

Dispensation of the Law Part Two

09/11/2016

Hymns: 58 Rock of Ages 62 The Solid Rock
Scripture: Psalm 119:129-136

Big Idea: Man is a Lawbreaker

Where were you **exactly** fifteen years from right now? Do you need some help on this? Can anyone tell us today's date? That's right, 9/11. **This** exact time fifteen years ago, **the** two World Trade Center towers were on fire. **Now** can anyone remember where they were? I was at my desk at work. The whole tragedy took on a surreal nature.

By 10:30, both towers had collapsed -- killing nearly 3000 people and injuring about 6000. Wikipedia describes it this way:

*The attacks of September 11, 2001, marked **it** the worst terrorist attack in world history and the deadliest foreign attack on American soil since the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor...*

And terrorist attacks haven't ended.

The date: June 12, 2016
The city: Orlando, Florida
The time: 2 a.m., Sunday

Just three months ago, a gunman killed 49 people and wounded 53 in the **deadliest mass-shooting in modern U.S. history** (not counting war) and the nation's worst terror attack since 9/11. The onslaught occurred at a nightclub for homosexuals named *Pulse* – billed as “the hottest gay bar in Orlando.”

The shooter, Omar Mateen, was a 29-year-old **American** of Afghan heritage. He pledged allegiance to ISIS and its leader. Having been employed as a security guard, Mateen was skilled with assault scenarios. After about three hours, officers of the **law** finally stormed the building and shot Mateen dead.

Speaking of **law**, we're continuing our journey into the Dispensation of Law. We left off last time with Mount Sinai **burning, smoking, and quaking** (not unlike the Trade Center) and Moses presenting the people with God's law. As we will see, wickedness, death, and destruction are nothing new. Our destination is Exodus 32, but to gain perspective, let's breeze through the highlights of the chapters that lead up to it.

Outline to Chapter 32

- 21 Lists many civil laws → Eye for eye, tooth for tooth (24)
- 22 Transitions to Ceremonial Law (28) → Firstborn sons consecrated to the Lord
- 23 Lists three Feasts (14) notice there is no mention of fasts, just feasts:
 - 1. Unleavened bread – seven days – in April
 - 2. Firstfruits of Harvest
 - 3. Ingathering – Completion of Harvest

The chapter contains a blessing and freedom from sickness for following the Lord (25). It also contains a command for them to make no treaties with occupants in the land or worship their gods (32).

24 Israelites accept God's book of the covenant (cf. 19:8). Let's see how the Bible describes this:

[3] And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said,

All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

[4] And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD,

Notice this **book** was written by Moses while the **book of the testimony** was written by the finger of the God.

*[7] And he took the **book of the covenant**, and read in the audience of the people: and they said,*

All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

[8] And Moses took [...] blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said,

Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

[15] And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

[17] And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

[18] ...and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

25 Ceremonial Law continues with construction details and the contents of the Tabernacle.

Today we have blueprints. Then, they used detailed specifications.

Here's an example from Exodus 26:

[10] And thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outmost in the coupling,

and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain which couple[s] the second.

[11] And thou shalt make fifty [clasps] of brass,

and put the [clasps] into the loops,

and couple the tent together,

that it may be one.

27 Brazen Altar

28 High Priest's Garments

29 Priest's Duties, Sacrifices, Offerings

30 Order of Worship

31 Skilled craftsmen are assigned and the Bible said the LORD selected them and put in their hearts

what they should do.

Then picking up in Exodus 31, we have:

*[18] And he [the Lord] gave unto Moses,
when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai,
two tables of testimony,
tables of stone,
written with the finger of God.*

With that, we've arrived at Chapter 32. This is our destination, so here we go.

Exod.32

*[1] And when the people saw that **Moses delayed** to come down out of the mount,*

Remember: Moses was separated from the people on Mount Sinai how long? Forty days and forty nights (24:18).

*the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, **Up, make us gods,**
which shall go before us;
for as for **this Moses,**
the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt,*

This is important. They see **Moses** as the one who brought them out of Egypt, and he's missing now. They need a replacement.

We [know] not what [has] become of him.

Aaron made no protest.

*[2] And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives,
of your sons,
and of your daughters,
and bring them unto me.*

*[4] And **he received them** at their hand,
and fashioned it with a graving tool,*

So Aaron is engraving this thing out of gold.

*[and] after **he had made it a molten calf:** [] **they said,** These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

Now they said *these*. That's plural. How'd that happen? Well, you've got the LORD, they're still worshipping Him, but they needed a replacement for Moses, so they've got this golden calf – the golden calf and God. That's what they're worshipping.

Exodus 7 supports this view:

*[1] And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have **made thee a god to Pharaoh:***

Since idolatrous Pharaoh believed **Moses was a god**, it's not unreasonable to conclude that many idolatrous Israelites held that same view of him and his replacement idol.

