

“Deliverance From Egypt—Part 5”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with the series that led up to the Spring Feast days and also continued beyond them. The title of the presentation was: “Deliverance From Egypt—Part 5.”

The subtitle was “Reminder of Expectations.”

Foundation for Ten Commandments

Most Bible students appreciate the importance of the Ten Commandments given by the Lord. But I am not sure if Bible students recognize the foundational value of the verse that preceded the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.

- Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”
- Exodus 20:3-17—The wonderful Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Reminder means “already known”

When I say that the Ten Commandments are a reminder of the Father’s expectations, that implies that the Ten Commandments were already known.

So I ask: “Were the Ten Commandments known before Exodus 20?”

Knowledge about sin before Exodus 20

Notice a few verses that talk about the knowledge of sin before Exodus 20.

- Genesis 26:4-5—The Lord announced the blessing upon Isaac because “Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

- Genesis 13:13—The Bible reported: “The men of Sodom were exceeding wicked and sinful against the LORD.”
- Genesis 18:20-21—The Lord said: “Because the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is very grave, I will go down now . . .”
- Genesis 50:17—A messenger from Joseph’s brothers said to Joseph: “Please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin, for they did evil to you.”

Examples about each Commandment

Now, let’s notice a few specific examples before Exodus 20.

- First and Second Commandments—Genesis 35:1-4
- Third Commandment—Job 1:5
- Fourth Commandment—Genesis 2:3
- Fifth Commandment—Genesis 28:6-7
- Sixth Commandment—Genesis 4:7-11
- Seventh Commandment—Genesis 19:4-5 and Genesis 39:7-9
- Eighth Commandment—Genesis 44:8-9
- Ninth Commandment—Genesis 37:29-36 and Genesis 42:22
- Tenth Commandment—Genesis 3:6

Looking to the New Testament

Now that we looked back before Exodus 20, let’s take a minute to look ahead into the New Testament.

- Matthew 19:16—A person asked the Son of God: “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”
- Matthew 19:17—The Son of God replied: “If you want to enter into life, keep the Commandments.”
- Matthew 19:18—The person asked: “Which ones?”
- Matthew 19:18-19—The Son of God listed the following five Commandments—Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Fifth—which He identified as “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Question—Did our Savior want His disciples to keep *only* these five Commandments identified as “You shall love your neighbor as yourself?”

Correcting a detail—Well, there are actually six Commandments often identified as “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

So revised question—Did our Savior want His disciples to keep *only* the six Commandments identified “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”?

Answer: The answer to that question can be found in Matthew 22:36-40.

Great Commandment

- Matthew 22:36—A lawyer asked: “Which is the great Commandment in the law?”
- Matthew 22:37-40—The Son of God answered: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Added thought

Although I ended the Wednesday-night Bible study in Matthew 22:36-40, I want you to consider two additional verses in Matthew 19.

- Matthew 19:20—When the young man heard the importance of the Ten Commandments, he said: “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”
- Matthew 19:21—To which the Son of God pointed out a specific deeper instruction for this particular man to consider—He told the man to help the poor.

Congratulations for making a commitment to following the Ten Commandments.

But after you have committed your life to following the Ten Commandments, what deeper instruction would the Son of God specifically mention to you?