

**Lesson 6**  
**THE DISPENSATION OF LAW**  
**(FROM MOUNT SINAI TO MOUNT CALVARY)**

The dispensation of law began when God gave the law to the children of Israel in the days of Moses (Exodus 19-20 and it came to an end with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

This dispensation, therefore, covered a span of time approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years in length. During this time almost all of the Old Testament books were written.

**I. MAN'S STATE AT THE BEGINNING.**

What great thing did the LORD do for the children of Israel (Exodus 20:2)? He brought them out of Egypt.

The children of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt for about \_\_\_\_\_ years (Genesis 15:13). God delivered and redeemed His people and brought them out of that land by a mighty miracle (see Exodus 14).

The children of Israel saw God's power and greatness in a very special way.  
Exodus 14:30-31.

In a wonderful way God proved beyond any doubt that He is able to \_\_\_\_\_ His people. The miracle at the Red Sea proved it!

Read Exodus 3:8. Exodus 3:17.

God promised to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt.

He also promised to bring the children of Israel into the land of Palestine (the land of the Canaanites).

According to the \_\_\_\_\_, Israel would not all die in the wilderness.

The children of Israel should have remembered two things:

1. God promised to bring them into the \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 3:6,17).
2. God proved that He was able to take care of His people (Exodus 14--the crossing of the \_\_\_\_\_; God's mighty act of redemption).

As we continue reading in the book of Exodus, we learn that the children of Israel failed to trust the God who had given them such a promise and had showed them such power.

Consider the following examples of Israel's UNBELIEF:

- 1) Exodus 15:22-26 (only 3 days after the Red Sea crossing).  
A BITTER WATER PROBLEM!

2) Exodus 16:1-15 (about a month after the Red Sea crossing). THERE WAS A FOOD PROBLEM

Did the children of Israel trust God or did they murmur? Did they believe God's promise that He would bring them into the land? No ...they murmured and complained. Exodus 14:12.

A NO WATER PROBLEM!

Did the children of Israel believe that God was able to provide water for them? God brought water out of a Rock.

### **Israel At Mount Sinai**

In the third month after coming out of Egypt, the children of Israel arrived at the foot of Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1-2). This was the place where God would give to the children of Israel His laws and His commandments.

After they arrived at Mount Sinai, God had a message for His people. God reminded them about something. Exodus 19:4 has three words that opened the verse---

“ \_\_\_\_\_.”

Exodus 19:4

The children of Israel had seen what God did to the Egyptians (Exodus 14:30-31). The children of Israel had seen the way God made the bitter water sweet (Exodus 15:25).

The children of Israel had seen how God provided food in the middle of a desert (Exodus 16:11-15).

They had seen how God brought forth water out of a rock (Exodus 17:6).

They had seen how \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God had been to them in spite of their murmurings and their UNBELIEF!

In Exodus 19:5 we learn that God was going to make an agreement or a covenant with the children of Israel. This is sometimes called the \_\_\_\_\_ COVENANT.

Let us consider the terms of this covenant.

Exodus 19:5-6

*5 Now therefore, **if** ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

*6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

According to Exodus 19:5-6, God promised to bless the children of Israel in a special way IF the children of Israel would keep their part of the deal--"if ye will obey My voice indeed, and My covenant" (Exodus 19:5). If Israel would \_\_\_\_\_, God would bless.

Ex.19:8.

## **The Danger of Self-Confidence**

In Exodus 19:8 all of the people said, "All that the LORD hath spoken will we do." In other words they were saying, "We will obey whatever God tells us to do!" Later when Moses gave them God's laws, they said the same thing.

In Exodus 24:7 the people said, "*All that the LORD hath said we will do.*" These people had too much confidence in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Consider Deuteronomy 5:27-29

The kind of heart Israel had did not match the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ they spoke. They each had the kind of a heart that was prone to \_\_\_\_\_.

The children of Israel should have realized how sinful their hearts really were. Before God ever gave the children of Israel the law, He gave them a test to see how well they could keep His commandments.

### **HERE IS THE TEST:**

In Exodus 16 God gave His people some very simple rules or commandments concerning how to gather manna.

What are the two main rules they were tested with?

