

**“O How Love I Thy Law!”**  
**“The Law-Giver”**  
**Exodus 20:1-2**

**Introduction:**

1. Tonight - We Are Going To Begin:
  - A New Year-Long Series:
    - For Our Evening Services:
      - Whose Theme Comes From:
        - Psalm 119:97 - Which Says - “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day!”
  - And - Our Special Emphasis:
    - Will Be On The Ten Commandments:
      - Which Is Sometimes Called:
        - The Moral Law Of God!
2. But - In Order To Have A Law:
  - There Must Be:
    - A Law-Giver Or A Law-Maker!
      - **IE:** Like Our Own Government - And The Two Houses Of Congress - The House & The Senate!
        - Love Them Or Hate Them - They Make & Give Us Our National / Federal Laws!
      - Its Interesting - Because - When You Look At Polls - The Level Of Congressional Approval - As A Whole - Is Always Low!
        - In December Of Last Year - The Gallup Organization Conducted A Poll That Says:
          - Only 27% Of Americans Approve Of “The Way Congress Is Doing Its Job!”
          - Whereas 68% Disapprove!
    - And Yet - The Same People Who Make Up Congress:
      - Keep Getting Reelected, It Seems!
        - Which Indicates That The Voters May Approve Of The Job **Their** Representative Is Doing:
          - But **None** Of The Others!
      - **IE:** Reminds Me Of When The Church Sent Me To The Nine-Marks Conference In Washington, D.C., Back In 2018! Remember Walking By The Impressive Capital Building:
        - And Thinking To Myself - “That’s Where They Take Our Freedoms Away!”
  - 3. Well - All Too Often - We Think About & Look At:
    - God’s Law:
      - The Same Way:
        - We Think About & Look At:
          - Man’s Laws!
    - And As A Result:
      - We Often See God:
        - As The Law-Giver - In The Same Way:
          - As We See Our Own Law-Makers!
            - **IE:** I Wonder What A Poll Would Tell Us About How Christians Think About God In This Way!
  - 4. Unfortunately:
    - This Attitude Is Ingrained In Us, To Some Extent:
      - And Something That - By God’s Grace:
        - Needs To Change!
    - Because The Scripture:
      - Tells Us The Truth:
        - About Both The Law Of God:
          - **And** God As The Law-Giver!
    - According To Romans 7:12:
      - Paul Tells Us That - “The Law Is Holy, And The Commandment Holy, And Just, And Good!”
        - And So - God’s Law Tells Us Something About God Himself!
          - Which We Briefly Looked At Last Sunday Morning!
    - Not Only Does God’s Law:
      - Reveal God’s Will To Us:
        - It Also Reflects God’s Own Character & Nature!
          - God’s Law Is Holy & Just & Good:

- Because God Himself Is Holy & Just & Good!

5. And - If You Have:

- The Right Understanding & Use:

- Of God's Law:

- ***Far From*** "Taking Your Freedoms Away!"

- It Is Called - In James 1:25 - "The Perfect Law Of Liberty!"

- So - To Begin:

- We Are Going To Look At:

- The Giving Of The Law:

- The Ten Commandments:

- Which We Find Back In Exodus 19-20!

- And As We Read Through These Verses Together:

- We Will See The "Glorious" Manner:

- In Which God Gave Us His Law!

- And - Try To Imagine What It Must Have Been Like:

- If You Were There As Well!

6. Exodus 19:1-25:

1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

9 ¶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:

13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.

16 ¶ And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

23 And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.

24 And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

25 So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

7. Before We Go On To Chapter 20:

- We Just Read How:

- Moses & All The People Of Israel:

- Experienced The Glory Of God:

- With *All* Their Senses!

- They Saw The Lightning!

- They Heard The Trumpet & The Thunder!

- They Felt The Earthquake!

- They Probably Even Smelled The Smoke!

- And Then - They Heard:

- The Voice Of God:

- With Their Own Ears!

- The Voice Of God-Jehovah:

- The Supreme Law-Giver Of The Universe!

8. Exodus 20:1-21:

1 And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 ¶ Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

18 ¶ And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

9. Now Before We Start Looking - In Depth:

- At The Law - The Ten Commandments:

- We Need To First Focus On:

- The Law-Giver - On God Himself!

- And We Can Learn Some Things:

- About God - In The First 2 Verses Of Exodus 20:

- Which You Can Call:

- "The Great Prologue To The Decalogue!"

