

Truthinscripture.com  
Pastor Rick Kabrick  
Exodus CH 23.

In CH 20 to 22 so far we have seen the Law being given. The start was the 10 commandments or the 10 utterances in CH 20.

Then CH 21 mostly dealt with what we could categorize as social issues.

CH 22 dealt with several issues. Stealing, ownership, borrowing, sorcery, bestiality, and idolatry. Compassion for the stranger and for the poor.

/So not just the Israelites but all of mankind are born sinners, So the

LORD points us to the solution,  
Yeshua. The OSN is like the worm  
in the apple. The worm is actually  
already inside the apple.

Not to make light of the OSN...



In CH 23 we can break it looks  
like this:

/VS 1-3 The Law and Peer  
Pressure.

4-9 Kindness towards Others.

10-13 The Law and the Sabbath  
Year.

14-17 The Law and the Feasts.

20-33 The Law and GOD's

Promise. So we can move right into CH 23.

Before we begin CH 23, remember that there are 613 precepts or laws in the Law. But I want you to know this:

/So, there are 613 it is said by tradition.

365 are said to be negative 248 were positive. David in PSA 15 reduced the number to 11. Isiah

Isaiah 33:15 says this: **He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, He who rejects unjust gain And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe;**

**He who stops his ears from  
hearing about bloodshed And  
shuts his eyes from looking upon  
evil;**

Micah in

**/MIC 6:8, HE has told you, O  
man, what is good; And what  
does the LORD require of you 1)  
But to do justice, 2) to love  
kindness, And 3) to walk humbly  
with your GOD?**

The prophet Habakkuk in chapter  
2 verse 4 he reduces all of the law  
to one precept:

**/HAB 2:4, Behold, as for the  
proud one, His soul is not right  
within him; But the righteous**

**will live by his faith.**

Paul quotes that very verse a number times: the just will live by faith (ROM 1; GAL 3; HEB 10;).

But we are seeing the formal announcement of the law.

**23:1 You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.**

**2 You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice;**

The thought of the first half of the sentence is emphasized in the

second part; for to yield to the hasty judgment of the multitude merely because of the great numbers that hold an opinion, if this means deviating from the way of truth and of justice, well that is strongly condemned by the LORD. A witness in any case should speak the full truth to the best of his knowledge.

**3 nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute.**

Dal = low, poor, weak, thin, one who is low. To pretend to be moved by sympathy for the poor in favoring them or moved by disdain for the poor in condemning them is wrong.

GOD wanted HIS people to stand on the side of justice, regardless of consequences.

5 commands are given here: They are illustrations of the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment: **“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”**

/1 You shall not bear a false report;

2 You shall not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.

3 You shall not follow the masses in doing evil,

4 You shall not testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice;

5 You shall not be partial to a poor man in his dispute.

That is just because one is poor does not make him guilty or not guilty.

**4 If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him.**

**5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release it with him.**

The intent here is that no man's feeling of revenge and disdain for another would reach the point of permitting a defenseless animal to suffer.



There is only one thing to do in such a case, assist his master in saving the animal. I guess it would apply to a man's property as well.

If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again:

Your enemy's ox... one who hates you... you shall not oppress a stranger:

GOD commanded Israel to show kindness and fairness towards those who they might not be friends with. But again, it goes back to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

In later times, some rabbis taught there was an obligation, or at least a permission, to hate one's enemy.

/Still today in Jerusalem there is a sect of ultra orthodox Jews, the kha-RAY-deem Plural. These will spit on Christians in particular,



Here, GOD commands fairness and kindness even to one who hates you – even as Yeshua made clear in the parable of the Good Samaritan (LUK 10:30-37).

This command to do good for your enemy was important. It showed

that goodness and kindness in Israel was not only required for those that one liked and loved, but to all.

/Of course no one needs this command to do this for a friend, we would all do that, I hope, but this is to apply to an enemy and even one who hates you.

Well, you might say that is so hard, and it is, but that is the idea.

Our LORD died for our most vile sins, and theirs. And HE did with joy because of HIS love for us. How you feel about someone does not determine right and wrong behavior towards them.

/There are principles of justice that must be observed above our feelings. Enemy here is the Hebrew word. אֹיֵב 'ōyēb̄ ah yab = enemy.

Enemy in this context means a legal adversary. Justice demands that we treat him like any other neighbor. I know that this can be hard, again that is the idea.

