

Worldview Stories 2020 CSB

43 The Law (*Exodus 19 – 20 & 24*)

The Israelites came to Mount Sinai three months after they left Egypt. They set up camp at the base, and Moses went up the mountain to talk with God. The Lord said, “Tell the people, ‘If you obey me and keep my commandments, then you’ll be my treasured possession. You’ll be my holy people among all the nations.’”

When Moses told this to the people, they all agreed and said, “We’ll do everything God says!”

So Moses went back up the mountain and told God that the people agreed to his conditions. Then the Lord said, “I want them to hear me talking to you so they’ll always trust you. Tell them to spend three days cleansing their hearts and washing their clothes. Then I’ll come down on the mountain and talk to them.”

So the people did as they were told. They washed their clothes and dedicated themselves to the Lord. Suddenly, on the third day, the mountain burned with fire. The ground shook, and a cloud covered the entire mountain. There was thunder and lightning, and the people heard what sounded like trumpets that grew louder and louder.

Then God said, “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt with a mighty hand!

You’re not to worship other gods.
You’re not to make idols of any kind.
You’re to keep my name holy and not misuse it.

You’re not to work on the seventh day, but instead, keep it holy.

Honor your parents and you’ll live long upon the earth.

You’re not to murder.

You’re not to commit adultery.

You’re not to steal.

You’re not to lie to others or about others.

You’re not to desire to have anything that belongs to someone else.”

The people cried out, “Tell God to stop talking to us. We’ll die if he keeps talking! Let him talk to you, and then you tell us what he said. We’ll listen to you.”

Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. God wants you to stand in awe of him, so you’ll stay away from sin.” Then Moses went up the mountain to talk with God.

God gave him detailed instructions on how the people were to live their lives and how they were to treat one another. God told how to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. He also gave instructions on how to build the Ark of God, so he could live among his people.

Finally, God gave Moses two tablets of stone with his laws written by the finger of God.

38 Pharaoh's Plagues (*Exodus 7-9*)

The Lord told Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh in the morning when he was walking next to the Nile River. Moses said, "Because you refuse to free our people, the waters of Egypt will turn to blood. The fish will die and the water will be undrinkable." Aaron then struck the water with his staff and it turned into blood.

The court magicians also turned some water into blood. Therefore, Pharaoh ignored Moses and Aaron. Soon the water throughout the land turned to blood and was undrinkable. The people had to dig wells to find fresh water.

After seven days, Moses told Pharaoh, "Because of your stubbornness, frogs will infest your land."

So Aaron stretched out his staff, and frogs started coming up out of the rivers and lakes. The magicians also made some frogs appear. Soon there were frogs everywhere. They went to every city street. They got into people's houses and into their food—even into their beds!

Pharaoh said to Moses, "I've changed my mind. Your people can go into the wilderness and worship their God. Ask Him to get rid of the frogs."

Moses asked, "When do you want the frogs to leave?" Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow."

The next day the frogs died, and people gathered them up into big piles. Soon they started to stink! Pharaoh then changed his mind and refused to let the people go.

Next, Aaron struck the ground with his staff and the dust turned into lice. Soon, all the people and animals throughout Egypt were infested with lice. Pharaoh's magicians were unable to do this. They said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God!" Still he wouldn't let the people go.

Next, God sent swarms of flies to cover the land. But there were no flies in the part of Egypt where the Hebrews lived.

Pharaoh agreed to let the people go. Moses said the flies would be gone the next day, but he added, "Take care. Don't change your mind again!" However, that is exactly what he did. Once the flies were gone, Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the people go.

Moses took a handful of ashes and tossed it into the air. It became a fine dust that spread through all of Egypt causing boils on all the people and animals. The magicians couldn't stand before Pharaoh because of their boils!

Pharaoh was angry, and refused to listen to Moses. God had told Moses that Pharaoh would act like this.

Moses went to Pharaoh with a special message from God. He said, "Up to this point I've restrained My hand against you. Now, My plagues will be directed toward you and your people. When I'm done, all the nations on earth will know I am the Lord!

"Tomorrow I'll send a hailstorm like you've never seen before! All people and animals are to stay under shelters, or they'll die!"

The next day, fierce hail mixed with fire came down and ruined the crops that were in the fields. Yet the hail didn't fall in the land where the Israelites lived.

Some of the Egyptians did as Moses told them. They put their animals and slaves under shelters. But others didn't, and their livestock and slaves died in the storm.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. "I know I've sinned. I'm wrong and God is right. Please pray and ask Him to stop this storm. I'll let your people go."

