



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 18:1-20:26
- Psalm 19:7
- Romans 10:4
- Galatians 5:14-18
- Matthew 3:15
- Matthew 5:17

**LAWLESS CHRISTIANITY OR
THE PERFECT TEN?**

- Yahweh is greater than all gods
- The Ten commandments
- The END of Law
- The FULFILLMENT of Law

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:1-3
“The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul.” Psalm 19:7

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Matthew 5:17 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The portion tells the story of Jethro's visit to the camp of Israel, then relates the great theophany at Mount Sinai, where God gives Israel the Ten Commandments and invites the people to enter a special covenant relationship with Him.
2. Moses reunites in the wilderness with his father-in-law Jethro, and his wife Zipporah and with his sons.
3. During the conflict with Egypt Zipporah and the children were staying with Jethro.
4. Jethro acknowledges that Yahweh is the one true God as he recounts Israel's deliverance. He then offers a burnt offering to Yahweh. It would seem this is Jethro's moment of conversion.
5. Then Jethro witnesses Moses dealing with the people morning and night (remember there are a few million) and handling all inquires and difficulties.
6. "When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." Exodus 18:16
7. Jethro then counsels Moses as he warns him that this approach will wear him out. He insures Moses that Yahweh will bless a new approach.

8. He advises Moses to select God-fearing men to help him, and to make leaders over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.
9. He tells him to reserve only the most difficult cases for himself and Moses does exactly as advised.
10. Then in the third month, Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai. The Law and the Holy Spirit was “given” at the same time in relationship to Passover. Here the Law is given in relationship to the first Passover and the Exodus from Egypt and in the case of Pentecost in relationship to the Passover in which Y’shua was the Lamb of God.
11. Yahweh reminds Moses all he has done to bring them there and tells Moses He wishes to make a covenant with the people.
12. He promises Moses that Israel will: obey His voice, keep His covenant, be a special treasure above all people, and be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
13. This is a marriage proposal to Israel to become Yahweh’s bride. And they accept. “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.”
Exodus 19:8
14. Yahweh tells the people to consecrate themselves as in three days He is coming “down on the mountain.” And He warns the people not to step foot on the mountain.

15. On the third day Yahweh calls Moses and tells him to set boundaries around the mountain lest the people come near and then he calls Moses and Aaron to come up.
16. Then Yahweh speaks the 10 Commandments to Moses.
17. The people heard the thunderous happenings from down below and trembled.
18. They tell Moses to speak to them for Yahweh as a go between.
19. Moses explains that Yahweh has come to test them so that they may not sin.
20. At the end Yahweh warns the people to not make any type of idol to use as a way to get close to Him.
21. Yahweh teaches them how to make an altar and promises that every place where He records His name He will come to them, and bless them.

YAHWEH IS GREATER

1. Yahweh is greater than all gods.

A. Jethro's Revelation

- (1) Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater

than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." Exodus 18:10-11

- (a) Reading the text in its context reveals Jethro implicitly states that the gods worshiped by the Egyptians had strength of some degree.
- (b) It is that very fact that Yahweh used in order to bring both Egyptians and the people of Israel alike to recognize who the one "True God" is.
- (c) In earlier Scripture, Moses and Aaron, by and through the power of Yahweh brought judgement upon the Egyptians by using ten plagues.

REMEMBERING THE PLAGUES

2. No Random Acts

A. These ten plagues were no random act by Yahweh

- (1) They each had their own significance as each one would deal harshly with an Egyptian deity.
- (2) It is not explained in the Bible which "false" deity each plague addressed.
- (3) But we can glean from history what gods the Egyptians worshiped and easily recognize Yahweh's plan in order to discredit their mis-placed faith in each one of their idols.

