

Exodus (7) Holy Nation

2017/10/20 Bible Study

I. Scripture: Exodus 19: 1-8; 20:1-20

II. God was displeased with the people not because they asked for water and food. God rebuked them because they belittled and despised God as they faced various difficult situations, and that they completely forgot all that God has done for them. If someone were to treat you that way, how would you feel? 1Corinthians 10:1-13 has recorded this passage, so that how they lived can be an admonition for us; may God help us to not repeat after the Israelites.

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."(Exodus 19:5-6)

These verses talk about God's intention when instituting the Ten Commandments, laws and decrees. Among the many nations, the Jewish people is a very special race; nevertheless, their greatest difference from the people of the world is their relationship with God; God has especially chosen the Israelites, to be God's people, and to be God's special treasure. God is holy, and He desires all who belong to Him be holy; therefore, He commands the people to abide by His law as they worship Him and get along with others. This is a different life style from the people of the world, it is a blessed and holy life that pleases God.

God reveals the desires of His heart through the contents of the commandments, laws and decrees; He defined the relationship between man and God, and specified the relationship between people. From that, we can know His holiness, love, mercy, righteousness, grace, and wisdom. "Holy nation" is not referring to being perfect without sin, but it is referring to the position of belonging to God, possessing a life of God. When we believe and accept Jesus as Savior, we have received His life; but, we still need to practice doing God's word, depart from lowly things, be set free from the bondage of sin, live out the reality of holy people, and manifesting God's nature. May the Lord help us to have a heart of reverence, and to follow the word of God in our conduct, that we may be blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we shine as lights in the world. (Philippians 2:15)

III. Thoughts and sharing :

1. What is the content of the "Ten commandments" and what do you know about God's nature?
2. There were many commandments, laws and decrees in the old testament time. The Lord Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." The Israelites did not continue in His covenant, so God made a new covenant, and God puts His laws in our minds, write them on our hearts (Hebrews 8:8-10). Please share: How do Christians continue in God's laws in this present generation (1John 2:27)? After reading "The Ten Commandments" this time, what words were you reminded by the Lord?