- The “Word Before The Ten Words!”
- And In This Great Prologue:
  - You Can See For Yourself:
    - The Nature & Character Of:
      - This Great Law-Giver!
        - His Nature Is Entirely Different Than Our National Law-Givers In Washington, D.C.!
        - And - His Character Is Entirely Different Than, Perhaps, What You Thought!
- And So - We First See - From This “Prologue” - In 20:1:

### ***1. The Reality Of The Law-Giver!***

- 20:1 Begins With These Words:
  - “And God!”
- If You Stop There For A Moment:
  - You Will See That There *Is*:
    - A Supreme God & Law-Giver:
      - In Spite Of What World Things & In Spite Of The Way The World Acts!
  - And - Deep Down Inside:
    - God Has Given To All Mankind:
      - An Implicit Knowledge:
        - Of This Truth!
    - As Paul Describes For Us In:
      - Romans 1:19-20 - “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. / 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!”
  - And Since - They & We - Are “Without Excuse”:
    - What Is Some Of The Evidence Of His Reality?
- There Is - First - The Witness Of Creation!
  - The Witness Of God’s Own Works!
    - And - His Work - Reveals Some Things About It’s Creator!
  - Even As Psalm 19:1-3 Reminds Us:
    - “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. / Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. / There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard!”
  - If Someone Denies This Evidence:
    - It Is Because They Are “Willingly Ignorant!”
      - And They Choose To Close Their Eyes & Harden Their Hearts To This Truth!
  - After All - As The Puritan Thomas Watson Once Asked:
    - Who, but God, could hang the earth on nothing?
      - Who, but God, could provide such rich furniture for the heavens, the glorious constellations, the firmament bespangled with such glittering lights?
    - Who, but God, could give earth its clothing, cover it with grass and corn, adorn it with flowers, and enrich it with gold? (Job 38:4)
      - Who, but God, could make the sweet music in the heavens, cause the angels to join in concert, and sound forth the praises of their Maker? (Job 38:7)
    - If a man should go into a far country, and see stately edifices there, he would never imagine that these built themselves, but that some greater power built them!
      - To imagine that the work of the creation was not framed by God, is as if we should conceive a curious landscape to be drawn by a pencil without the hand of an artist!
  - And - As Acts 17:24 Tells Us - It Is - “God that made the world, and all things therein!”
- A Second Evidence Is - The Witness Of Conscience!
  - As Paul Describes In Romans 2:14-15:
    - “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!”

- The Conscience:
  - Is A Lingering Imprint:
    - Of God's Image:
      - On His Original Creation Of Man!
  - **IE:** Though That Imprint Has & Continues To Fade - Like The Dies Used To Strike The Coins In Our Pockets - The Longer It Is Used, The Fainter The Image Gets - But It's Still There! It Can Still Be Recognized For What It Is!
- A Third Evidence Is - The Witness Of Consent!
  - Which We Find In The City Of Athens:
    - In Acts 17:23 - When Paul Said - "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you!"
      - And What Paul Said In Athens:
        - He Could Have Said To The Ancient Egyptians Or In Ancient Druids In Ireland Or To The Ancient Mayans In Central America!
    - Because - "They [All] Knew A God Should Be Worshiped, [Even] Though They Knew Not The God Whom They Ought To Worship!" (Thomas Watson)
  - And - A Fourth Evidence Is - The Witness Of Charity!
    - That Is - The Goodness & Grace Of God The Creator:
      - That He Freely Lavishes Upon His Creation!
    - In Acts 14:15-17 - When Paul & Barnabas Were In Lystra:
      - And The People Thought They Were Gods Because Of The Miracles That Were Done:
        - Paul Responded With These Words: "Saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: / Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. / Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness!"
  - **If God Is Not Good:**
    - **There Could Be No Good:**
      - In This World In Which We Live!
  - And So - Because Of His Reality:
    - You Need To Listen:
      - To The Lawgiver!
  - Now - This Is Not **All** The Evidence:
    - For The Reality Of God The Law-Giver:
      - But - As We Continue In 20:1 - We Can Also See:

## 2. **The Revelation Of The Lawgiver!**

- 20:1b - "And God spake all these words, saying!"
  - You See - God Knew That:
    - Because Of Our Sin:
      - Our Sinful Condition As Well As Our Sinful Conduct:
        - We Needed More Than Just:
          - His **General** Revelation!
      - We Needed More Than Just:
        - His Creation, Our Conscience, And His Charity!
          - We Needed A **Special** Revelation!
            - So - Even As He Did In The Beginning - Once Again - He "Spake!"
    - So Now - You Can Know Him In Another Way!
  - By Communication!
    - And God's Communication Is:
  - A Very Personal Communication!
    - These Are His Own Words!
      - The People & Moses Heard:
        - The Voice Of God In Their Own Language!
    - What Did It Sound Like?
      - Though There Were Other Sounds:

