



KINGDOM COMMUNITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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Exodus 19:1-11

1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

3 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;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Exodus 19:1-11

5 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:

6 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.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD COMMANDED him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD HATH spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Exodus 19:1-11

9 And the LORD SAID unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee forever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

10 And the LORD SAID unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 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.

The wonders of God (Exodus 19:1-25)

a. God's words from Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:1–15): While Israel is camped at the base of Mount Sinai, Moses climbs the mountain and is instructed to inform the people that the Lord himself will visit them in the form of a thick cloud at the end of three days. Thus, all the people must purify themselves for this meeting.

b. God's works on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:16–25): The Lord appears, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and a loud blast from a ram's horn. Mount Sinai is suddenly covered with smoke. Moses and Aaron ascend the mountain to meet with God.

The contents of the constitution (Ex. 20:1—Lev. 20:27)

1. The moral code: The Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1–26; 24:1–18; 31:18)

a. The requirements (Ex. 20:1–17; 31:18)

(1) “Do not worship any other gods besides me” (Ex. 20:3).

(2) “Do not make idols of any kind” (Ex. 20:4).

(3) “Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (Ex. 20:7).

(4) “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”
(Ex. 20:8).

(5) “Honor your father and mother” (Ex. 20:12).

(6) “Do not murder” (Ex. 20:13).

(7) “Do not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14).

(8) “Do not steal” (Ex. 20:15).

(9) “Do not testify falsely” (Ex. 20:16).

(10) “Do not covet” (Ex. 20:17).

- b. The reaction (Ex. 20:18–23): Moses reassures the frightened crowd that God’s purpose in appearing is to impress upon them his awesome power.
- c. The ratification (Ex. 20:24–26; 24:1–8): As instructed, Moses builds an altar with 12 pillars representing the 12 tribes. He then ratifies God’s covenant with Israel by sprinkling animal blood on the altar.
- d. The radiance (Ex. 24:9–18): Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (Aaron’s sons), and 70 Israelite elders are allowed to see God on Mount Sinai. “Under his feet there seemed to be a pavement of brilliant sapphire, as clear as the heavens.” After this, Moses ascends the mountain alone, where he spends the next 40 days.

2. The social code (community laws): Following is an alphabetical listing of the topics these laws address.

- a. Blasphemy (Ex. 22:28; Lev. 19:12; 20:9): The punishment for speaking against God, against rulers, or against parents is death.
- b. Blessing (conditions for it) (Lev. 26:3–13): Obedience to God assures Israel of fruitful crops, victory over their enemies, and the very presence of God among them!
- c. Blood (Ex. 23:18; Lev. 17:10–16; 19:26): No blood sacrifice is to be offered along with anything containing yeast. The eating or drinking of blood is strictly prohibited, for “the life of any creature is in its blood.”
- d. Childbirth and ceremonial cleansing (Lev. 12:1–8): A mother will be ceremonially unclean for 41 days following the birth of a son and for 80 days following the birth of a daughter. Upon offering a lamb and some birds, the mother’s time of defilement will be over.

- e. Dedication of persons and things (Lev.27:1–29): These “persons” fall into four categories: those from 20 to 60, from 5 to 20, from one month to 5 years, and over 60. The “things” include animals, homes, and fields.
- f. Diet (Lev. 11:1–47; 20:25): These creatures are permitted as a source of food: all animals that have cloven hooves and chew their cud, fish with fins and scales, insects that jump, and clean birds.
- g. Disfiguring oneself (Lev. 19:27–28): The Israelites are not to shave certain sections of their head, to cut themselves, or to wear tattoos, because pagans do these things.
- h. Disobedience (Lev. 26:14–46): If the Israelites disobey God’s laws, they will experience punishments: sudden terror, wasting diseases, defeat by their enemies, famines, attacks by wild animals, destruction of their cities, and exile. But true repentance will bring restoration.

- i. Elderly (Lev. 19:32): Israel is to give due honor and show great respect to the elderly.
- j. Fathers and daughters (Ex. 21:7–11): There are laws concerning work contracts and weddings.
- k. God's angel (Ex. 23:20–23): If the Israelites obey this angel, God will assure them victory over all their enemies. Many people today believe this angel was Christ himself.
- l. Handicapped people (Lev. 19:14): The deaf are not to be cursed nor the blind taken advantage of.
- m. Hatred (Lev. 19:17–18): The Israelites are forbidden to hate, to bear a grudge, or to seek vengeance against others. People are to love their neighbors as themselves.