...returning to Exodus 32:

*[5] And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is **a feast to the LORD.***

[6] And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings;

and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

What does that mean? Was this like a church picnic where they eat a lunch together and then after lunch play a friendly game of softball and perhaps toss some horseshoes? No, the Bible elaborates more on this later, but for now we'll just say that they were **doing evil** in the sight of the Lord.

*[7] And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for **thy** people,*

God refers to the Israelites as *thy* people – not *His* people.
He's highlighting the distance their sin created between Him and them.

(thy people)

*which **thou** broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have **corrupted themselves:***

God elaborates:

*[8] They have **turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them:***

they have made them a molten calf,

and have worshipped it,

and have sacrificed thereunto,

and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

[9] And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

*[10] Now therefore let me alone, that **my wrath may wax hot against them,***

God is angry.

*and that I may **consume** them:*

*and I will make **of thee** a great nation.*

Notice here, the LORD is threatening to kill them all – **including Aaron** – and restart clean with Moses. Clearly, this act they did involved spiritual adultery – worshiping other gods. But that's not all.

*[11] And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said,
LORD, why doth thy **wrath wax hot** against **thy** people,
which **thou** hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt
with great power,
and with a mighty hand?*

Moses was interceding for Israel. He called them **God's** people and argued that destroying them would make God look bad in the eyes of the Egyptians. He also reminded God of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*[14] And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto **his** people.*

That is, He did not carry out His threat.

*[15] And Moses turned, and went down from the mount,
and the two **tables of the testimony** were in his hand:
the tables were **written on both their sides**;*

*[16] And
**the tables were the work of God, and
the writing was the writing of God,**
graven upon the tables.*

*[19] And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that
he saw the calf,
and the dancing:
and **Moses' anger waxed hot,***

Moses just finished questioning God about having **hot anger** and here's Moses with **hot anger**.

*and he cast the tables out of his hands,
and br[o]ke them beneath the mount.*

He threw the tablets down the mountain and they shattered.

The symbolism of the Israelites breaking the law is clear.

*[20] And he took the calf which they had made,
and burnt it in the fire,
and ground it to powder,
and [scattered it on] the water,
and made the children of Israel drink of it.*

*[21] And Moses said unto Aaron,
What did this people [do] unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?*

[22] *And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are **set on mischief**.*

[23] *For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we [know] not what is become of him.*

[24] *And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it [to] me: **then I** cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.*

That sounds like a big lie to me.

[25] *And when Moses saw that the **people were naked**; (for Aaron had made them naked unto **their shame** among their enemies:)*

Their enemies were looking on here.
Aaron was their leader in this sordid worship scene.

So Moses gathered the Levites and had them slay about 3000 of the men who were doing this wickedness.

[30] *And **it** came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, **Ye** have sinned a **great sin**: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.*

Moses intercedes again for Israel.

[31] *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have **sinned a great sin**, and have made them **gods of gold**.*

[32] *Yet now, **if thou wilt** forgive their sin--; and if not, **blot me**, I pray thee, **out of thy book** which thou hast written.*

[33] *And the LORD said unto Moses, **Whosoever hath sinned** against me, **him** will I **blot out of my book**.*

This expression *blot out* appears again in Revelation 3:5. What's being said here may well give us insight into the meaning in the Revelation passage.

Let's see how God blotted these people from His book.

[35] *And the LORD [sent a plague on] **the people**,*

because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

What else do we know about this? Let's jump to the New Testament to pick up something interesting:

I Corinthians 10

[1] *Moreover, brethren, ... all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;*
[2] *And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;*

Moses delivered them.

The scripture is speaking of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. Remember the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night?

[5] *But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.*

[6] *Now these things were **our examples**,*

Why?

*to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as **they also lusted.***

[7] *Neither **be ye idolaters**, as were some of them; as it is written,*

The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Does that sound familiar?

[8] *Neither let us **commit fornication**, as **some of them committed**,*

So here we know they were committing:

fornication

idolatry and

lusting after evil things.

*and **fell in one day***

Here we go, we've got the total now.

three and twenty thousand.

We know three thousand came from slaying by the Levites, so God's plague destroyed twenty thousand.

We need to stop here, but next time we'll continue along this line and learn more about how God views this kind of sin and how He deals with it.

But before we go, let's wrap things up.

Application

According to the CDC in 2014, the leading cause of death in the United States is (you guessed it) **heart disease** with cancer coming in a close second.

Then we have this from the American Heart Association just last year:

Heart disease remains the nation's leading cause of death in the U.S., a ranking it has held since 1921.

We've seen today that modern man, just like men in ancient times, also has a fatal heart problem of a **different** sort. The prophet Jeremiah puts it this way:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (17:9)

We're told:

The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23a)

Thankfully the verse doesn't stop there. God made provision for man's failure:

but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23b)

The Lord has promised to all who accept His gift, to replace that wicked, evil heart we were **all** born with, with a clean and spotless one and to reckon our slate clean as Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for our sin.

Benediction

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)