



Spiritual Lessons from the life of Moses

Lesson 14- The Book of the Covenant

Exodus 21, 22,
23, 24

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(1) Background: God gave the Ten Commandments.

(2) The Mosaic Law has 3 parts:

(a) The Decalogue (Ten Commandments)

- Exod 20:1-21

(b) The Book of the Covenant

- Exod 20:22-24:11

(c) The Ceremonial Regulations

- Exod 24:12-31:18

(3) The Westminster Confession of Faith

XIX The Law of God

3. Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits;...All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the new testament.

4. To them also, as a body politic, He gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people; not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require. [The Book of the Covenant is expired.]



Exodus 19:24:

²⁴ And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee:

but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.



Exodus 20:4

‘You shall not make any graven image.’

The Lord also gave other commandments.

Exodus 20:21

After God gave the 10 Commandments, Moses approached God to receive other laws.



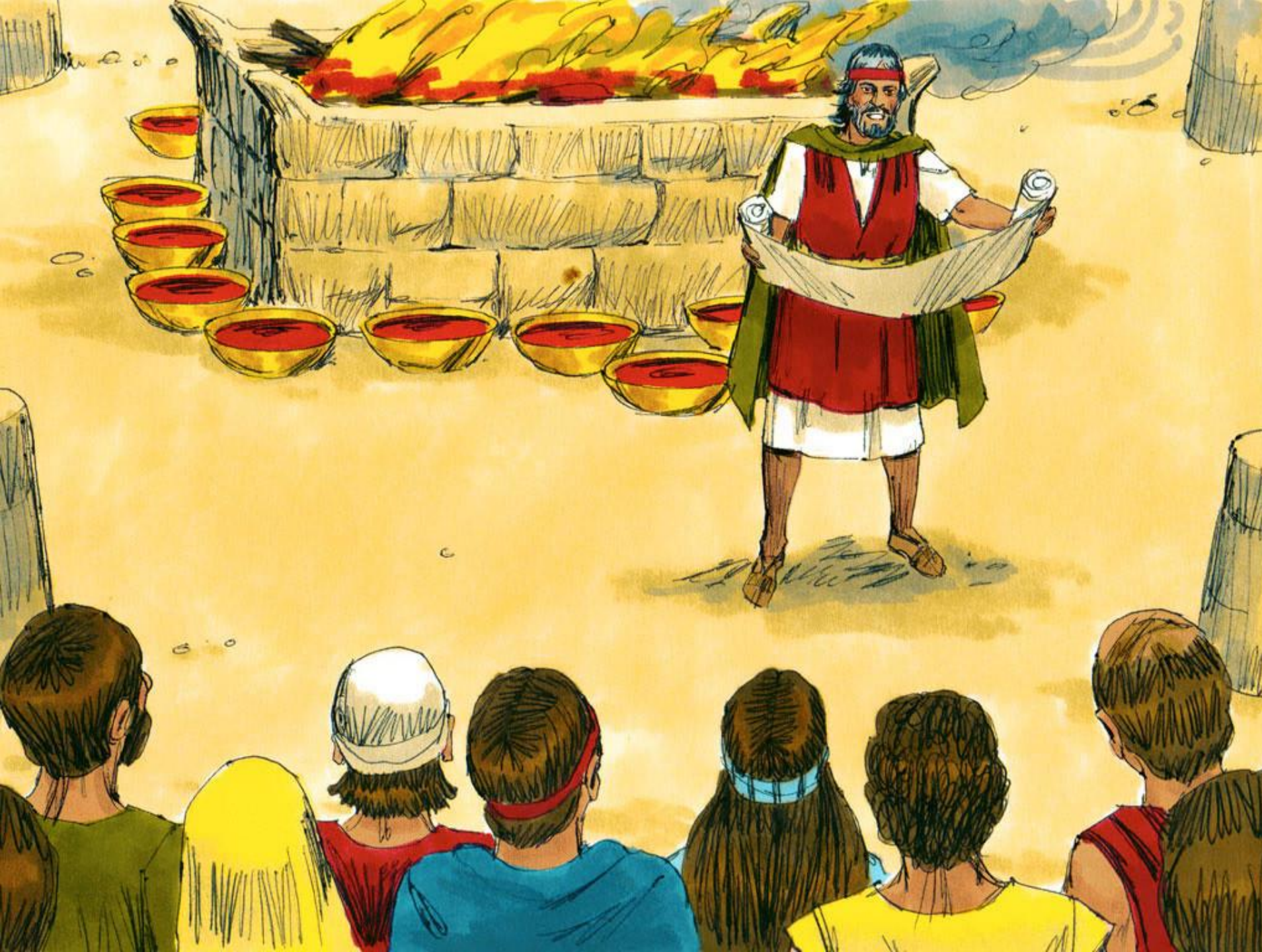
Exodus 24:3-4

Moses wrote down God's laws and then told everyone what God had commanded.

