February 7 Answers

1) The "Book of the **Covenant**" (cf. Exod 24:4–8) contained the commandments, laws, rulings, and judgments God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod 20–23). These laws were intended to govern the **attitudes** and **actions** of Israel, showing them how to properly **worship** and **love** God and how to **love** each other. It began with a reminder of the first two commandments and instructions about altar construction. Both were indications of the **priority** of worship in the covenant. God then gave rules which protected those who were most often mistreated or exploited: **slaves** (Exod 21:1–11). God also emphasized the value of human **life** (Exod 21:12–32), sanctioned the **death** penalty for certain crimes (Exod 21:15–17), endorsed the right of private **property** (Exod 22:1), protected property owners by requiring **restitution** for theft and accidental property damage (Exod 21:33–22:17), and required **perversion** to be punished by death (Exod 22:19). God's covenant with Israel makes it clear that He requires us to take personal **responsibility** for our actions (Exod 21:29–36; 22:5–6). Do we remember to love our neighbor by considering how our decisions might **affect** them?