Moses said, "This storm will stop as soon as I leave here." He started to leave, then turned to Pharaoh. "I know you don't fear God."

And it was true. As soon as Pharaoh saw the storm and the hail stop, he stubbornly turned against God and the people of Israel.

58 Achan (*Joshua 7 - 8*)

Before conquering Jericho, Joshua had made it clear to the people, “Be careful! Don’t take anything that is set aside for the Lord, or you will be set aside for destruction.”

One of the soldiers that went into Jericho that day was a man named Achan. There he saw a bag of silver coins, a bar of gold, and a beautiful coat from Babylon. He took them and hid them inside his tent. This angered the Lord.

After the victory at Jericho, Joshua sent scouts to spy out a city called Ai. They came back and said, “There are only a few people at Ai. We won’t need to send our full force there, possibly only two or three thousand men.

So Joshua sent 3,000 men to conquer Ai. To their surprise, the men of the city won the battle! They killed thirty-six Israelites and chased away the rest of them.

The people were horrified at this defeat. Joshua tore his clothes. He and the elders fell down before the Ark of God with their faces to the ground. They put dust on their heads and stayed there all day.

Joshua said, “Oh Lord! Why did you bring us across the river? The Canaanites will hear about this defeat. They’ll surround us and wipe us off the earth. Then what will happen to your great name?”

The Lord said, “Get off the ground and stand up! Israel lost today because there’s sin in the camp. They disobeyed my command and took what was to be set apart. As long as you have those things, you’ll lose every battle because I’ll no longer be with you.”

The next morning, Joshua had all of Israel stand before him. Each tribe passed in front of him. The Lord selected the tribe of Judah. All the clans of Judah passed in front of him. The Lord selected one of them. All the families of that clan passed in front of him. The Lord selected one of them. From that family, Achan was selected.

Joshua said to him, “Son, what have you done. Don’t hide anything from me.”

Achan broke down and said, “It’s true. I sinned against the Lord. I saw a bag of silver coins, a bar of gold, and a beautiful coat from Babylon. I wanted them, so I took them and hid them in my tent.”

Joshua sent men to Achan’s tent to get the things he took. He then spread them out before the Lord and all of Israel.

The people then gathered everything that belonged to Achan; his sons and daughters, his livestock, his tent, and the things he took from Jericho. They stoned them until they were dead, and then burnt their bodies. They put a pile of stones on top of their ashes.

The Lord was no longer angry with his people. So he said to Joshua, “Take your entire army and attack Ai. I’ve given them to you. Once you conquer them, the people may keep whatever they find there.”

Joshua sent a group of men out at night. He said, “Go behind the city and hide.” He gave them exact instructions of what to do.

The next morning, he sent a troop to fight Ai. The men of the city saw them coming and went out to fight them. In the heat of battle, Israel started to run away, as they had done before. The men of Ai chased after them, leaving the city unprotected.

Once the men were away from the city, the Israelite soldiers came out of hiding and went into Ai and set it on fire. The men of Ai turned and saw their city on fire. They realized they were now between two parts of the Israelite army. They tried to escape, but couldn’t. All of them were killed in the battle.

The people were allowed to keep everything they found in the city, including the livestock. Then they destroyed the city.

After all of this, the people sacrificed to the Lord. Afterwards, Joshua read the entire Law to all the people, including the men, the women and the children.

149 Uzziah *(2 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 26-27)*

When Amaziah died, the people made his son, Uzziah, king. He was 16 years old and served as king for 52 years. God gave him great success because he followed the Lord and wanted to please him.

Uzziah did many wonderful works. He defeated the enemies of Judah and was known far and wide as a powerful king. He restored Jerusalem and strengthened the other cities of Judah. He loved the soil, so he excelled in farm activities. He provided for his army so that every man was well equipped for battle. He invented the catapult, so he could throw large stones from the walls of Jerusalem.

One day, King Uzziah was feeling proud of his accomplishments and his dedication to God. He decided to go into the Temple and burn the incense himself, instead of letting the priest do it. The high priest suddenly realized what he was about to do. He got 80 other priests and went in the Temple so they could stop the king from doing this.

He said, "Uzziah, this is wrong! God made it clear that only a descendant of Aaron is allowed to offer incense to the Lord. Please, leave right now! You're not honoring God in this."

Uzziah became angry as he stood next to the altar with the censer in his hand. He couldn't believe all the priests were so bold as to confront him on this. Suddenly leprosy appeared on his forehead. All of the priests saw it and rushed him out of the Temple. He willingly went with them because he knew the Lord was punishing him.