**6 You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute.**

**7 Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.**

/This is said to the selfish, unrighteous judge, whose perversion of justice may bring death to an innocent man. The form of the threat is particularly effective in setting forth the certain condemnation of the wicked judge. A dishonest judge.

Apparently, but not surprising that even though Moses selected the judges, some may have been bad, or perhaps tempted to be bad and the LORD does some preventive maintenance here.

We know many judges in many countries were and still are completely compromised. Certainly, that is the case here in

GOD's client nation. Not all of course.

**/8 You shall not take a bribe** (שָׁחַד šōḥad shah kad = first time used here), **for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.**



**/You shall not pervert the judgment of the poor in his dispute: GOD knew that it was always easy for the poor to be neglected in the administration of justice. That is still supposed to be, the blindfold over the eyes of justice.**

However, that is sadly not the case. Money matters, fame matters, even political affiliation matters, some say color of skin matters, one way or another.

### **Turn to 1 SAM 8**

I must say that I have never really experienced the legal system from the standpoint of a defendant, but I do sincerely pray I don't have to...

However, the point here is that being poor did not make one right in a legal dispute, as of course it should not. And it should never keep them from getting a fair hearing and justice. Again one way or another...Guilty or innocent.

/The promotion of truth was essential under GOD's law. GOD knew how much evil and injustice is done among men by lies, so GOD emphasized truth telling in Israel's daily life and legal practices.

GOD commands against the taking of a bribe; notice that, the reason is simple: Bribe makers can't exist without bribe takers.

**You shall not take a bribe** (shah kad = first time used here).

First time it is used here. But it also used when the Prophet Samuel appointed his own sons as judges, and they took bribes.

In 1 SAM 8 we read: ...



**1SAM 8:3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside toward dishonest gain, accepting bribes and perverting justice. 4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 Look, they said, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king to judge us like all the other nations.**

This was not the answer but it shows what dishonesty did to the nation and where it led. This led to Saul and he failed, which of course the LORD turned into a blessing with David. And he also failed but was man after GOD's own heart.

## **Back to EXO 23**

**9 You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

This is neph fesh = feelings or soul.

Yeshua simply summarized these laws promoting kindness and fair conduct for us all.

You shall love... your neighbor as yourself (LUK 10:27).

**/MAT 22:36-40, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Yeshua replied: “Love the LORD your GOD**

**with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

It was up to the judge to defend the poor against the oppression of the rich, that is the idea here.

The judges were to be careful and thorough and honest because they held great power and authority. But they were to remember that all authority ultimately belongs to GOD.

To take no bribe or present which might in any way pervert judgment was very important. This was so important that it was warned in many places in the Old and New Testaments.

**9 “You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

They were to understand the plight of the stranger, to consider the stranger...

**The Sabbath and Land**

**LXX**

Remember the Sabbath, it is and was and is very important to the LORD. WHY? Because in part HE made it for us.

**EXO 23:10 Six years thou shalt sow thy land, and gather in the fruits of it.**

**11 But in the seventh year thou shalt let it rest, and leave it, and the poor of thy nation shall feed; and the wild beasts of the field shall eat that which remains: thus shalt thou do to thy vineyard and to thine olive yard.**

**12 Six days shalt thou do thy works, and on the seventh day there shall be rest, that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and that**

**the son of thy maid-servant and the stranger may be refreshed.**

/The Sabbath is very important, it was listed in the 10 commandments. So this resting in the LORD is very important.

This is the first mention of the Sabbatical year; the law for it is given at length in LEV 25. Where the jubilee is first mentioned.

The Babylonian captivity or exile was when the Israelites were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon.

It is an important period of biblical history because both the captivity/exile and the return and restoration of the Jewish nation

were fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies.

GOD used Babylon as HIS agent of judgment against Israel for their sins of idolatry and rebellion against HIM.

Nebuchadnezzar would lead his armies against Judah until they laid siege to Jerusalem for over a year, killing many people and destroying the Jewish temple, taking captive many thousands of Jews, and leaving Jerusalem in ruins.

/As prophesied in Scripture, the Jewish people would be allowed to return to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile.

That prophecy was fulfilled in 537 B.C., and the Jews were allowed by King Cyrus of Persia to return to Israel and begin rebuilding the city and temple.

The return under the direction of Ezra led to a revival among the Jewish people and the rebuilding of the temple. Nehemiah followed with the rebuilding of the walls.