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- \_\_\_\_\_

They did not obey the rules.

It is wrong to have SELF-CONFIDENCE and it is also wrong to have NO CONFIDENCE. Think of a pendulum of a clock which moves back and forth. We need to avoid the two extremes:

SELF -CONFIDENCE---"I can do all things!",  
\_\_\_\_\_—"I can't do anything."

GOD-CONFIDENCE—"Through Christ who strengthenth me" (Philippians 4:13)  
Without the help of Christ we can do \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 15:5)

### **The Laws That God Gave**

God gave to the children of Israel a unique set of laws. This was something that no other nation on the face of the earth had ever received.

#### **Deuteronomy 4:5-8**

God gave His people 613 commandments in the law of Moses (according to Jewish calculations). These commands cover all phases of life and activity. There were ceremonial laws, civil laws, dietary laws and moral laws.

The most famous and the most important of these commands are called the 10 COMMANDMENTS and are found in Exodus chapter 20. We should remember that Mount Sinai was not the first time that God gave commandments to men.

God gave a commandment to \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen.2:17).  
God gave commandments to \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen.9:1-7).  
God gave commandments to \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen.17:9-12).  
Israel was given commands before Mt. Sinai (Ex.15:26 and Ex.16:28).

We need to also understand that the law was given only to the nation Israel, the nation which God brought out of Egypt (see Exodus 19:3; 20:2). God's law was not given to the Egyptians or to the Canaanites or to the Babylonians or to any other nation.

God made this covenant with Moses and in (Exodus 34:27). This special package, containing numerous laws and commandments, was given to a very special nation-Israel. No other nation had such a law (Deuteronomy 4:8).

Romans 9:4

*4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.*

## **II. MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY**

God had put His holy laws into Israel's hands. The children of Israel had a great responsibility: they were to obey God and they were to keep God's commandments (Exodus 19:5).

OBEDIENCE IS FOLLOWED BY \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1)  
DISOBEDIENCE IS FOLLOWED BY \_\_\_\_\_ v.15)  
(verse 15 and see verses 16,17,18,19)

Why did God give the children of Israel all of these commandments?

They were given commands "for their \_\_\_\_\_ always"

We should also keep in mind that the children of Israel were responsible to keep ALL OF THE LAW, not just some of the law. (Deut.6:2).

God did not want PARTIAL OBEDIENCE (obey some of the laws and disobey others) but He wanted \_\_\_\_\_ (obey them all).

## **What to Do in Case of Failure**

God knew that no man (except Jesus Christ) would ever keep the law perfectly. God knew that even the best of men would fail and disobey and sin. Therefore, God's law contained many commandments which told men what to do about sin. For example, in Old Testament times (according to the law of Moses) men were told to bring \_\_\_\_\_ (see Leviticus chapters 1-5).

## **III. MAN'S FAILURE.**

Did the nation Israel keep God's law or not? The Israelites said, "ALL THAT THE LORD HATH SPOKEN WE WILL DO!"

Jeremiah 31:32

Israel broke the covenants and disobeyed God. The history of the nation of Israel is one long and sad record of flagrant and persistent violation (breaking) of the law.

Later on the children of Israel committed the greatest crime of all. They \_\_\_\_\_ their own Messiah--the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-23 and 1 Thessalonians 2:15).

#### **IV. THE JUDGMENT.**

We have already seen that DISOBEDIENCE to God's law must be followed by God's CURSES (Deuteronomy 28:15). This is exactly what happened to the nation Israel.

The many curses that we read about in Deuteronomy 28:16-26 have actually happened to this nation. Three of the great judgments upon the nation of Israel are these:

1) THE ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY

722 B.C.

2) THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

See 2 Kings 25:1-11.

3) THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY THE ROMANS 70 A.D.

See Matthew 23:38; 24:1-2.

#### **God's Commands To Us**

How can a believer prove that he really loves Jesus? We do so by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God's instructions.

#### **Quick review:**

The Law of God to man was given

Man was responsible to keep the whole law.

Instead man broke God's laws.

Judgment came as a result.

Grace is seen in that God promised a Messiah.

Galatians 4:4-5

*4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

*5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Galatians 3:24

*24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*