

God's Big Picture – 3. It's the Law (Exodus 20: 1-21)

Q1: Set the context of Exodus 1-19 (if you haven't already) : i.e. who are these people living in Egypt? (Ex. 1: 6-7) Who was Moses? What task did God give Moses? How did God persuade Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? What was the Passover all about? What preparations were necessary for Moses to go up mount Sinai? (Ex. 19)

Q2: Read Matthew 5: 17-18. What does Jesus say about the Law? In what way is the OT Law prophetic? (Matthew 11: 13) What should the attitude of Christians be to the Law?

Q3: Why is it significant that the Ten Commandments begin by reminding the people that they had been saved from Egypt by God? (v 2)

Q4: In what way are verses 3 and 4 also foundational to the 10C? What idols can we have today?

Q5: To what, exactly, does verse 7 refer? (How might Matthew 5: 33-37 help us understand not only verse 7 (of Exodus 20) but also verse 16?

Q6: How should a Christian keep the Sabbath? (Verses 8-11, also see Matthew 12: 1-14 and Hebrews 4: 8-11)

Q7: Compare verse 12 with Ephesians 6: 1-4.

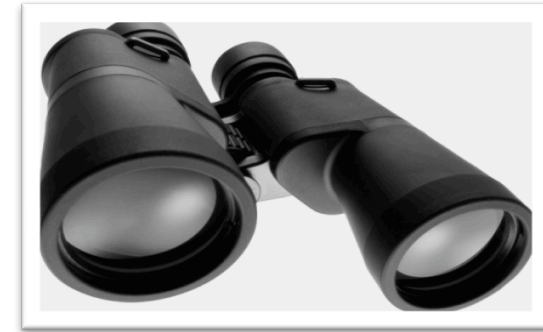
Q8: Is it just murder that is wrong, or all killing? (v 13) In what trajectory does Jesus take this in Matthew 5: 21-22?

Q9: Likewise compare verse 14 with Matthew 5: 27-30.

Q10: List some practical examples of times when you are tempted to break the last two commandments (Vs. 16 -17).

Q11: Read verse 1 and verses 18-21. What does this tell us about God's character? If the 10Cs are like jewels reflecting different aspects of God's character then draw a mental picture of what God is like.

God's Big Picture Bible Overview



No. 3 – God's Law (Exodus - Deuteronomy)

Recap

Paradise lost (Gen. 1-11)

God's people
Living in God's place (the garden of Eden)
Under God's rule

Paradise potentially regained (Gen. 12-50)

A promise to bless the whole world through one man
A promise to do with Sons
A great God but weak 'Promise Keepers'

The Book of Exodus

A new Adam (Exod 1-19)

Israel is saved from deathly slavery in Egypt to live in God's presence as Adam once did.

Q: Recap the famous story of Moses and the Exodus. What role did the Passover play in this epic drama?

A new Law (Exod. 20-24)

The first Adam was to observe God's will for how he should live (i.e. "Don't eat from that tree")

Israel was to observe God's will as expressed in his Law.

Q: Which laws seem odd to you? Why?

A Picture of Eden (Exod. 25-40)

The Tabernacle is modelled on God's original creation (Gen. 1-3)

Q: What does the tabernacle teach us about God's desire to dwell (tabernacle) among his people? (cf. John 1: 14)

The Book of Leviticus

How will rebellious Israel (i.e. the new Adam) live in God's presence?

Sacrifice and holiness

Q: Skim-read Leviticus 16. What is necessary for a holy God to dwell among his sinful people?

The Book of Numbers

Israel on a journey to enter the new "Garden of Canaan" as the new Adam.

Q: What lesson does the writer of Hebrews draw from their wanderings in the desert? (Hebrews 3: 12-19)

The Book of Deuteronomy

Rules on Garden-living

Promise of a King (Deut. 17: 14-20)

Q: How do you account for a certain ambivalence to the idea of a king in Deuteronomy 17? Does God think a king is a good or a bad idea?(See 1 Samuel 8: 6-9)

Promise of a Prophet (Deut. 18: 16-20)

The problem (Deut. 30:6)

Q: What problem does Deuteronomy 30 v 6 throw up? How do you think the Bible resolves it?

A Mountain top experience

(cf. Genesis 2: 10 → Exodus 20: 18 → Deut. 32: 50 → 2 Samuel 5: 9 → 1 Kings 19: 8 → Malachi 4: 4-5 → Matthew 17: 1-3 → Hebrews 12: 22 → Revelation 21: 10)