It was during this time that Nebuchadnezzar took many of the finest and brightest young men from each city in Judah captive, including Daniel, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abednego).



The books of 2 CHRON and 2KING deal with much of the time leading up to the falls of both the Northern Kingdom and Judah, the southern.

Just as GOD had promised through the prophet Jeremiah, GOD judged the Babylonians for their sins, and the Babylonian Empire fell to the armies of Persia in 539 B.C., once again proving GOD's promises to be true.

The seventy-year period of the Babylonian captivity is an important part of Israel's history, and Christians should be familiar with it.

/For 490 years the Israelites ignored the Sabbath of the 7<sup>th</sup> year. So, 70 years of captivity where the land rested.

Like many other Old Testament events, this historical event shows the faithfulness of the LORD to HIS people, HIS judgment of sin, and the surety of HIS promises.

JER 25

**13 Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth.**

So, the slaves and the strangers, as well as the domestic animals, were to be given a rest once a week. So

all these things thus far the LORD has said to obey HE adds: **Be on your guard, watch most carefully; and make no mention of the name of other gods,** (the very reference to them being prohibited) **neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.** Jehovah was to be worshipped and exclusively in the midst of Israel.

### **The Law and the Feasts.**

**14 Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to ME.**

**15 You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month**

**Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before ME empty-handed.**

**16 Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering (ah seef – first use it is the harvest later to become the feast of tabernacles) at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field.**

**17 Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD GOD.**

**The LORD used the word Ish = male but implied by the feast**

**name it was to be a time of family.**

**18 You shall not offer the blood of MY sacrifice with leavened bread; nor is the fat of MY feast to remain overnight until morning.**

**19 You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your GOD. “You are not to boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.**

This is the first mention of the 3 Yearly Festivals.

The feast of Unleavened bread, in its connection with the Paschal Lamb, is next spoken of in EXO 34.

Next is the Feast of Unleavened Bread again spoken of next in EXO 34 and of course LEV 23.

The sacred year began in spring, with the month Abib, or Nisan later at the barley harvest.

Feast of Ingathering, afterwards known as the Feast of Tabernacles, which is in the end of the harvest year, in the fall of the year. When the other harvests take place.

Not only the grain, but also the fruits, the three great products being usually mentioned as wheat, grapes, and olives.

So, it was specifically ordered that on the above-mentioned feasts the men of the congregation were

obliged to appear before the LORD. But as noted this was to be a family time.

**Thou shalt not offer the blood of My sacrifice,** that of the Passover, which, in a most particular sense, belonged to the LORD with leavened bread; **neither shall the fat of MY sacrifice (or feast) remain until the morning.**

**You are not to boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.**

There is some debate on this:

/One explanation is that it refers to what some idol worshipping cultures did was a young lamb still suckling from its mother was sacrificed to the false gods and the

milk of the mother was sprinkled on the fruit trees, fields and gardens.

/Others take it to be a prohibition of a custom of the Arab, probably Ishmaelites, of preparing food by stewing a young lamb in milk. Literally boiling it alive. This is probably what the LORD is referring to. Again you have to understand that the other pagan cultures were into some very evil things.

/Still others take it to be in connection with slaughtering a cow and a calf, or a ewe and her lamb, on the same day. I say lamb and calf or and lamb and ewe goat and a kid baby goat.



Also, there are some rabbinical interpretations that this why an observant Jew will not eat milk and meat at the same meal (or even on the same plates with the same utensils cooked in the same pots).

Some rabbis insist that the meat in the hamburger may have come from the calf of the cow that gave the milk for the cheese, and the cheese and the meat would “boil” together in one’s stomach and be a violation of this command.

Take your pick. I don’t really know for sure but I think it probably refers to the other pagan sultures and boiling of the kid or . But remember, it had a meaning to these at the time, some of these

things carry over to today, some may not. But it was a sign a pagan action and rejecting GOD.

### **The Law and GOD's Promise.**

**20 Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.**

**/LXX 20 And, behold, I send my angel before thy face, that he may keep thee in the way, that he may bring thee into the land which I have prepared for thee.**

**21 Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your**

**transgression, since MY name is in him.**

**I send an Angel before you:** This unique angel commanded obedience from Israel and had the right of judgment over the nation. Most of all, the name of GOD was in this angel (for MY name is in HIM).

Meekah el = who is like GOD?  
gab ree ale = warrior of GOD.

Rapael is in the book of tobit...healing...again that's tobit...

