

THE PENTATEUCH II: EXODUS

WEEK 5

Patrick Reeder

October 29, 2015

OUTLINE

THE LAW

- Types of Law
- New Testament Constraints
- Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

- Follow the Pattern
- The Importance of the Pattern

OUTLINE

THE LAW

Types of Law

New Testament Constraints

Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Follow the Pattern

The Importance of the Pattern

VARIOUS FORMS OF LAW

1. Moral Law-the portions of the law that concern fundamental ethical matters, independent of the nation of Israel (e.g. Decalogue)
2. Dietary Law-the portions of the law concerning what one eats (e.g. clean foods, calf in milk restrictions)
3. Civil Law-the portions of the law special to the theocratic arrangement God has established.
4. Case Law- This is a form of civil law that is linked to very specific cases. (E.g. Daughters of Zelophehad)
5. Ceremonial Law-the portions of the law concerning the cultus.

These will become more prominent as we dig deeper into the Pentateuch in the next two classes.

OUTLINE

THE LAW

Types of Law

New Testament Constraints

Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Follow the Pattern

The Importance of the Pattern

JESUS ON LAW

Matt 5:17-20— “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

What may we infer from this?

JESUS ON LAW

What may we infer from this?

- ▶ Jesus is not anti-law; indeed, he's somehow the fulfillment of it (More later!)
- ▶ Somehow, living *in accordance with* the Law is valuable even on a NT economy.
- ▶ In order to enter the Kingdom of heaven, you must either follow the Law perfectly or get your righteousness somewhere else (Plan A vs. Plan B)

JESUS ON LAW

We also have the following statement from Christ on the dietary law:

Mark 7:18 “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? 19 For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

PETER ON THE LAW

*Acts 15:1,6-11 Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."
... 6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."*

JAMES ON THE LAW

In the same passage, James also comments:

Acts 15:13-15,19-21- When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: [cites Amos 9:11,12-mentions godly Gentiles] "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

Also worth note: James 1:25, 2:8, "Law of Liberty" and "Royal Law"

PAUL ON THE LAW

We could go all night with Paul. Here are some key passages:

ROM 5:20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

ROM 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

ROM 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

GAL 2:21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

GAL 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”

GAL 4:4-6 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

OUTLINE

THE LAW

Types of Law
New Testament Constraints
Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Follow the Pattern
The Importance of the Pattern

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

As a general rule, the law stands out among its ANE counterparts in being extraordinarily gracious.

There is unusual amount of attention to paid to taking care of anyone who is at some disadvantage:

- ▶ slaves
- ▶ poor
- ▶ foreigners
- ▶ blind/deaf
- ▶ women (general)
- ▶ women (taken in battle)

WOMEN

Some key pieces for understanding laws regarding women:

- ▶ Women are (generally) physically weaker than men which makes a big difference in agricultural societies
- ▶ Childbirth and pregnancy (let alone rearing) was a far more continuous process in the ancient world
- ▶ Women were often spared in battle, rather than slaughtered among the men.
- ▶ Women were also vulnerable in the fields: men could take advantage of them.
- ▶ Unattached women (unmarried? divorce? death?) are likely to be destitute

These won't explain everything but having these in mind soften the blow some.

SLAVES

Some key pieces for understanding laws regarding slaves:

- ▶ Slavery in Israel was nothing like antebellum slavery in the US (chattel slavery).
- ▶ Closer to indentured servitude: provide food, shelter, care, but no not necessarily paid.
- ▶ Fatal beatings were punishable by death (Cf. 21:18 and 20)
- ▶ “I love my master” (21:5) implies that slavery might be a decent way to go
- ▶ They are freed every seven years (21:2)

OUTLINE

THE LAW

Types of Law
New Testament Constraints
Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Follow the Pattern
The Importance of the Pattern

INSTRUCTION

The instructions on the tabernacle get rather repetitive.

26:30 ... according to its plan which you have been shown in the mountain.

25:40 See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

27:8 ... as it was shown to you in the mountain, so they shall make it.

Any thoughts on what the big deal is?

CONSTRUCTION

- ▶ (39:1,5,7,21, 26, 29, 31) . . . just as the Lord had commanded Moses. (7×!)
- ▶ (39:43) And Moses examined all the work and behold, they had done it; just as the Lord had commanded, this they had done. So Moses blessed them.
- ▶ (40:19,21,23, 25) . . . just as the Lord had commanded Moses. (4×!)

OUTLINE

THE LAW

Types of Law
New Testament Constraints
Key Cultural Features

THE TABERNACLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Follow the Pattern
The Importance of the Pattern

TABERNACLE AND EDEN

There are striking parallels between Eden along with the general creation and the Tabernacle:

- ▶ The exit-entrance is guarded by angels
- ▶ The exit-entrance is to the east for both
- ▶ There is a specialized, godly order introduced that overtakes chaos
- ▶ This is God's chosen dwelling place with his people

There are also linguistic parallels (read together):

Creation	Tabernacle
Genesis 1:31	Exodus 39:43
Genesis 2:1	Exodus 39:32
Genesis 2:2	Exodus 40:33
Genesis 2:3	Exodus 39:43

TABERNACLE AND SINAI

There is a structural similarity to what we see God requiring on the mountain and in the tabernacle:

	Tabernacle	Sinai
Center	Most Holy Place Only Aaron	Top of the Mountain Only Moses
Inner Ring	Holy Place Only Priests	Partially Ascension Only Elders, Leaders
Outer Ring	Courtyard Israelites	Around Mountain Israelites

TABERNACLE AND THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

Most importantly, the tabernacle serves as an type (“shadow”) of the true dwelling place of God in heaven.

Hebrews:4-5—Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

More on this in Leviticus class! ;)

SUMMARY

In all of these we find a commitment from God to dwell among his people and His making provisions for that (Exodus 29:46)
We have another parallel yet to come:

Revelation 21:2-4—And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

REFERENCES

1. Blackburn, W. Ross. *The God Who Makes Himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the Book of Exodus*. IVP, 2012.
2. Copan, Paul. *Is God A Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God* Baker Books, 2011.
3. Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 2: Exodus*, edited by Frank Gaebelein. Zondervan, 1990.