

Exodus 20:18-26

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

America's great experiment in freedom was once the closest to the Sinai vision because it was largely, though not consistently, based on it. Sadly, its initial glaring inconsistency—slavery—is the chief reason why even Americans are rejecting their founding today. The hypocrisy of the contradiction between slavery and the Declaration of Independence was obvious to other countries from the beginning... [But] Exodus provides a blueprint for rededication and renewal, if that is the American decision. To make America great again can only be done by taking seriously what made America great in the first place, and reconsidering Exodus is indispensable to that task. There are two orders to be considered in the rise and fall of nations—the physical order, including the economy and military, and the moral order, including freedom and justice. To try to make America great through the economy and the military alone can only fail.

—Os Guinness, *The Magna Carta of Humanity*

The Ten Commandments reveal God's righteous character. They also summarize the foundational principles for ethics and for life.

Do not have other gods before Me
Rejecting God

Do not make for yourself an idol
Redefining God

Do not take the Lord's name in vain
Reviling God's name

Remember the Sabbath day
Refusing to stop and consider God

Honor your father and your mother
Rejecting the family

Do not murder
Devaluing of life

Do not commit adultery
Devaluing of sex & marriage

Do not steal
Devaluing of personal property

Do not bear false witness
Devaluing of truth

Do not covet
Demanding that all bow to self

The influence of the Ten Words on Western morality and law is beyond calculation. They have come to be recognized as the basis of all public morality. —Bernard Ramm

Language is the narrow bridge across the abyss between soul and soul. So it is between us and the Soul of the universe. Revelation takes place through speech. That is what happened at Sinai. Infinity spoke and the world trembled. In the silence of the desert the Israelites heard the voice of God.

—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

A proper fear of God is the indefinable mixture of reverence, pleasure, joy, and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what He has done for us.

—Sinclair Ferguson

Slave-dread, the wrong type of fear, does not motivate obedience. It causes us to run away from God. By contrast, son-fear motivates us to pursue God. Those who fear Him as sons obey God and keep His commandments. —William Farley

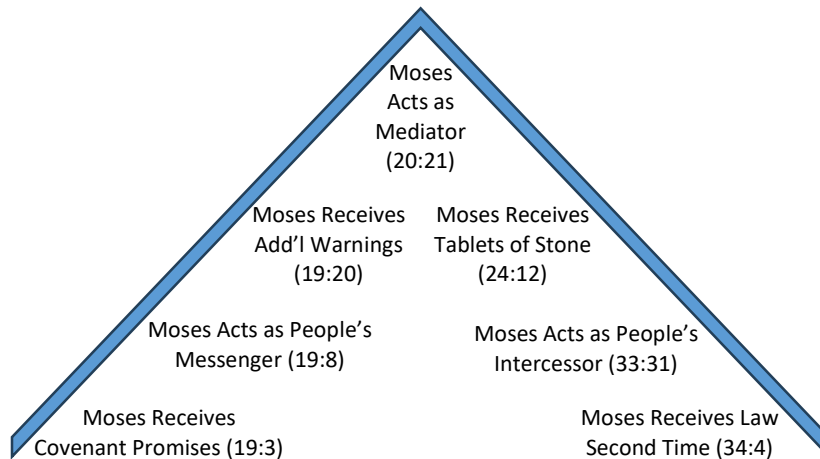
THE FEAR OF THE LORD (20:18-20)

- All the people _____ the astonishing power of God.
- All the people _____ the penetrating voice of God.
- All the people _____ the terrifying fear of God.
- Moses _____ the people to a proper fear of God.

THE NEED FOR A MEDIATOR (20:21)

*The people stood afar off,
but Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.*

- Moses acts as God's _____.
- Moses acts as the people's _____.



THE BOOK OF THE COVENANT (20:22-23:33)

- A. Obeying & Worshiping God Alone (20:22-26)
- B. Laws Dealing with Relationship with Others (21:1-27)
- C. Laws Dealing with Property & Restitution (21:28-22:17)
- D. Abominations in the Land (22:18-20)**
- C. Laws Dealing with the Poor & Disadvantaged (22:21-23:9)
- B. Laws Dealing with Relationship with God (23:10-19)
- A. Obeying & Worshiping God Alone (23:20-33)

1. We must worship God according to His _____ (20:22).
2. We must worship God as He truly is (20:23).
3. We must worship God in _____ (20:24-25).
4. We must worship God in _____ (20:26).
5. We must worship God through Jesus Christ alone! (Heb. 12:22-24)

The public nature of the Torah generates the obligation on each person to be informed of its contents. Education thereby becomes a religious duty incumbent upon every individual member of the house of Israel. —Nahum Sarna

The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. —A. W. Tozer

From a human perspective it often appears as if seeing is a more precise form of knowledge than hearing. However, hearing has greater power than seeing. Sight discloses the external aspect of things, but hearing reveals their inwardness... That is why the key word of Judaism is shema. God is not something we see, but a voice we hear. —Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

God is invisible but not inaudible. —Os Guinness

The hallmark of the genuineness of the people of God is that they possess, listen to, and obey the word of God. —J. Alec Motyer

God not only wanted Israel to avoid worshiping pagan gods, He also wanted them to avoid worshiping like the pagans. —Tony Merida

Ex. 20:26 intends to oppose the practice of certain peoples in the ancient East, like the Sumerians, whose priests...used to perform every ritual ceremony in a state of nakedness. —Umberto Cassuto

You cannot get nearer to God on the footing of works, for Mt. Sinai is the symbol of works. Look to the fire that Moses saw, and shrink, tremble, and despair. You cannot get to God that way. Calvary is the mountain. —Charles Spurgeon