B. Plague by Plague

(1) Plagues 1-6

- (a) Plague #1-- The first plague, turning the Nile to blood, was a judgment against Apis, the god of the Nile, Isis, goddess of the Nile, and Khnum, guardian of the Nile. The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris, who was reborn each year when the river flooded. The river, which formed the basis of daily life and the national economy, was devastated, as millions of fish died in the river and the water was unusable. Pharaoh was told, "By this you will know that I am the LORD" (Exodus 7:17).
- (b) Plague # 2--bringing frogs from the Nile, was a judgment against Heqet, the frog-headed goddess of birth. Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land (Exodus 8:13–14).
- (c) Plague # 3-- The third plague, gnats, was a judgment on Set, the god of the desert. Unlike the previous plagues, the magicians were unable to duplicate this one and declared to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:19).

- (d) Plague # 4-- flies, was a judgment on Uatchit, the fly god. In this plague, God clearly distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as no swarms of flies bothered the areas where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:21–24).
- (e) Plague # 5-- The fifth plague, the death of livestock, was a judgment on the goddess Hathor and the god Apis, who were both depicted as cattle. As with the previous plague, God protected His people from the plague, while the cattle of the Egyptians died. God was steadily destroying the economy of Egypt, while showing His ability to protect and provide for those who obeyed Him. Pharaoh even sent investigators (Exodus 9:7) to find out if the Israelites were suffering along with the Egyptians, but the result was a hardening of his heart against the Israelites.
- (f) Plague # 6-- The sixth plague, boils, was a judgment against several gods over health and disease (Sekhmet, Sunu, and Isis). This time, the Bible says that the magicians “could not stand before Moses because of the boils.” Clearly, these religious leaders were powerless against the God of Israel.

(2) Plagues 7-9

- (a) Before God sent the next three plagues, Pharaoh was given a special message from God. These plagues would be more severe than the others, and they were designed to convince Pharaoh and all the people “that there is none like me in all the earth” (Exodus 9:14).
- (b) Pharaoh was even told that he was placed in his position by God, so that God could show His power and declare His name through all the earth (Exodus 9:16).
- (c) As an example of His grace, God warned Pharaoh to gather whatever cattle and crops remained from the previous plagues and shelter them from the coming storm. Some of Pharaoh’s servants heeded the warning (Exodus 9:20), while others did not.
- (d) Plague # 7-- Hail, attacked Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the crop fertility god; and Set, the storm god. This hail was unlike any that had been seen before. It was accompanied by a fire which ran along the ground, and everything left out in the open was devastated by the hail and fire. Again, the children of Israel were miraculously protected, and no hail damaged anything in their lands.

- (e) Plague # 8-- locusts, again focused on Nut, Osiris, and Set. The later crops, wheat and rye, which had survived the hail, were now devoured by the swarms of locusts. There would be no harvest in Egypt that year.
 - (f) Plague # 9-- The ninth plague, darkness, was aimed at the sun god, Ra, who was symbolized by Pharaoh himself. For three days, the land of Egypt was smothered with an unearthly darkness, but the homes of the Israelites had light.
- (3) Plague 10
- (a) Plague # 10-- The tenth plague would be the final judgement on the Egyptian god Pharaoh himself who was believed to have been god Ra's son (the sun god) manifested in the flesh. God has only one Son, His only Begotten Son Jesus (Yeshua) Christ. It was this plague that revealed those who had placed the blood of the lamb on the door post of their houses, in order that the Angel of the Lord would passover the firstborn in the house, otherwise every firstborn alive, child or animal alike, living in a house without the covering of the blood would die as a result of disobedience to Yahweh.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

3. The Law—Then and Now

A. Why is it necessary to look into the plagues that Yahweh placed on the Egyptians?

- (1) It is no coincidence that Yahweh placed ten plagues (to perfectly hand down His judgement) and the fact that He handed down Ten Commandments to those who made it in the Exile.
- (2) These are The Perfect Ten, (Psalm 19:7-- The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul."

