

**SLAVES SET FREE**  
**A Study in the Book of Exodus**  
*Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011*


**The Law**

**Exodus 21–23:19**

*"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.  
The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you;  
you need only to be still."* Exodus 14:13–14

**Day 1: Read Exodus 21.**

*These chapters deal with the various laws that God gave to the Israelites. The laws can be divided into specific areas of life. As you read through each of the sections, consider how the laws of God resemble or do not resemble our current laws.*

1. In the Near Eastern culture, slaves were the property of their owner. Their service was for life, without any reprieves. In contrast, what provision did God give for the Hebrew servants/slaves of the Israelites? (21:1–2; \* Deut. 15:12–14)
2. What reason does God give for the Hebrew servant to be set free? (Deut. 15:15)
3. Read 21:12–32. What do these laws reveal about how God views human life and justice for breaking the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment? (v. 13)
4. Read Matthew 5:38–42. How does Jesus' view of restitution/retaliation of wrongdoing differ from the Old Testament view?
5. What is your first response when someone has wronged you?

**Day 2: Read Exodus 22:1–15.**

6. Many of the laws concern a person's property. As you look at these laws, what attitude does God have towards the individual's property and his neighbor's property?

7. When some of the laws are broken, the case is to be taken "to the judges" (22:8-9). Who were the judges during this time, and how does this compare to how these kinds of cases are handled today?
8. Read Exodus 22:16-31. These laws deal with social responsibility. Do any of them strike you as being "unfair"? If so, which ones, and why?
9. Exodus 22:22-24 reveals God's passionate concern for what group of people?
10. How does Jesus reinforce this same sentiment? (Matt. 18:6,10,14)
11. Why did God make the penalty for disobedience so severe? (Deut. 17:7; 21:21)

**Day 3: Read Exodus 23:1-9.**

12. What subject do the laws in this section deal with?
13. Which of the ten commandments do these laws seem to be reinforcing? (Ex. 20:3-17)
14. What does Jesus say about how we should treat our enemies? (Matt. 5:44-45)

Does this contradict or reinforce what is being said in 23:4-5?

15. What do these laws reveal about God? (Lev. 19:2)

**Day 4: Read Exodus 23:10–12.**

16. What was the purpose of allowing the field to be unplowed in the seventh year?

17. What was the purpose of working six days and not the seventh?

18. Read Exodus 20:8–11. Why did God establish the Sabbath?

19. Read Mark 2:23–28. How does Jesus clarify the reason for the Sabbath?

**Day 5: Read Exodus 23:13–19 and Deuteronomy 6:1–9.**

20. The Feast of Harvest is also known as the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. What other event happened at this time later in history? (Acts 2:1–4)

21. What was God's purpose in establishing the laws? (Deut. 6:2)

a. What command does God give to Israel concerning the law and future generations? (Deut. 6:6–9)

b. Is this part of your experience?