

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 29 (chapter 27) KJV

8.16.2023

Chapter 27

Engraved Stones. Worship at Altar of Stones. Two Mounts.

When and where were the great stones set up? What was engraved on the stones? Why? Where are the laws written today? (1-4, 8) Natural vs. Redeemed vs. Carnal hearts

What type of offerings were offered on the altar? What was the significance of these offerings? (5-7)

What was God's covenant with Israelites? (9-10)

How were the two mounts similar and different? (11-13) What curses were pronounced and how were the people to respond to the announcement of curses? (14-26)

Engraved Stones (1-4,8)

When and where were the great stones set up? What was engraved on the stones? Why?

Engraved Stones (1-4)

And Moses with the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, Keep all the commandments which I command you this day. ² And it shall be on the day when ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, that thou shalt set thee up great stones, and plaister them with plaister:

³ And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee. ⁴ Therefore it shall be when ye be gone over Jordan, that ye shall set up these stones, which I command you this day, in mount Ebal, and thou shalt plaister them with plaister.

Great stones

, that thou shalt set thee up great stones, and plaister them with plaister: ³ And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law,

Timing: Day when Israelites pass over Jordan river into the promised land (2)

Location : mount Ebal (4)

Purpose of great stones:

To write the laws and preserve it for future generations

- Laws must be written plainly (clarity) (8)
- Coated with plaster (2, 4)
- Laws must not be forgotten & must be obeyed

How many laws were written on the great stones?

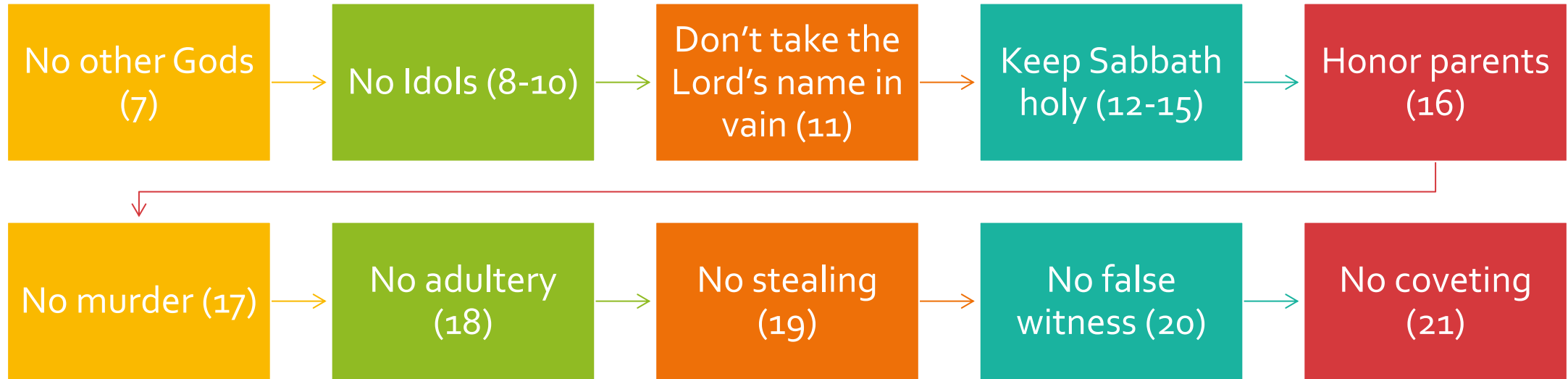
Laws written in stone by God

Exodus 24:12 (First time)

And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Exodus 34:1 (Second time)

And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.



Ten Commandments

Deuteronomy 5

Liberty from laws through Christ

Law brought us to Christ

Galatians 3:24-25 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Laws (600+) could not be kept (only Christ fulfilled the law, Mathew 5:17)

Sacrifices were not a permanent solution for breaking God's laws

Christ was the permanent solution

Christ offers the end of laws

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.



Law written in
our hearts:

Natural Heart

versus

Redeemed
Heart

Law written in our hearts:

natural heart
versus
redeemed
heart

Redeemed Heart

Hebrews 10:16 (addressing believers of the new covenant)

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Natural Heart

Romans 2:14-15 (addressing humanity, in general; conscience aroused to distinguish good and evil)

For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;

Natural hearts (before being born again)

Natural man is conscious of God's moral laws of evil and good
(even without reading the Bible, man knows murder is not good)

but natural man may choose to pursue evil rather than good

Natural man modifies the truth to justify sinful behavior

Romans 1 ... ¹⁹ for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ... ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator

Redeemed heart (after born again)

After being born again, we are blessed with a new heart and a regenerated spirit.

