



## A Closer Look at Exodus

You can watch Pastor Andy's introduction to this study [here](#).

### Exodus 20:1-17: A New Creation (10 Commandments)

Once again, we skip over a whole lot of chapters between 12 and 20, and a lot happens in those chapters. Hopefully you have had or will have an opportunity to at least skim them to remember all that Israel goes through.

This period of time between the final plague and celebration of Passover and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai can best be described as a whole new creation for the people of Israel. God shapes them into God's people by introducing God's own patterns.

In the first creation story in Genesis, God forms order out of chaos for six days, followed by a seventh day of rest. As the people are journeying from Egypt to Mount Sinai God gives their life some structure from the chaos of being refugees. God provides manna for the first six days, but on the seventh day introduces them to the concept of sabbath rest.

Even before the law starts to be introduced with the 10 Commandments, God is at work daily among the people, shaping them to be more like God.

#### ***Read Exodus 20:1-17***

<sup>1-2</sup> "GOD spoke all these words:

I am GOD, your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,  
out of a life of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> No other gods, only me.

<sup>4-6</sup> No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am GOD, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

<sup>8-11</sup> Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> No murder.

<sup>14</sup> No adultery.

<sup>15</sup> No stealing.

<sup>16</sup> No lies about your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> No lusting after your neighbor's house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's." (*The Message Translation*)

### ***Questions for reflection and discussion***

- What commandment seems most important today? Why do you think that is?
- What do you think is God's goal in giving Israel the commandments? What does success look like for Israel?
- How would you best sum up the commandments in 5-10 words?
- The Sabbath shows up not only here, but in the previous story about God raining down manna from heaven. Why do you think sabbath-keeping is so important to God? How do you honor this commandment in your own life?
- What did you learn from reflecting on the journey between Egypt and Mt. Sinai again?

***Prayer:*** God of new creation, we give you thanks for making us your people and for each new day that you give to us. We give you thanks for the coming Spring weather and pray for the renewal of your whole creation. Help us to know that we are your holy people. Give us grace to extend your love and mercy to the world. Amen.

***Next week:*** Exodus 23:20-33 (Israel on the move). If you have the time, read everything between tonight's scripture and next week's.

To be part of our Zoom Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 PM, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5596136118?pwd=SSStXODZYdk4yOXdTdEYWJpUFBFQT09>