B. "The Law" existed before the Ten Commandments

- (1) "And on the next day it happened that Moses sat to judge the people. And the people stood by Moses from the morning to the evening. And when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing which you do to the people? Why do you sit alone by yourself, and all the people stand by you from morning to evening? And Moses said to his father-in-law, Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a matter, they come to me. And I judge between one and another, and I make known the statutes of God and His Laws. And Moses' father-in-law said to him. The thing that you do is not good." Exodus 18:13-17

(2) The question arising from this section of Scripture then becomes:

(a) How could Moses use God's statutes and laws to judge the people when he had not been given the ten commandments yet?

(3) Yahweh is a God of patterns

(a) He used ten plagues to hand down perfect judgement on those who lived in idol worship, and He provided the Ten Commandments to prescribe how not to fall into the same Egyptian pagan idol worship behavior again.

(b) More than just the people of Israel were freed from the Egyptian oppression.

(c) It is flawed however, to assume the moral law was prescribed to God's people at Mount Sinai. It was for sure codified for the entire human race.

(d) His people had already been observing "laws and commandments" for generations. Having a "mixed multitude" (Exodus 12:38) saved by the blood of the lamb in the passover required Yahweh to prescribe His laws.

(4) Under Law vs. Under Grace

(a) In most circles of Christianity today, there is a common theme that somehow we are no longer "under law" but

“under Grace”. Taking that statement at face value, to state that we are not under the law, we can say, YES, that is accurate, but not in the way in which it is meant.

(b) To say that a person is under the law would mean the person has broken a law, in order to be under it.

Otherwise, if the person has not broken a law, that person is merely obeying it, enjoying the freedom that the law provides.

(c) None of us has an issue with obeying the law of gravity, we merely enjoy its freedom because when we obey it we get the benefit of walking or running, etc.

(d) The problem arises when we break the law of gravity. No one needs to jump off a ten story building to find out what happens when we break the law of gravity.

(e) If the word of God says in Psalms that the law is perfect for the specific purpose of converting the soul, why would it not be that today?

C. Commandments and Judgments

(1) The Commandment and Yahweh’s Judgements

(a) Knowing the punishment Yahweh handed down to the Egyptians through the ten plagues, adds all the more

value and validity in the life of the believer to obey the Ten Commandments.

(b) In doing so, Yahweh perfectly judged the idol worship lifestyle lived in Egyptian culture.

(c) Without a shadow of doubt, each person had an inclination to one deity over another.

1) Is that not the same today?

2) Would not one person esteem one idol over another today?

3) Why else would Yahweh have handed them down?

4) Isn't it amazingly interesting how accurate and valuable they are even to this very present day?

D. The Ten Commandments

(1) In the following verses God provides a glimpse of the very behavior of humans across all of history. That is to say, the Commandments were not handed down to a certain type of people or a specific culture, but to the entire human race.

(2) And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Exodus 20:1 (Israel and mixed multitude alike)

- (a) Commandment # 1--"You shall have no other gods before me. Looking back to the delivering of people both Israelites and the others who escaped in the exile who were living in a polytheistic culture. Wouldn't it make sense that Yahweh would place this as the first commandment? Moreover, today in the 21st century, is this not fitting for today all the same? How many deities are competing for worship from humanity? And how many of them have clouded the mind and judgement of entire cultures?
- (b) Commandment # 2 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.-- In the life of the Egyptians, it was common to make carved images as a mediator. They did not believe that the carved image was "the god" itself, but they did believe it to be a mediator of sort between them and the

deity. These were not stupid people. They did not believe that an artifact placed in their pocket or home would itself be that particular god, but they did believe however that the figure could allow them to mediate with their god. Question, do some people not still do the same today? How about those who pray the rosary? Or that believe they have to pray to the statute of a "saint" in order to gain access to God's throne room? More could be added to this list ad nauseam.

