside of the holy place. (Ex. 40.6)
  3. **Exodus 30.1:** The altar of incense. (Ex. 40.5)
- B. God still expects our worship to be specific. (Ex. 25.40; John 4.23,24)

### III. WORSHIP WAS TO BE HOLY

- A. The holiness of the worship was dependent on the specific instructions given.
  1. **Exodus 20.25:** *"for it you use a tool on it, you have profaned it"*
  2. **Exodus 20.26:** *"that your nakedness may not be exposed on it."*
- B. God still expects our worship to be holy.
  1. That which is profane is anything that is outside of what God commanded.
    - a) **Leviticus 10.1:** *"profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded"*
    - b) **Leviticus 10.3:** God demands to be regarded as holy by those who approach.
  2. Our worship is a reflection of our attitude toward God. (Ps. 89.7; Heb. 12.28,29)