

Exodus

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Monotheism stressed again

- They had heard the voice of God from the mountain, a feat no false god represented by an image could accomplish.
- Multiple representations of false gods by images are common in pagan temples even today. Especially in the fertility cults of that day, there would at least be a female counterpart to a male god. Yahweh stands alone as the one true and living God who has no peers.
- God further stresses His sovereignty over His creation by his requirements of the altars used for sacrifices to Him to be from unaltered material as He had created it.
- His worship was to have no inkling of the sexual perversion of the fertility cults.

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect and care for people's livelihood.
 - Protection for the person who received payment for a period of exclusive service.
 - Protection for the family of a man who had entered in to the above agreement.

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect and care for people's livelihood.
 - Protection for a daughter who had been given to a master in exchange for what may be consider a "bride price."
 - There is the clear expectation of marriage here and therefore the 6-year rule did not apply.
 - Should the master not find favor with her he had to give the family the option of redemption
 - He could choose to not marry her himself but give her to his son to marry.
 - If the master married her and took another wife she must be treated equally
 - Violation of any of these rules by the master would make him obligated to set her free.

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect and care for people
 - Two observations:
 - This system is so foreign to our context we have a hard time grasping it. However, it gave people options for a livelihood and security in a time when there were few viable alternatives.
 - The Bible never teaches slavery in the sense that we have seen it practiced in modern times. Slavery in the way it has been practiced throughout history is always a coerced situation where people are viewed and treated as less than human. This one verse excluded this type of slavery: ¹⁶ “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death. Exodus 21:16 (ESV)

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect and care for life and family
 - Death penalty for premeditated murder and provision to consider when a death caused by a person does not rise to that level. 21:12-14
 - The death penalty for serious physical or verbal assault on parents. 21:15,17
 - Restitution for causing injury. 21:18-19
 - Protection for servants. 21:20-21
 - Protection for women and unborn children. 21:22-22
 - Protection for any person by the limitation of punishment to the severity of the injury. 21:23
 - Protection in the case of death caused by a domestic animal. 21:28-32

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect property
 - In the rules given there is no provision for incarceration. Restitution is the penalty for infractions. The advantage of restitution over incarceration is seen in that:
 - It compensates the victims of a crime more generously and more immediately than is the case in modern Western societies.
 - It requires the offender to deal directly with the person he has offended and to face the effects of his crime on that person.

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect property
 - In the rules given there is no provision for incarceration. Restitution is the penalty for infractions. The advantage of restitution over incarceration is seen in that:
 - It permits a repentant offender to continue a productive life immediately upon making restoration
 - It does not require society to provide housing, food, and clothing for the duration of the offender's imprisonment.
- (New American Commentary: Exodus Volume 2, by Douglas K. Stuart, 2006 B&H Publishing Group, page 500)

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect property
 - Restitution for negligence. 21:33-34
 - Restitution for the animal owned by one person killing the animal of another. 21:35-36
 - Restitution for theft. 22:1-4
 - Restitution for negligence. 22:5—6
 - Protection and restitution for an assumed responsibility. 22:7-15

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to protect the nation of Israel
 - Sexual intimacy outside of marriage is forbidden 22:16-17
 - Threats to exclusive devotion to God are forbidden 22:18; 20
 - Sexual perversion is forbidden 22:19
 - Mistreatment of the disadvantaged is forbidden 22:21-27
 - Disrespect for authority is forbidden. 22:28
 - God is to be honored with the first-fruits of all one has. 22:29-30
 - Act like people who are devoted to God. 22:31
 - All forms of Injustice are forbidden. 23:1-9

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to establish and maintain Israel's distinctiveness as God's chosen people among the nations.
 - Observance of the sabbath year. 23:10-11
 - Observance of the sabbath day. 23:12
 - Exclusive devotion to Yahweh. 23:13

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God's rules to govern life in this holy nation.

- Rules to establish and maintain Israel's distinctiveness as God's chosen people among the nations.
 - Three times per year all the males of the nation were to gather together before the Lord
 - The Feast of Unleaven Bread. Culminated in observance of the Passover.
 - The Feast of Harvest (a.k.a. Feast of Weeks or Feast of Pentecost) Fifty days after Passover. Harvest of the first grain.
 - The Feast of Ingathering (a.k.a the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths) At the end of the growing season

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