

God's Promises Worked as They Obeyed God

Exodus 21:1 Now **these are the**

judgments which thou shalt set before them.

- There are 42 commands found in this list. It is an outgrowth of what we call the 10 commandments
- These 42 commandments are connected to the Hebrew alphabet and were to help them understand how the original 10 words or commandments were to play out in real life
- Living this rules justly was the practical outworking of the righteousness of God

1. The voluntary servant **21:2** If thou **buy an**

Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. **3** If he **came in by himself,** he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. **4** If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her

master's, and **he shall go out by himself.** 5 And if the servant shall plainly say, **I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:** 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall **bore his ear through with an aul;** and **he shall serve him for ever.**

- a. God had freed the Hebrews and they were never to be life long slaves again
- b. This was often a way to overcome financial tragedy.
- c. You would serve a person who would pay off your debt and get you back on your feet
- d. You came in with nothing but would leave owing nothing
- e. If you had received much from your master you could choose to stay
- f. Jesus was a voluntary servant
 - i. He left great riches and made Himself a servant forever
 - ii. He put on the robe to wash His disciples feet
 - iii. He went to a cross to die for us

- g. We should voluntarily serve Him
 - i. Give up what you want for yourself
 - ii. Lose your life
 - iii. Voluntarily serve others
 - iv. Prepare to die for the Lord Jesus, His kingdom, and His purposes

2. The Hebrew daughter was not to be mistreated even when sold to another [21:7](#) And **if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant**, she shall not go out as the menservants do. [8](#) If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he **let her be redeemed**: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her. [9](#) And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her **after the manner of daughters**. [10](#) If he take him another *wife*; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish. [11](#) And if he do not these three unto her, **then shall she go out free without money**.

- a. The daughter would not be freed in 6 years like the son
- b. If the man who had purchased her wasn't pleased she could be redeemed or bought back
- c. She could never be sold to others outside of Israel
- d. If she was purchased for a son she was to be treated like a daughter
- e. If her husband got another wife all of her needs were to be met
- f. If her needs weren't met then she could be freed without paying anything

3. Penal Code style laws

- a. Death Penalty Law in Israel
 - i. God is the giver of life. He determines how long a person lives. In these laws Israel is being taught to value human life
 - ii. From the beginning God has said that if you shed a man's blood then yours will be shed
 - 1. For hitting a man and killing him **21:12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.**

2. For planning a murder **21:14** But if a man **come presumptuously upon his neighbour**, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.
- iii. For being a delinquent child. God wanted children to honor and respect their parents **21:15** And he that **smiteth his father, or his mother**, shall be surely put to death. **21:17** And he that **curseth his father, or his mother**, shall surely be put to death.
- iv. For kidnapping. Not only could you not kill but you are not in control of the life of another. People can't be stolen from their home against their will **21:16** And he that **stealeth a man**, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.
- v. For not controlling your animal that you know might be vicious **21:29** But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.

vi. For killing a thief in daylight hours **22:3** *If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should **make full restitution**; if he have nothing, then **he shall be sold for his theft.***

vii. Everyone around Israel would be involved in the worship of false gods. Israel was commanded to not do so

1. For witchcraft and demons **22:18** *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*
2. For bestiality **22:19** *Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.*
3. Sacrificing to a false god **22:20** *He that sacrificeth unto *any* god, save unto the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed.*

b. God made provision for second degree murder or an accidental killing

- i. If the killing were not premeditated the killer would be punished but he would not lose his life **21:13** *And if a man **lie not in wait**, but God deliver *him* into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.*

1. The killer was to flee to the cities of refuge
 2. There he would be judged to see if it were intentional or not
- ii. If in fighting you caused injury to another you were liable for all his costs **21:18** *And if men strive together, and one **smite another with a stone**, or with *his* fist, and he die not, but keepeth *his* bed: **19** If he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote *him* be quit: only **he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause *him* to be thoroughly healed.***
- iii. Even the accidental discipline of a servant would be judged. **21:20** *And if a man **smite his servant, or his maid**, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished. **21** Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for **he is his money.***
- iv. The punishment was to fit the crime **21:22** *If men strive, and **hurt a woman with child**, so that her fruit depart *from her*, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's*

husband will lay upon him; and he shall **pay as the judges determine.** 23 And if *any* mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

1. If in a fight a woman got hurt and lost her child then the man who hurt her would pay
 2. If she was hurt in any way the person would get the same thing done to them
 3. This isn't the wild west and crazy killings and fightings but justice carried out so that the punishment fit the crime
- v. If the slave owner hurt his slave he had to let him go free 21:26 And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall **let him go free for his eye's sake.** 27 And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; **he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.**

- c. The owner of an animal was responsible for the actions of his animal 21:28 **If an ox gore a man or a**

woman, that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox *shall be* quit. 21:30 If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him. 31 Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto him. 32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master **thirty shekels of silver**, and the ox shall be stoned.