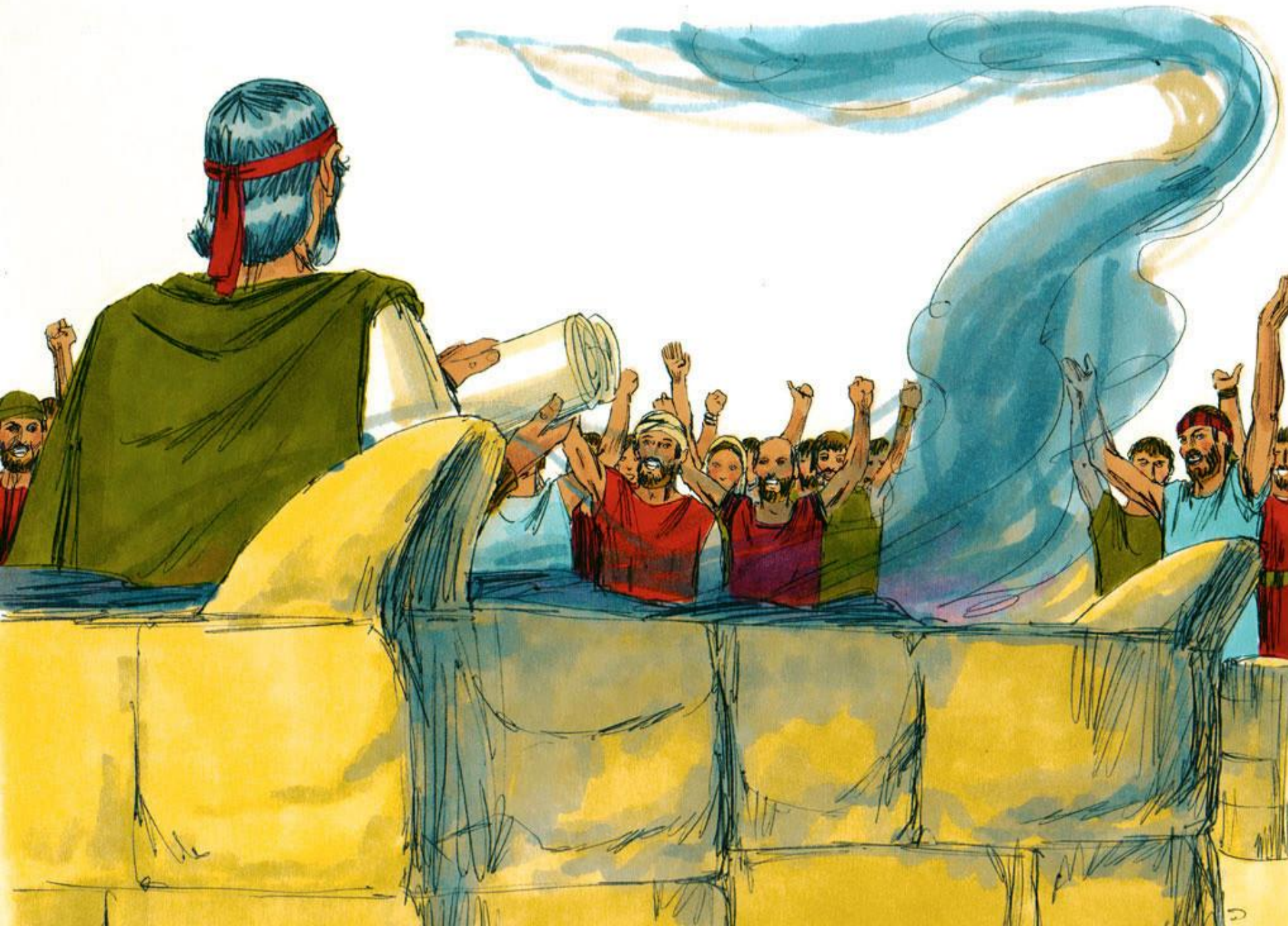


Exodus 24:3-4

‘We will do everything the Lord has said,’ they all replied.



Exodus 24:4-7 The next morning Moses built an altar to God at the foot of the mountain. Young bulls were sacrificed and half of their blood was splashed on the altar with the rest put in bowls. Moses then read the Book of the Covenant to everyone again.



Exodus 24:7-8

‘We will do everything the Lord has said,’ they promised. ‘We will obey.’ Moses then sprinkled the blood on them and said, ‘This is the blood of the agreement (covenant) God has made with us.’



Exodus 24: 9-11

Moses then led the leaders up the mountain where they saw God but He spared their lives. Under God's feet was something that looked like a pavement of bright blue marble. The leaders ate and drank on the mountain.