So, we only know a few angels by name. But neither Michael nor Gabriel commanded this kind of

obedience from Israel or presumed to sit in judgment over them.

This is the Angel (messenger) of the LORD, Yeshua appearing in the Old Testament, before HIS incarnation HIS first advent in Bethlehem, who often speaks directly as the LORD.

This is a Theophany, Melech is messenger. So this is Yeshua. Yeshua's name is literally Yahshua.

We only know a few angels by name, and in a sense, Michael and Gabriel each have the name of GOD in their name.

But neither Michael nor Gabriel ever commanded this kind of

obedience from Israel or presumed to sit in judgment over them.

So it is certain that this is Yeshua.

To bring you into the place which I have prepared: The messenger would go before them into the place which The Father has prepared.

The same principle is true of our life with Yeshua today. Remember

**JOH 14:2-3, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in GOD, believe also in ME.**

**2 In MY Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.**

**3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.**

So, if we remain in the plan of GOD for our life, we too walk in the place prepared by GOD.

The salvation or deliverance of the children of Israel would depend upon their obedience to doing the will of GOD.

**22 But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.**

**23 For MY angel will go before you and bring you in to the land**

**of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.**

6 enemies the number of man of sin here. It was characteristic of the Mosaic law (given to Moses) that blessing was based almost purely on Israel's performance.

If they obeyed, they would be blessed. If they disobeyed, they would be cursed.

The existence of the Canaanites and the others was indeed to be utterly destroyed, every trace of their idolatry was to be blotted out, no social contact was to be held with them while they served other

gods, nor were alliances of any kind to be formed with them. (DEU 12).

/The spiritual blessings of the covenant were always open to those who sincerely and earnestly desired to possess them.

**MY Angel will go before you:**

The LORD GOD did not bring Israel out of Egypt to leave them in the wilderness.

HIS plan was to bring them into HIS land of promise and abundance. Though there were mighty nations in Canaan. This was a plan of the Trinity, and all were involved as One.



**24 You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred pillars in pieces.**

**25 But you shall serve the LORD your GOD, and HE will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.**

**26 There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.**

**27 I will send MY terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion ham mam = were we get the**

concept of a hum or a unusual sound in the ears, the LORD would make a confusing noise in the ears of the enemy, HE would defeat them. **all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.**

**28 I will send hornets** sere ah = hornets or wasps **ahead of you so that they will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites before you.** Now we see 3 nations, so a Divine intervention regarding this.

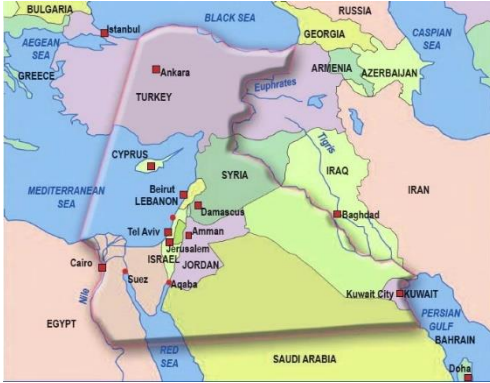
**JOSH 24:12, Then I sent the hornet before you and it drove out the two kings of the**

**Amorites from before you, but not by your sword or your bow.**

**30 I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.**

What land, well here it is defined again.

**31 I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.**



From the river to the sea...one Jordan, really many are referring to the Euphrates to the med.

GOD promised to drive out the enemies of Israel from Canaan, but HE would not drive them out all at once.

Israel may have wanted to have the land all cleared out before them, but GOD knew it was not best for the land or for them.

/Though it sometimes frustrates us, this is often the way GOD works in our life. Often things happen little by little, though we might prefer it all at once. But GOD wanted Israel to have increased in the process of taking the Promised Land. HE wanted them to grow. Spiritually as well as mentally, physically.

GOD cares that we grow, and so HE often grows us little by little. Not always I know.

**1COR 10:13, No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and GOD is faithful, so HE will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

So, the LORD says I will give you the land, I will destroy the enemies, but I will do it little by little.

**Lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous:**

This was just one reason why it was better for GOD to defeat their

enemies little by little. Doing it what seemed to be the easy way – clearing out all of Israel’s enemies at once – would have had consequences that Israel could not see nor appreciate nor handle. And the LORD knows that.

**32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.**

**33 They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against ME; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.**

Well, what a warning to a nation. That is why America is quickly being destroyed. That should be east to see.