1. An animal that caused the death of person had to be killed
 2. Even the flesh of the bull that killed was not to be eaten
 3. It was possible to pay a ransom, a sum of money, that was what the value of the person's life would be valued at
 4. If it was a servant that died then the price was set
- ii. If you had a pit on your property and didn't cover it then you would pay for any animal that might get hurt there. You would however get to eat the animal

21:33 And if a **man shall open a pit**, or if a man shall dig a pit, and not cover it, and an ox or an ass fall therein; 34 The owner of the pit shall make *it good, and* give money unto the owner of them; and the dead *beast* shall be his.

- iii. If your animal hurt another animal the law was there to be sure justice was done 21:35 And if **one man's ox hurt another's**, that he die; then they shall sell the live ox, and divide the money of it; and the dead ox also they shall divide. 36 Or if it be known that the ox hath used to push in time past, and his owner hath not kept him in; he shall surely pay ox for ox; and the dead shall be his own.

d. God had laws against theft for His people

- i. Stealing was more costly than work 22:1 If a man shall **steal an ox, or a sheep**, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore **five oxen** for an ox, and **four sheep** for a sheep.
- ii. If the thief came at night he could be killed and there would be no judgment against the person defending

his home **22:2** **If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.**

iii. They were not to kill the thief that stole in the day time. He would simply pay the fine or be sold into slavery **22:3** **If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.**

iv. If the thief were caught with the stolen goods then he only paid double **22:4** **If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.**

e. God's people were to watch their animals and never take advantage of their neighbor **22:5** **If a man shall cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall put in his beast, and shall feed in another man's field; of the best of his own field, and of the best of his own vineyard, shall he make restitution.**

i. He would have to make restitution

ii. It would be a fair punishment.

iii. He would have to allow the other man to use his best field

- f. If you started a fire you were responsible for what the fire burned **22:6 If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.**
- g. If you were holding something for your neighbor you were responsible for it. You would be brought before a judge to find out if you were guilty of anything **22:7 If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double. 8 If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges, to see whether he have put his hand** unto his neighbour's goods.
- i. If it was honestly stolen then the thief would be responsible
- ii. If the thief couldn't be found then they would go before the judges **22:9 For all manner of trespass,**

*whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and **whom the judges shall condemn**, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.*

iii. If the neighbor's animal was under your care you were responsible

1. If there were no witnesses then the neighbor could go free **22:10** *If a man deliver unto his neighbour an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep; and it **die**, or be **hurt**, or **driven away**, no man seeing it: **11** Then shall an oath of the Lord be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.*
2. If the animal were stolen then the neighbor would have to pay **22:12** *And if it be stolen from him, he shall **make restitution** unto the owner thereof.*

3. If the animal was hurt by wild animals the neighbor wouldn't be responsible **22:13** *If it be torn in pieces, then let him bring it for witness, and he shall not **make good** that which was torn.*
- h. If you borrow something you are responsible to give it back in the same condition **22:14** *And if a man borrow **ought** of his neighbour, and it be hurt, or die, the owner thereof **being** not with it, he shall surely **make it good**.*
- i. If you were renting it then the owner was responsible **22:15** *But if the owner thereof **be** with it, he shall not make **it good**: if it **be** an hired **thing**, it came for his hire.*
- j. If you had sex before marriage you were to marry her or pay the dad her dowry **22:16** *And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely **endow her to be his wife**. **17** If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money*

according to the dowry of virgins.

