

## The Covenant – Part 2 (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 22:21–23:33

### Do Not Mistreat Others

22:21 “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

22 “You shall not afflict any widow or orphan.

23 “If you afflict him at all, *and* if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry;

24 and My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

25 “If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest.

26 “If you ever take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets,

27 for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear *him*, for I am gracious.

28 “You shall not curse God, nor curse a ruler of your people. [[Acts 23:1–5](#)]

### Consecration of Firstborn

29 “You shall not delay *the offering from* your harvest and your vintage. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

30 “You shall do the same with your oxen *and* with your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

31 “You shall be holy men to Me, therefore you shall not eat *any* flesh torn to pieces in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

### Justice, Honesty and Love

23:1 “You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.

2 “You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert *justice*;

3 nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute.

4 “If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him.

5 “If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying *helpless* under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release *it* with him.

6 “You shall not pervert the justice *due* to your needy *brother* in his dispute.

7 “Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.

8 “You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.

9 “You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you *also* were strangers in the land of Egypt.

### Rest for Land and People

10 “You shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield,

11 but *on* the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard *and* your olive grove.

12 “Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease *from labor* so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.

13 “Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let *them* be heard from your mouth.

### Annual Feasts

14 “Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me.

15 “You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

16 “Also *you shall observe* the Feast of the Harvest *of* the first fruits of your labors *from* what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in *the fruit of* your labors from the field.

17 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.

18 “You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor is the fat of My feast to remain overnight until morning.

19 “You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God. “You are not to boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.

### Obey the Angel Yahweh Has Sent

20 “Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

21 “Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression,

since My name is in him.

22 “But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

### Conquest of Canaan Promised

23 “For My angel will go before you and bring you in to *the land of* the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.

24 “You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their *sacred* pillars in pieces.

25 “But you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.

26 “There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

27 “I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn *their* backs to you.

28 “I will send hornets ahead of you so that they will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites before you.

29 “I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.

30 “I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.

31 “I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River *Euphrates*; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.

32 “You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.

33 “They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for *if* you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

## Israel Agrees to the Covenant (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 24:1–4a

### Instructions for the Next Day’s Covenant Meal

1 Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance.

2 “Moses alone, however, shall come near to the LORD, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.”

### The People Agree to Keep the Covenant

3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”

### Moses Writes the ‘Book of the Covenant’

4a Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

## Inauguration of the Covenant (4 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 24:4b-11

### The Covenant is Inaugurated with Blood

4b Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.

6 Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”

8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” [[Matt 26:26–28](#); [Luke 22:19–20](#); [Heb 9:18–21](#)]

### A Covenant Meal on Mount Sinai

9 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,

10 and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.

11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.

**On the Mountain With God (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)**

Exodus 24:12–18

- 12 Now the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.”
- 13 So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.
- 14 But to the elders he said, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them.”
- 15 Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.
- 16 The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.
- 17 And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.
- 18 Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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