- (c) Commandment # 3 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.--Without a shadow of doubt, this is probably the most broken commandment with believers and unbelievers alike.
- (d) Commandment # 4 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath

day and made it holy.-- This commandment is the most hotly debated one of ALL! Isn't it amazing? The one commandment where everyone has been given a pass to rest, and to spend time with their creator, their loved ones and yet it seems to be the one that creates the most amount of contention. In our discussion time today, we will address questions about whether Yahweh cares about His people keeping the Sabbath or not. Whether He changed His mind about what day the Sabbath is to be kept, and much more.

- (e) Commandment # 5 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- (f) Commandment # 6 "You shall not murder.
- (g) Commandment # 7 "You shall not commit adultery.
- (h) Commandment # 8 "You shall not steal.
- (i) Commandment # 9 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- (j) Commandment # 10 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

LAWLESS CHRISTIANITY

4. The Law—Then and Now

A. Context

- (1) Verses upon verses have been taken out of context in order to build a “Lawless-Christianity”.
- (2) This is widely accepted in most circles of main Christianity.
- (3) Just recently a very prominent Pastor of a very sizable Church stated “everything to the left of the Book of Matthew” is no longer applicable to Christians today....Really?

B. The End of the Law

- (1) “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes” Romans 10:4
 - (a) Pastors have used this verse as one to point out that Christ in the life of the believer puts an end to the law. The meaning of the word end in this verse is the greek word “telos” which is to say, ‘the point aimed at’.
 - (b) In its proper context, this verse is saying the total opposite of what some portray it says. The verse is telling the believer in Christ that the point aimed at for the law of righteousness is Christ Himself. This has

NEVER meant we should do away with the law. For sure it has meant the total opposite.

C. Under the Law

- (1) "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:18
 - (a) OF COURSE! Remember the example of the gravity breaker? It naturally follows that if you are being led by the Spirit, you will not be breaking the law. Hence, you will not be under the law!

D. All is Fulfilled!

- (1) "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14
 - (a) The focal word in this verse is the word fulfilled. In the original Greek language, this word is the word "Pleroo", which means "to make replete".
 - (b) Let's compare the use of this word in other verses to see if it's used in a way to mean "done away with".
- (2) And answering Jesus said to him, "Allow it now, for it is becoming to us to fulfill all righteousness." Matthew 3:15
 - (a) Would it make sense for us to adopt the belief that God wants us to do away with all righteousness? I would have to assume you agree the thought would be rather foolish.

(3) “Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

(a) Once again, what is the sensible answer here? Would it not make much more sense to accept that Yeshua is pointing to the fact that the Law stands on its own. And that it CANNOT be done away with?

E. Why is this so crucial?

(1) The heart of pointing out the flawed view of a Lawless Christianity is not to chastise our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is to exegetically allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves, to not allow believers to live a life bereft of the freedom found in obedience.

F. The Four Pillars of Kingdom Embassy Ministries

(1) Remembering Our Roots

(2) Restoring Authority

(3) Maturing Disciples

(4) Advancing the Kingdom

(a) Nothing does all of the above more than knowing the lives we live are within the guidelines which Yahweh established, as we are indeed being led by His Spirit!

Questions & Discussion

1. **Bondage vs. Freedom**

A. What gods were you in bondage (enslaved) to, (your own Egypt like experience) before God freed you?

2. **Jethro was blown away by the testimony Moses gave him in regards to what God had done.**

A. Do you have the same amount of excitement when you share your testimony?

B. Do people see God at the end of the story, or do they see a self-help end result?

3. **Resistance to obedience:**

A. What commandment do you have the biggest issue with and why?

4. **The Sabbath:**

A. Do you believe the Sabbath is a commandment a believer should observe today?

B. Why do you believe there is so much push back in regards to the observance of Sabbath?

5. **A call to obedience:**

A. How do the words of Yeshua "If you love me you will keep my commandments" affect you?

B. What will you do differently today if Yahweh has revealed a heart of disobedience in anything He has revealed through His Spirit?