- n. Helping one's enemy (Ex. 23:4–5): An enemy's ox or donkey that has strayed away must be returned. Assistance must be rendered to an enemy's donkey that is struggling under its load.
- o. Holiness (Ex. 22:31; Lev. 19:1–3; 20:7, 26): The bottom line is: "You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy." This involves many things, including respecting one's parents and observing the Sabbath.
- p. Idolatry (Ex. 22:20; 23:13, 24; Lev. 18:24–30; 19:4; 20:1–5; 26:1): Israel is forbidden even to speak the names of pagan gods, and worshiping them warrants death by stoning.
- q. Land (Ex. 23:10–11; Lev. 19:23–25): There are various laws governing the planting, eating, and dedication of crops.
- r. Leprosy (Lev. 13:1–59; 14:1–57; Num. 5:1–4): There are instructions regarding leprosy, including its recognition, its effect on ceremonial cleanness, and the sacrifices to be offered for it.

- s. Lying (Ex. 23:1–3, 6–7; Lev. 19:11, 16): The Israelites are prohibited from slandering others and lying, even to help a poor person.
- t. Marriage (Ex. 22:16–17): There are laws concerning the payment of dowries.
- u. Masters and slaves (Ex. 21:1–6): There are laws concerning slaves and their families. Some of these laws address the release of slaves or the actions to be taken if slaves choose to remain with their masters.
- v. Obedience (Ex. 23:25–33; Lev. 20:22–24): God will reward the Israelites' obedience by providing them with abundant food, long lives, and victory over their enemies. They will also be spared from diseases, miscarriages, and barrenness.

- w. Punishment for harming others (Ex. 21:12–36; 22:1–15, 21–24; Lev. 24:17–22): Those who commit willful murder, engage in slave-trading, or curse one’s parents must be put to death. All victims must receive payment from the guilty, and there are severe punishments for those who exploit widows and orphans. In essence, the punishment is to fit the crime, demanding eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.
- x. Poor (Ex. 22:25–27; Lev. 19:9–10): The clothes of the poor cannot be kept as pledge for repayment. Farmers are to leave behind some of the grain in the fields and the grapes on the vine so that the poor can collect them.
- y. Redemption of land (Lev. 25:24–55): There are special laws regarding slaves who are Israelites. In the jubilee year (occurring every 50 years), land must be returned to its original owner, and Israelite slaves must be set free.

- z. Righteous actions (Lev. 19:15, 35–37): Judges are commanded to render just decisions. Everybody must use accurate measurements.
- aa. Separation of cattle, seed, and clothing (Lev. 19:19): The Israelites are not to mix two kinds of these things. They are not to plow with two kinds of animals, to plant two kinds of seed in the same field, or to use two kinds of fabric woven in an article of clothing.
- bb. Sexual discharges (Lev. 15:1–33): Instructions are given regarding a man's seminal discharge and a woman's menstrual flow.
- cc. Sexual impurities: Punishments are imposed for various sexual sins.
 - (1) Adultery (Lev. 18:20; 19:20–22; 20:10, 14)
 - (2) Bestiality (Ex. 22:19; Lev. 18:23; 20:15–16)
 - (3) Homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13)
 - (4) Incest (Lev. 18:1–18; 20:11–12, 17, 19–21)
 - (5) Prostitution (Lev. 19:29)
 - (6) Relations during menstruation (Lev. 18:19; 20:18)

- dd. Stealing (Ex. 23:8; Lev. 19:13): All kinds of stealing are prohibited, including theft, taking of bribes, and cheating workers out of their wages.
- ee. Tithe (Ex. 22:29–30; 23:19; Lev. 27:30–34): Ten percent of Israel’s crops and livestock are to be given to God.
- ff. Treatment of foreigners (Ex. 23:9; Lev. 19:33–34): Israelites are not to oppress or take advantage of foreigners. They should love them as they love themselves.
- gg. Witchcraft (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 18:21; 19:31; 20:6, 27): Sorcerers are to be put to death.

3. The spiritual code (laws dealing with worship, feasts, sacrifices, the priesthood, etc.): For a fuller discussion of the spiritual code, see the section under subhead C, “The Restitution of Israel (Moses and the Tabernacle).”

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(6) Relations during menstruation (Lev. 18:19; 20:18)

Matthew 7:12

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.