

Devotional Questions – Exodus 20:1-2/Deuteronomy 5:1-6, Study Leader's Questions

“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” Exodus 20:1-2 1611 Holy Bible, changed from the church hard copy of the study questions that quoted from the 1984 NIV.

1. *Why did Moses summon all Israel together?*
2. *Why does Moses introduce the 10 commandments with this statement, rather than go straight to the number 1?*
3. *What does the statement tell us about God?*
4. *Although these laws will be the basis for the covenant with Israel, why do we also see them in existence before Exodus 20 was written? What does this imply?*

*To understand the commandments we need to understand
God's ultimate plan since the Fall of mankind.*

5. *What then is the purpose of these laws (Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:24)?*
6. *What does Moses teach us about the application and extent of these laws (Deuteronomy 31:12-13)?*
7. *Did Jesus fulfil and replace these laws?*
8. *What purpose do these commandments have for New Testament believers?*

Devotional Questions – Exodus 20:1-2/Deuteronomy 5:1-6, Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Exodus* pp 352-353 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 134, 292, 1617.

1. Why did Moses summon all Israel together?

The Lord commanded Moses to assemble the nation of Israel before Him and Moses obeyed.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai...And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount” Exodus 19:10-11, 17.

2. Why does Moses introduce the 10 commandments with this statement, rather than go straight to the number 1?

Exodus 20:1-2 state what God has said but it is Moses speaking in that passage.

“So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them” Exodus 19:25, with Exodus 20:1-2 following immediately **“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”**

The Lord commanded Moses to introduce the 10 commandments with that statement and Moses did so.

“And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel” Exodus 19:3-6.

Note that Exodus 19:3-6, 10-11, 17, 25, 20:1-2 emphasise the importance of obedience to what God says, which is as important for the believer today as it was in Moses' time.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” John 14:15.

See also John 14:21, 15:10, 1 John 2:3, 4, 3:22, 24, 5:2, 3.

3. What does the statement tell us about God?

- **God is a covenant-keeping God. “And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob”** Exodus 2:24-25.
- **God is a prayer-answering God. “Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. Selah”** Psalm 81:7, noting the reference to Mt Sinai, Exodus 19:16, 20:18, pointing to the End Times, 1 Samuel 2:10, Revelation 10:3, 16:18. See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Volume II of The Book of Psalms* p 602.
- **God is a soul-delivering God, then as now. “Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we are escaped”** Psalm 124:7.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” Hebrews 2:14-15.

4. Although these laws will be the basis for the covenant with Israel, why do we also see them in existence before Exodus 20 was written? What does this imply?

“...David the son of Jesse...and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel” 2 Samuel 23:1 has answered both questions in one verse, with respect to all generations, past, present and future.

“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations” Psalm 33:11.

5. What then is the purpose of these laws (Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:24)?

For Israel then, by her obedience to them:

- To bear godly testimony to other nations. ***“Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people”*** Deuteronomy 4:6.
- To show love for God. ***“Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway”*** Deuteronomy 11:1.
- To secure the well-being of present and future generations. ***“Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God”*** Deuteronomy 12:28.
- To get saved by the Old Testament system of faith and works. ***“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart...He that doeth these things shall never be moved”*** Psalm 15:1-2, 5.

The Old Testament system of faith and works does not now apply, as Romans 3:20 shows, although it will in the time of ***“great tribulation”*** Matthew 24:21 of the End Times, see Revelation 12:17, 14:12 and *The Big Flap* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman. The purpose of the law now is:

- ***“to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”*** Galatians 3:24.
- To ***“shew the work of the law written in their hearts”*** Romans 2:15 i.e. ***“the Gentiles, which have not the law”*** but ***“do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves”*** Romans 2:14. Note the common expression ***“a law unto themselves.”***
- To emphasise ***“that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful”*** Romans 7:13.
- To encourage believers ***“to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law”*** Romans 13:8 and those around them. ***“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”*** 1 Thessalonians 3:12. ***“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law”*** Romans 13:9-10.

6. What does Moses teach us about the application and extent of these laws (Deuteronomy 31:12-13)?

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 state **“Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.”**

Moses taught that the laws:

- Applied to all in Israel, whether of the people or a stranger. **“One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you”** Numbers 15:16. Note that the same is true for Britain today, in that Numbers 15:16 was never rescinded in the Pauline Epistles and the 1611 Authorized Holy Bible is the Law for Britain and the Old Dominions because it is **“the word of a king”** Ecclesiastes 8:4. No-one has any authority to go against **“the king’s word”** 2 Samuel 24:4 in order to set something else up in authority over it because the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible is **“the royal law”** James 2:8. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ Royal Law – James 2:8.
- Were to be kept in full. **“Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen”** Deuteronomy 27:26.
- Obligated present and successive generations to fear God. **“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: 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”** Deuteronomy 6:1-2 with 31:12-13.

In principle, the same applies for today’s believers according to the apostle Paul.

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2.

7. Did Jesus fulfil and replace these laws?

The Lord fulfilled the laws and reinforced them rather than replacing them. **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven”** Matthew 5:17-19.

The Christian should remember that **“the law of the LORD”** Psalm 19:7 is the same as **“the words of the LORD”** Psalm 12:6 and the Lord Jesus Christ said **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”** Matthew 24:35.

8. What purpose do these commandments have for New Testament believers?

See *Question 5* on Romans 13:8-10 and note the exhortation of James Zebedee for today’s believers *showing forth* **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”** 2 Peter 1:3 and on the means of applying **“the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free”** from **“the yoke of bondage”** Galatians 5:1.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” James 1:25.