

CASKET EMPTY:

God's Plan of Redemption through History

Old Testament Overview

Session 3 - Sinai, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Approximate Dates: 1450-1050 BC



God's Revelation through Moses

- Moses is God's chosen leader.
- God reveals His name: "I AM who I AM" - YHWH (Exod 3)
- God delivers His people in the Exodus (Exod 12–15)

Mosaic Covenant

- God makes a covenant with Israel at Mt Sinai (Exod 19–24).
- Ten Commandments given by God (Exod 20).
- Worship only the Lord God.
- The Israelites agree to obey God's laws.
- God will bless Israel if they obey His laws, but curse them if they disobey them (Lev 26; Deut 27–28).
- God's people make an idol and worship it, but the Lord is Gracious (Exod 32–34).

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...Exodus 34:6

God's Presence with His People

- God will dwell with His people in the tabernacle (Exod 25–40)
- Sacrifices provided for sin and impurity (Lev 1–7, 16–17)
- Priests: Tribe of Levi (Lev 8–10, 16)
- Laws for a “holy people” (Lev 11–25)

Entering the Promised Land

- God's people prepare to enter the land under Moses (Numbers)
- 40 years of wilderness wanderings
- Moses explains the law to the new generation (Deuteronomy)
- Covenant renewal
- Conquest of the promised land under Joshua (Joshua)
- The Israelites serve idols like the nations (Judges)
- God raises up deliverers (“judges”) to lead Israel (Judges)
- God's king is coming from the line of Judah (Ruth)

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes...

Judges 21:25

Discussion

- 1) Consider God's revelation of himself to Moses, particularly the nature of God as self-existent. Michael Horton writes of the aseity of God revealed in Exodus 3: "Precisely because God is not dependent on anyone or anything he has created, we are assured that nothing will keep him from being there for us."¹ How would the nature of God's as self-existent have been a comfort to the Israelites in their time? How does it continue to comfort us today?
- 2) John's gospel records several "I am" statements of Jesus, echoing the "I am" revelation of God in Exodus 3. Read John 8:48-59. What is Jesus communicating about himself here? Why do the Jews respond the way that they do in v. 59?
- 3) In the Exodus story God proves his superiority over the lesser "gods" of Egypt and delivers his people from slavery, foreshadowing our deliverance from exile through the sacrifice of God's Son. Read 1 Corinthians 5:7. How does Paul's reference to Christ Jesus as the Passover Lamb inform our understanding of the nature of Jesus' sacrifice and what he came to do?
- 4) God gave the Law to guide his people as his royal representatives, foreshadowing a community of Spirit-led Christ-followers with the Word of God written on their hearts. Read 2 Corinthians 3:3-6. What differences do you notice between the written law given at Mt. Sinai and the "new covenant" we have in Christ?
- 5) God gave prophets like Moses to speak his Word, foreshadowing a better prophet who perfectly embodies the Word of God. Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19. How does this passage anticipate a better prophet to come. Consider John 1:14. How is Jesus the fulfillment of the promised prophet? How is he more than just a prophet of God?
- 6) Throughout their wilderness wanderings and into the story of the Judges, we see Israel's pride, failure to trust God's word, and tendency towards the slavery of idolatry. How has God delivered us from this cycle of sin? How can we help each other better trust God's Word and avoid the sin of pride and slavery to idols?

¹ *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*, 232)