

EXODUS 23 –LAWS: Speech, Enemies, Sabbath and Feasts

I. (1-3) Speech

No false report (gossip, slander, back-biting, malice, defamation), deceptive witness, following a crowd to do evil and no partiality in executing justice.

Proverbs 10:18 - Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Ephesians 4:31 - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

James 4:11 - Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

1 Peter 2:1-2 - Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

II. (4-5) Do good for those who hate you.

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

III. (6-9) Do not pervert justice, keep away from falsehood, do not kill the innocent, do not take a bribe and do not oppress the strangers.

Galatians 5:14 - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; You shall love your neighbour as thyself.

IV. (10-13) The Sabbath principle.

Observe the Sabbatical Law; every seventh years is fallow for the land, every seventh day is rest for you and respect the LORD alone.

One reason God commanded the Sabbath year was to give the poor something to eat, in that they were allowed to harvest and process that which grew unplanted from the **fallow** ground.

V. (14-17): Three Feasts.

- Feast of Unleavened Bread (connected to Passover); eating unleavened bread for seven days.
- Feast of Firstfruits; offering the LORD the first of an annual harvest.
- Feast of Ingathering (Pentecost); Gathering after harvest.

VI. (18-19) Laws concerning sacrifices.

- Sacrificial blood of animals wasn't to be mixed with leaven.
- Firstfruits were to taken to the Temple.
- No boiling baby goats in their mother's milk – it was a traditional-superstition practice among pagans

VII. (20-33) The Angel who has the name of God in Him.

An angel is dispatched to go before them, to protect them and get them to their destination on one condition, obedience. If they obey;

- God will heal them of any illness.
- God will make them fruitful.
- God will confuse their enemies and drive them out of the land using insects.

Joshua 24:11-14 - *'Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you—also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand. 'I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow. 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'* *"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!*

Leviticus 18:5 - *'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.*

Romans 7:12 - *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*