Uzziah had leprosy for the rest of his life. He had to stay away from other people, so he lived in isolation. Because of the leprosy, he wasn't allowed to go into the Temple. He couldn't even go into his own palace. His son Jotham lived there and ruled the people in the king's stead.

Jotham became king after his father died. He followed the example of his father's early years. He continued to build up the kingdom of Judah. He did what was right and became a powerful king.

232 Cornelius (*Acts 10-11:18*)

Cornelius was a military officer in the Roman army. He was a good man who worshiped God.

An angel appeared to him and said, “Cornelius, God has heard your prayers. Send men to Joppa, to the home of Simon the tanner who lives by the sea. There they’ll find a man called Peter and he’ll tell you what to do.” With that, the angel disappeared.

Immediately, Cornelius sent men to Joppa. They arrived the next day around noon. Before they got there, Peter went up to the open roof to pray. He was waiting for the noon meal.

Suddenly he became extremely hungry and fell into a trance. He saw the heavens open and a large sheet come down. In it were all kinds of animals that Jews weren’t allowed to eat. A voice said, “Peter, get up. Kill one of these animals and eat it.”

“Lord, you know I’ve never eaten anything common or unclean.”

The voice said, “When God has made something clean, never call it common or unclean.” This happened a second time, and a third. Then the sheet went back into heaven.

Peter woke up but was confused about what this vision meant. At that moment, the men from Cornelius were at the gate. The Holy Spirit said, “I’ve sent these men to you. Don’t hesitate to go with them.”

Peter went down and greeted the men. They told him about Cornelius, and he agreed to go with them. In the morning he took several believers and they started on their trip.

They arrived the next day, and Cornelius ran to meet them. He fell down in front of Peter and started to worship him. Peter said, “Stand up! I’m just a man.”

He went into Cornelius’s home and saw that he had invited others to be there so they could hear God’s message. Peter said to the group. “God revealed to me that he has opened the door and is now calling people from other nations to himself. Therefore, I’ll tell you the message that was given to Israel. It is that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.”

He then told them about Jesus and his miracles. He described how the Jewish leaders killed him, but God raised him from the dead. Peter said, “Everyone who puts their faith in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins.”

As soon as he said those words, the Holy Spirit filled every person in the house. This shocked the Jewish believers when they saw that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles.

Peter turned to them and said, “Is there any reason why we shouldn’t baptize these people?” They all agreed, so the new believers were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

News of this quickly spread to believers throughout the nation. The leadership in Jerusalem asked Peter, “You stayed in the home of Gentiles and even ate meals with them?”

He explained exactly what happened. He told them about the vision on the housetop, the crowd at the house of Cornelius, and how the Holy Spirit filled the people. He concluded by saying, “God gave them the same gift he gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. How could I fight against God?”

The believers in Jerusalem had no argument when they heard this. They said, “God has given forgiveness of sins and eternal life to the Gentiles.”

1 Peter 1:21-22 Exercise in Biblical Worldview discovery

Look for and distinctively mark:

Guilt/Innocence;

Honor/Shame;

Fear/Power; and

Purity/Pollution.

(ex: G/I=pink or triangle; H/S=green or sideways arrow; F/P=Orange or wavy line; P/P=yellow or box)

Through Christ you have come to trust in God.
And you have placed your faith and hope in
God because he raised Christ from the dead and
gave him great glory. You were cleansed from
your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now
you must show sincere love to each other as
brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply
with all your heart.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Through Him you believe in (adhere to, rely
on) God, Who raised Him up from the dead and
gave Him honor and glory, so that your faith
and hope are [centered and rest] in God.
Since by your obedience to the Truth through
the [Holy] Spirit you have purified your hearts
for the sincere affection of the brethren, [see
that you] love one another fervently from a
pure heart.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

... who through him are believers in God, who
raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God. Having
purified your souls by your obedience to the
truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one
another earnestly from a pure heart,
English Standard Version (ESV)

You believe in God through Christ. God is the
one who raised him from death and gave honor
to him. So your faith and your hope are in God.
You have made yourselves pure by obeying the
truth. Now you can have true love for your
brothers and sisters. So love each other
deeply—with all your heart.

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

Through Him you are believers in God, who
raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory,
so that your trust and hope are in God. Now
that you have purified your souls in obedience
to the truth, leading to sincere brotherly love,
love one another fervently from a pure heart.
Tree of Life Version (TLV)

(Other scriptures may have Patron/Client relationships and expectations. Choose an appropriate shape or color for them. I chose blue or a circle.)