- Like The Sound Of A Trumpet & The Sound Of Thunder & The Sound Of An Earthquake:
  - Those Were Not His Voice!
- So - We Are Left To Wonder!
  - Whatever His Voice Sounded Like:
    - He Spoke & They Heard!
    - But - His Communication Was Also:
- A Very Public Communication!
  - For All Around The Mountain:
    - To Hear - And:
      - For All Around The World:
        - To Receive - As It Was Recorded In His Word!
    - And So - What Moses & The Children Of Israel Received Was:
- A Very Privileged Communication!
  - In Deuteronomy 5:4 - Moses Tells His People:
    - How - “The LORD talked with [Them] face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire!”
      - What A Privilege!
- And Now - Because Of His Revelation:
  - You Too Need To Listen:
    - To The Lawgiver!
      - But Then - In 20:2 - We Find:

### 3. ***The Relationship Of The Lawgiver!***

- 20:2 - “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage!”
- This Is An Important Verse To Consider:
    - As We Learn More About The Ten Commandments!
  - Because - God’s Law:
    - Is Given In The Context:
      - Of His Relationship:
        - With His People!
      - His Relationship Is One Of:
  - Recognition!
    - God Does Just Not Say - “I Am The Lord God!”
      - He Says - “I Am The Lord ***Thy*** God!”
        - He Recognizes Himself:
          - As Their God - And:
        - He Recognizes Them:
          - As His People!
    - What A Grace-Filled Statement!
      - Thomas Watson Makes This Powerful Observation:
        - “This, Though A Preface To The Law, Is Pure Gospel!”
    - Now - If God Can Say This To You:
      - Shouldn’t You Want To Please Him:
        - And Live For Him!
          - This Is One Of The Reasons God Gave His Law!
    - But Further - His Relationship Is One Of:
  - Redemption!
    - He Reminds The Children Of Israel That:
      - He - “Brought [Them] Out Of The Land Of Egypt!”
        - The Context Of God’s Law:
          - Is God’s Deliverance:
            - Of His People!
    - This Is Something That:
      - We Often Overlook:
        - When We Think Of The Ten Commandments!
    - It Wasn’t Just Given As A General Law For The World:
      - It Was Given As A Special Law:
        - For His People!

- And This Is Why We Should Be Able To Say Along With David - "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day!" (Psalm 119:97)
- But - Even More - His Relationship Is One Of:
- Rest!
- At The End Of 20:2 - The Lord Adds:
  - "Out Of The House Of Bondage!"
  - Of Course - That Is What Egypt Was For The Children Of Israel!
  - But The Lord Rescued Them In Order To Give Them Freedom & Rest From The Tyranny Of Their Oppressors!
- And He Did Not Give Them His Law:
  - To Trade One Tyranny For Another:
    - And One Oppressor For His Own!
  - You See - God Knows That:
    - Sin Is The Greatest Oppressor!
    - Sin Is The Greatest Tyrant!
- And So - Instead - God Gave His Law:
  - So That - When Understood Rightly:
    - And Used Properly:
      - You Can Experience Something Else That We Find In Psalm 119:165 - "Great Peace!" - "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them!"

**Conclusion:**

1. And With This Prologue In The Background:
  - God Proceeds To Give His People:
    - His Law!
      - Not Just For Them To:
        - Listen To The **Law**:
        - But To Listen To The **Law-Giver**!
        - To God!
2. For - He Who Gave Us The Law:
  - And Judges According To The Law:
    - Would Also - One Day - Make Provision for The Law:
      - For All Who Believe In His Son:
        - Jesus - As We Saw From Romans This Morning!
3. So - Listen To The Law-Giver:
  - As We Explore His Law Together This Year!
    - Because - When You Follow:
      - His Law - From Your Heart:
        - You Are Following His Voice:
          - As Sheep Follow Their Shepherd!
  - Listen To God's Voice:
    - In His Law!

- \* Do You Truly Believe In The Reality & Existence Of God?
- \* Or - Are You Living As If He Does Not Exist?
- \* Do You Listen To God's Word & God's Law As If He Was Speaking From Heaven Directly To You?

\* Listen To The Law-Giver!

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