- Knowledge of good and evil that was known before, now expanded
- The desires have changed and we are given the the power to overcome evil desires.
 - **Psalms 40:8** I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Carnal hearts

Christian with a Carnal heart

When a believer goes back to his old ways or does not mature spiritually

I Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ²I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ³For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Romans 8:6-9 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.



What type of heart
do you have?

Natural or Redeemed or Carnal?

Worship at the Altar of Stones (5-7)

What type of offerings were offered on the altar? What was the significance of these offerings?

Worship at the altar

⁵ And there shalt thou build an altar unto the Lord thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them.

⁶ Thou shalt build the altar of the Lord thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the Lord thy God:

⁷ And thou shalt offer peace offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the Lord thy God.

Worship at the Altar

Altar of 'whole' stones (natural form, no human carvings)

Burnt offerings & Peace offerings (worship requires sacrifice)

Rejoicing at the Altar (worship is corporate celebration)

Burnt offerings

Burnt offering required 'complete' sacrifice of the offering at the altar and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord (Leviticus 1:9)

⁹ Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering: It is the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar all night unto the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it ... ¹³ The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out (Leviticus 6:9-13)

Burnt offerings atoned for sins and sought renewal of relationship with God that was broken by sin.

At the cross, Jesus Christ became the ultimate burnt offering, where he sacrificed himself wholly for the sins of mankind.

Peace or Fellowship offerings

Leviticus 7:11-21

¹¹And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the Lord. ¹²If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. ¹⁶But if the sacrifice of his offering be a vow, or a voluntary offering

Peace offering

- It is a voluntary offering (thanksgiving | fulfilling a vow | freewill offering) (mandatory offerings: sin offering and trespass offering)
- Small portion offered at the altar to be burnt
- Remaining offering eaten by worshippers and shared with others



God's covenant with Israelites (9-10)

God's covenant

⁹ And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the **people of the Lord thy God**. ¹⁰ Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the Lord thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day.

Pay attention ... you are the 'people of the Lord thy God'

Expectation ... Obey the voice of the Lord and Do his commandments

The two Mounts

(11-26)

How were the two mounts similar and different? (11-13)
What curses were pronounced and how were the people to respond to the announcement of curses? (14-26)

The Two Mounts

¹¹ And Moses charged the people the same day, saying, ¹² These shall stand upon **mount Gerizim** to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin: ¹³ And these shall stand upon **mount Ebal** to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

The two mounts

Two mounts: Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, opposite to each other (with the old city of Shechem in between)

Two groups of tribes:

One on Mount Gerizim (to bless those who obeyed) (fertile land)

One on Mount Ebal (to curse those who disobeyed) (barren land)

Fulfilled in Joshua 8:30-35

Two mounts & Two choices (good and evil, blessings and curses)

Two choices: blessings or curses

Deuteronomy 30: 19 (life and death) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Mathew 7:13-14 (narrow and broad way) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The 12 Curses & 12 Amens at mount Ebal (13-26)

¹³ And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. ¹⁴ And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

¹⁵ Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, **Amen.**

¹⁶ Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, **Amen.**

¹⁷ Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ¹⁸ Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, **Amen.**

¹⁹ Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ²⁰ Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say, **Amen.**

²¹ Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ²² Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ²³ Cursed be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, **Amen.**

²⁴ Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ²⁵ Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, **Amen.** ²⁶ Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, **Amen.**

List of curses & Amens!

1. Idolaters (15, violation of commandment #1)
2. Dishonor parents (16, family, commandment #5)
3. Steal by shifting boundaries (17)
4. Cruelty to blind (weak, disabled, 18)
5. Injustice to stranger, fatherless, and widow (19)
6. Violate sexual standards (beast and family, 20-23)
7. Violence towards neighbor (24)
8. Bribery to kill (25) (though not directly involved in crime, declared guilty ... intent of our actions is important)
9. Failure to conform to all the words of the law (26)

Can we fulfill the law and avoid the curses?

A better way through Christ

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

¹¹ But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. ¹³ **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

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