

GSM

The Acceptance of Law

I. The Law

A. [**Exodus 19:3-8**]- God speaks to Moses and tells him to remind the people how God had delivered them out of Egypt. He told him to tell them that he carried them on eagle's wings. This speaks of His grace. He delivered them not because of their obedience but His grace and mercy. Carrying on the wings of the eagle speaks of the grace of God causing us to rise to a place we could not do ourselves. Man cannot fly on his own! Many young boys wearing Superman outfits found that out! God is saying to the people to reflect on how he has treated them in grace and by grace.

B. Now God will test them to see if they will choose His grace or try to justify and merit God moving for them based upon their works and merit. He brings forth the stipulations of Law- If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant [law]

C. Instead of reflecting on how they had so disobeyed God during their trip they say rashly and confidently- All that the Lord says to us we will do! They say this before they even hear what God is going to tell them! They arrogantly say, What ever it is bring it on, we will do it! This is the first time the Law is presented for their acceptance

D. [**Vs. 10**]- The Law is focused upon self consecration and self cleansing. The law causes one to focus upon one self and self improvement. Self improvement is done completely by self. God gives no aid in this process. Grace is where God performs for us, Law is where we perform for God. God tells Moses: Let them wash their own clothes. Clothes represent our outward actions. God

tells them that they will have to wash their clothes. This means they will have to clean themselves up for God. What does this produce?

E. Distance from God! No amount of self effort to cleans oneself is sufficient for God's perfect holiness. God must separate Himself from defilement and sin. [**VS 12**]- Set bounds so the people cannot come to me. The Law sets up bounds so that people are cut off from God. The more you try to draw close to God based upon your performance the more distant God will seem to you. Grace draws you into God's bosom as the disciple John was at the last supper. Peter boasted in his love for the Lord, but John on Jesus breast relied on Jesus' love for Him. This is grace.

F. [**Ex. 19:18**]- God comes down in fire and dark smoke. This speaks of wrath and judgment. God's holiness and judgment are revealed in the Law. Trying to become holy enough to merit God blessing you will only bring his judgment and disapproval. Jesus only showed anger toward those who were legalistic and self righteous.

G. [**Ex. 19:21**]- He warns again for the people not to break through the bounds to come up the mountain. This is because God knew they would disobey what they were told and try to do it! God knew what was in the heart of man!

H. [**Ex. 19:22**]- The priests were to sanctify themselves. In the new covenant we become priests and are sanctified by the blood and Spirit of God, not self sanctified. So many Christians are trying to become holy instead of believing they have been made holy by grace. When you get a revelation you are holy, then the unclean things of this world will repulse you. A prince who knows who is his will not soon wear rags happily. No sheep will tolerate the mud for long.

I. [Ex. 20:1]- God starts speaking in the hearing of all the people. He gives ten commandments. 10 speaks of trial and judgment. God is basically saying. If you want to try to become holy before me and merit what I give to you then you must keep all these commandments perfectly all the time.

J. [**Ex. 20:18**]- The people ask that God not speak to them directly. They want to get God's words indirectly from their pastor. This is a sign of legalistic living. Many Christians live by second hand revelation and what God is saying. They only want to hear from the pastor and from ministers on T.V. They do not desire to get on their knees and hear from God themselves. They do not go to the Word of God themselves to hear God speak. They want hear what God says through others.

K. [**Ex. 20:20**]- God came to test the people with the 10 commandments. God wanted to see if the people would ask for His grace instead of thinking they merit God moving in their lives. God wanted them to fear how holy and great God was. He wanted the people to realize they could not be holy enough for Him. Those under the Law say they are upholding the holiness of God by their legalistic beliefs and preaching, but actually they are lowering it. They lower it to the standard that they can keep it and then excuse themselves of the rest or ask God to forgive them of the rest. He did not want them to sin. The strength of sin is the Law. God did not want them to sin. So, God wanted them to choose grace! But they did not.

L. [**Ex. 20:24-26**]- Exodus 20 is a famous chapter because it contains the 10 commandments. However, the highlight of this chapter that most do not see is not the 10 commandments but the altar God commands to be built! Right after giving the 10 commandments God

reveals man's answer for sin and God's wrath and judgment. He tells Moses to build an altar of stones which have not been touched by man. If man's tools touch it, then it is profaned. This speaks that salvation and righteousness comes entirely by God's work and not from man. If man raises his hand to assist in His righteousness and to merit God blessing him then the whole thing is profaned! Man's nakedness was not to be seen at this altar. Man's works before God just shows his shame and nakedness. Come clothed in the righteousness of Christ! Sometimes we try to take credit for something we prayed for and God moved. We say, well I prayed and God did this or that. In a subtle way we are saying, This happened because I prayed. God did not move because you prayed but through prayer. He moved based upon the work of Jesus Christ. Your prayer of faith just trusted God who moved by His grace. We are not saved by faith. We are saved by grace through faith.