4. The Hebrews were taught how to treat others. Or maybe how to be a good neighbor

- a. Never take advantage of foreigners **22:21** Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. **23:9** Also thou **shalt not oppress a stranger:** for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.
- b. Never take advantage of widows or orphans **22:22** Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. **23** If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; **24** And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.
- c. Never take advantage of the poor **22:25** If thou lend money to *any of my people that is poor* by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. **26** If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: **27** For that *is his covering*

only, it *is* his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; **for I am gracious.**

i. Do not mistreat poor people or favor the rich **23:6**

Thou **shalt not wrest the judgment** of thy poor in his cause.

ii. Never take the side of the poor just because they are poor **23:3** Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause.

d. Treat leaders with respect **22:28** Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

e. Don't damage someone's character or testimony **23:1** Thou shalt **not raise a false report:** put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. **23:7** **Keep thee far from a false matter;** and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

f. Don't do wrong just because others are doing wrong **23:2** Thou shalt **not follow a multitude to do evil;** neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest *judgment*:

g. They were to do right even if it was their enemy 23:4

If thou meet thine **enemy's** ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. 5 If thou see the ass of him that **hateth thee** lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

h. They were never to take gifts and so alter the judgment they would make 23:8 And thou **shalt take no gift**: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

5. The Hebrews were to handle their responsibilities before God well also

a. They were not to hold back on what God had commanded them to give 22:29 Thou **shalt not delay to offer** the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me. 30 Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, *and* with thy sheep: seven days it shall be with his dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it me. 31 And

ye shall be holy men unto me: neither shall ye eat *any* flesh *that is* torn of beasts in the field; ye shall cast it to the dogs.

- b. They were to obey God in the way they handled their land and crops and so the poor people would have something to eat **23:10** And **six years** thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: **11** But the seventh *year* thou shalt let it rest and lie still; **that the poor of thy people may eat:** and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, *and* with thy oliveyard.
- c. All were to rest one day of every 7 including their servants **23:12** **Six days** thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.
- d. They were not to even mention the names of the false gods **23:13** And in all *things* that I have said unto you be circumspect: and **make no mention of the name of other gods,** neither let it be heard out of thy

mouth.

6. They were to keep several feasts **23:14** Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. **15** Thou shalt keep the **feast of unleavened bread:** (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) **16** And the **feast of harvest,** the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the **feast of ingathering,** *which is* in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. **17** Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord God. **18** **Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread;** neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.

- a. The feast of unleavened bread or the passover spoke of the death of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ
- b. The feast of the harvest or first fruits spoke of the resurrection

- c. The feast of the ingathering or tabernacles reminds us that He is coming again
 - d. They were to bring their offerings to God and not follow the heathen practices of those that worshipped false gods **23:19** The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.
7. As they lived out God's truth He promised them great things
- a. He would keep them and bring them into the promised land **23:20** Behold, I send an Angel before thee, **to keep thee in the way,** and to **bring thee into the place** which I have prepared.
 - b. They were to obey and honor Him **21** Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name *is* in him.
 - c. If they would honor God then He would do great things in their lives **22** But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine

adversaries. **23** For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, *and* the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

d. They were to honor God **23:24** Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

e. As they honored Him He would bless them **23:25** And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. **26** There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. **27** I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. **28** And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

f. God would not do all of these promises immediately **23:29 I will not drive them out from**

before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

- g. God's work in their life would be as they grew and were able to handle what He wanted to do in their lives

23:30 By little and little I will drive

them out from before thee, until

thou be increased, and inherit the

land. **31** And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. **32** Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

- h. They were to separate themselves from false gods so that they wouldn't fall into sin **23:33 They shall**

not dwell in thy land, lest they

make thee sin against me: for if
thou serve their gods, **it will surely be a
snare unto thee.**

- As they allowed God's Word to get into their hearts and influence their thoughts and actions God would bring about His promises in their lives
- God gave them good laws that would cause them to grow in His grace and live out the great miracle He had done in them
- He has rescued them from Egypt and slavery
- He has given them a new life
- They have great promises but those promises are conditional
- They can enjoy great blessings or miss them if they will not obey God
- Grace is never an excuse not to do right
- We never use grace as a cover for sinful living or lawless living

- God has saved them
- He has separated them
- But they are now to live out what God has done in them
- As they live it out God will bring them into greater and greater blessings
- He will give them victory over more and more enemies
- He will give them more of what He has for them
- How are you handling the grace of God that He has given you?
- Do you take it seriously?
- Do you seek to grow in His grace and strength
- Do you want to serve Him and love Him more every day