Exodus 24: 12-14

God then asked Moses to come to the top of the mountain on his own where God would write His commands on tablets of stone.



Exodus 24: 15-18

The cloud covered the mountain for six days and then on the seventh God called to Moses. He went into the cloud where he stayed for 40 days and nights.

(4) Here is a brief summary of **the Book of the Covenant**

S/N	Law/Offence	Scripture	Comments
1.	<u>Treatment of Hebrew servants-</u> A person could sell himself and his wife due to poverty or debt. But, they would be freed after 6 years of labour for their master.	Exod 21:2-3	The laws provided good treatment of the servants, not ruthless treatment.
2.	Provision for good treatment of servants, not slavery.	Lev 25:39-43	Welfare for servants came from the Bible.

S/N	Law/Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
1.	<p><u>Personal Injuries</u></p> <p>The following crimes attracted the death penalty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premeditated murder • Physical violence against parents 	<p>Exod 21:12, 14</p> <p>Exod 21:15</p>	<p>Death</p> <p>All forms of grievous hurt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine • Jail • Caning • Compensation for medical care

S/N	Law/Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal abuse of parents 	Exod 21:17	Harassment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine • Jail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidnapping 	Exod 21:16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine • Jail • Caning
	<p><u>Personal Injuries</u> If a man kills another unintentionally, the man shall not be put to death but be protected at a designated place.</p>	Exod 21:13	Manslaughter today.

S/No	Law/Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
4.	In a fight, the injured party would be given compensation for his loss of work time and for medical expenses.	Exod 21:18, 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jail• Fine• Compensation

S/No	Law/Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
7.	<p><u>Protection of Property</u> If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and subsequently slaughters or sells it, he must repay back 5 oxen (for 1 stolen ox) or 4 sheep (for 1 stolen sheep).</p>	Exod 22:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail • Fine • Compensation
8.	<p>A thief must make restitution. But if he has nothing, he must be sold to pay for the theft.</p>	Exod 22:3	
9.	<p>If the stolen animal is found alive, he must pay back double.</p>	Exod 22:4	

S/No	Law/Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
10.	<p><u>Property damage</u> If the grazing field is damaged by another person's live-stock, or if a fire destroys another persons crops, the offender must make restitution from his own field.</p>	Exod 22:5-6	In SG, the culprit must compensate for loss and damage.

S/No	Offence	Scripture	Penalty in SG
12.	When an animal has been borrowed, and it was stolen by a thief, the thief must compensate double the value that was stolen.	Exod 22:7	In SG, the thief is liable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine• Jail• Compensation

S/No	Law/Offence	Scripture	Welfare in SG
13.	<p>Laws to protect the underprivileged:</p> <p>(a) Foreigners to be treated benevolently.</p> <p>(b) Do not take advantage of people without fathers or husbands.</p> <p>(c) Grains would be left for widows and orphans.</p> <p>(d) Loans to Israelites with financial need would be interest free.</p>	<p>Exod 22:21</p> <p>22:22-24</p> <p>Deut 24:19-21</p> <p>Exod 22:25-27</p>	<p>Welfare for the under-privileged and needy came from the Bible.</p>

S/No	Offence	Scripture	Comments
16.	<u>Annual Festivals</u> Feast of the unleavened bread – When the Israelites left Egypt	Exod 23:15	In remembrance of the hasty departure from Egypt.
17.	Feast of the Harvest – Firstfruits of the crops were to be given to the Lord.	Exod 23:16	In remembrance of God’s deliverance.
18.	Feast of Ingathering – When the grains and fruits were gathered at the end of harvest.	Exod 23:16	In remembrance of God’s provision.

S/No	Offence	Scripture	Comments
19	<p><u>Confirmation of the Covenants</u> <u>(including the 10 Commandments)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building an altar <li>• Sacrificing young bulls as burnt offering and peace offering <li>• Offering of blood <li>• Reading the Book of the Covenant <li>• Responding to God by obeying Him <li>• Sprinkling of blood on the people 	Exod 24:1-8	As believers, we practise faith in Christ and obedience to God's word.

What Should We Do?

(1) We must obey the laws of the country.

- Many SG laws have their roots in the Bible. Unless there is violation of God's Word, we have to obey these laws even though we may disagree with them.

Eg. Jay-walking, speeding, drink driving, littering.

- Romans 13:1: ***“13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”***

What Should We Do?

(2) Although the ceremonial and judicial laws are no longer applicable to us today, the moral principles behind them should still be kept.

- Principle of Welfare to the under-privileged and needy. Eg. Good treatment of your domestic helpers, care for the widows and elderly in church
- Principle of Justice and Compensation. Eg. If you damage someone's property (eg accidentally damaged a car), be ready to pay compensation. Do not try to get away with it.