

10. Law: A Nation Preserved

30 Things
YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT YOUR BIBLE

Session 10 | Dr. Randy White | Exodus 20,

From the Exodus to the Law

- The Law was given to Israel through Moses on the Mount Sinai 50 days after the Passover, on a Sunday.
- The first 50 days –
 - Sacrifice of the Lamb – Nisan 14
 - Day 1: Departure from Egypt
 - Day 1 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - Day 7: Crossing of the Red Sea
 - Day 7 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - Day 10: Waters of Merah
 - Day 40: Out of food, the Israelites complain, and God send's manna, to be collected in an *omer* each day
 - Day 45: The nation arrives at Mt. Sinai
 - Day 50: God gives Moses the Ten Commandments
- The new nation was instructed to count seven full Sabbaths from the Feast of First Fruits, then the next day would be the *Feast of Shavuot*, or the *Feast of Weeks* (Leviticus 23:15-16).
 - The 50 days were called the *counting of the omer* in the Old Testament because the Hebrew word for sheaf, used in the wave offering of First Fruits, is **Omer** (Lev. 23:15).
 - In the New Testament this feast was called *Pentecost*.

Some basic fundamentals about the Law

- The 10 Commandments serve as a summary of the Law.

- The rabbi's enumerated 613 laws in the entire Torah. 365 are prohibitions, 248 are positive commands. Observant Jews try to obey approximately 270 today, since the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.
- Those of other nationalities were welcome to give up their nationality and convert to Judaism under the principles of the Law, but the Law was never given as universal for all nations.
- That outside obedience to the Law were unable to be in right relationship with God. The gentiles were "without hope" (Ephesians 2:12) and the Jews were to be "cut off" from the nation.

Some myths to avoid

- MYTH 1: THE LAW REQUIRED PERFECT BEHAVIOR -Contrary to popular opinion, perfection was not a requirement for obedience to the Law. Perfect obedience, not perfect behavior, was the requirement.
- MYTH 3: THE LAW WAS THE METHOD OF BEING SAVED –Don't even talk about Old Testament salvation, because you will be talking about something the Bible doesn't answer. In the Old Testament, "salvation" was national and physical. The resurrection at the last day was the hope of individual salvation.
- MYTH 4: THERE IS A MORAL, CIVIL, AND CEREMONIAL LAW - The Law was always presented as a complete unit, indivisible.
- MYTH 2: THE LAW LEADS PEOPLE TO CHRIST – Galatians 3:23-26 teaches that the purpose of the Law has been fulfilled. It's purpose was as a *nanny* for Israel until Messiah arrived. The Law **preserved the nation of Israel** for God's purpose.

An essential rule: Do not build a Christian's obligation, virtue, or holiness on a foundation of the Law.

- Without a solid understanding of our freedom from the Law, you will make a mess of Christian living (Colossians 2:14, Galatians 5:18).