Covenant & Commandments

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Context

- Genesis 39: Joseph in prison;
  - "the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness" (v.21)
- Genesis 40-41: Joseph appointed second-in-command in Egypt; no famine in Egypt

Context

- Genesis 42-45: Reconciliation between Joseph and brothers
- Genesis 46: Jacob (Israel)'s family (70 descendants) settle in Goshen
- Genesis 47: Joseph, brothers, father settle in nicer area
- Genesis 49: Israel passes away
- Genesis 50: Joseph passes away

Context

- Exodus:
  - "...the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them." (v.7)
  - Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites, orders killing of baby boys

Context

- Moses:
  - Exodus 2: saved by mother, raised as an Egyptian royal, kills Egyptian slave-master, flees to wilderness
  - Exodus 3: Encounters God in burning bush
  - Exodus 7-11: Moses & Pharaoh, plagues
  - Exodus 12: THE Exodus

Context

- Exodus 16: wilderness, manna and quail
- God fulfilling promises:
  - Descendants
  - Land

Exodus 19 & 20

- Exodus 19: Covenant
- Exodus 20: Commandments

Exodus 19: Covenant

- v.1-3: arrive at Mount Sinai
- God reminds them: “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.” (v.4)
  - Metaphor of eagles

Exodus 19: Covenant

- vv.5-6: “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19: Covenant

- Covenant
  - Chapter 19-24: Mosaic Covenant
  - Covenant is already happening
    - Exodus 2:24-25:“God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”

Exodus 19: Covenant

- vv.5-6: “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19: Covenant

1. God’s treasured possession
2. A kingdom of priests
3. A holy nation

- Israel to be priestly mediators of his blessings on earth, which is part of his plan and purpose.
- v.8: “we will do everything the LORD has said.”

Exodus 20: Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before me (v.3)
2. You shall not make for yourself and image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. (v.4)
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God… (v.7)
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy (v.8)
5. Honour your father and your mother (v.12)

Exodus 20: Commandments

6. You shall not murder (v.13)
7. You shall not commit adultery (v.14)
8. You shall not steal (v.15)
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour (v.16)
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not cover your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. (v.17)

Exodus 20: Commandments

- Spoken directly to the people by God, Exodus 20:1: "God spoke all these words"
- Repeated, in Deuteronomy 5
- v. 2: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (NRSV)
  - Relationship he already has, they are already saved

Exodus 20: Commandments

1. Relationship with God
2. Relationship with people
3. Relationship with all

Exodus 20: Commandments

1. Relationship with God
   - First three commands (vv.3-7), loyalty to God alone
2. Relationships with people
   - Last set of commands (vv.12-17)
3. Relationships with all
   - Sabbath (v.8), sign of the covenant

Takeaways

- Keep our eyes on God… do not let other things distract us from keeping God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit central in our lives
- Our relationship with God should change the way we live… and that change should be evident to the world around us

Takeaways

- 2 Peter 2:9-10: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."
- "Live such good lives… that they may see your good deeds and glorify God" (v.12)