

EXODUS BIBLE STUDY AND GUIDE

LESSON 36 EXODUS 21:1-35

There are several things to remember as we go through the law.

- The judgments and instructions given will be the (basis for) the laws of the new nation. Those who will make judgments between individuals, between individuals and the community, and concerning a right standing before Jehovah, will or should use the law as the basis for those decisions.
- The judgments and instructions also represent the character and nature of the type of society and nation that God desires and demands of His people.
- While they are meant to be lasting, they also are given and written in the context of culture for that period. For Israel, they were meant to be obeyed. For the church, we may still be able to extract principles in a society and culture that are far different.

Chapter 21 begins the judgments that deal with relationships between men.

1. Vv1-11 pertain to relationships within slavery. This is 'tough sledding.'
- As outside or extra homework, how did slavery then differ from, for example, slavery in America? How did people become slaves in Israel?

 - In v2, what were the base time limit for Hebrews to be slaves within Israeli society?

 - In v3, what was the basic effect of slavery as regards marital status of Hebrews brought into slavery?

 - Vv4-6 introduce the giving of a wife within slavery. What were the consequences of this for the woman? For the man? What would be reasons why the man would choose to remain a slave?

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- In vv7-11, what seems to be the main purpose of these verses as regards female slaves? What are the various scenarios and how do they fit the first part of the question?
2. What is the dominant word in vv12-27?
- How does vv12-14 help to flesh out the sixth commandment?
 - In vv15-17, what are other causes for the death penalty, including two which are a little different from the other verses in this section?
 - What is the context for vv18-19 and how does that explain the judgments?
 - What may be part of the purpose of vv20-21 and perhaps the difference between the two consequences?
 - What is happening in vv22-25 and is there any principle there for today? If so, what?
 - What is part of the purpose for vv26-27 and how?

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3. Ex 21:28-36 contains three different actions concerning living property. There are at least two different themes running through. How do you make _____? What about when someone is _____? How do these play out in:
- Vv28-32
 - Vv33-34
 - Vv35-36
 - What other principles are in vv28-32?
 - Did the people's response mean that God's used the wrong 'tactic?' Explain.

THOUGHT PROVOKING

4. Does or did God condone slavery? Why would He allow it? Do you think that you would think differently about this if you were, had been or known of someone who was a slave?
5. Why or how should Christians deal with modern day slavery?