

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 5 – NEW COMMANDS AND A NEW COVENANT

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

DIGGING IN

- 1) After coming out of Egypt God made a covenant with the people of Israel. A covenant is an agreement between two parties. Describe the covenant the LORD made with the Israelites. What did each party agree to do? What was God's purpose in forming this covenant?

GOD'S LAW

There are many misunderstandings today about the laws that God gave to the people of Israel. Do they still apply to us? If so, then why don't we follow the food regulations (ie. no pork, ect)? Why don't we have the sacrifices that God commanded? Why don't we follow the laws that described what to do if someone had a skin infection or if a home had mildew?

To answer any of these questions we have to understand the different kinds of Laws that God gave to his people:

Civil Laws – These laws governed the lives of the people as they interacted in society.

Ceremonial Laws – (Sacrifices and Sabbath Day, ect) These laws governed the religious life of the people of Israel.

Moral Law – (Summarized in the 10 Commandments) These laws are intended for all people of all time. They were repeated by Jesus and his apostles and still are in effect today.

The Civil Laws fell out of effect when the Old Testament Nation of Israel was overthrown. The Ceremonial Laws were fulfilled by Jesus and no longer apply to us. (Colossians 2:16-17) God's Moral Law still stands for us today. His law serves the purpose of exposing our sins (leading to repentance) and guiding us in holy living.

2) As the Israelites waited for Moses to descend from the mountain they became impatient and made a golden idol in the shape of a calf. We may not be making golden calves, yet what are some false gods/idols worshiped in our society today?

3) Twice in this chapter God describes himself as “jealous.” In what sense is God jealous? Contrast that with the jealousy that you and I are more familiar with.

4) How did the Israelites go from saying, “Everything the LORD has said, we will do,” to building a false god in just a little over a month? Can this same thing still happen to Christians today? (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12)

5) When the LORD passed in front of Moses he declared, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.” (Exodus 34:5-7) Where do we see both the Lord’s mercy and his justice in this section? In what way is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of these words?

FOR NEXT TIME

Chapter 6: Wandering

Bible Reference: Numbers 10-14; 20-21; 25; 27; Deuteronomy 1-2; 4; 6; 8-9; 29-32; 34