

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

DISMANTLING RACISM IN THE CHURCH

Dr. Ché Ahn

June 7, 2020

TEXT: Exodus 20:1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

INTRO:

1. Date: The Commandments were given 1,444 years before Christ. The first tablets were destroyed when Moses came down from Mount Sinai and the Jewish people had made the golden calf. Moses goes back up and receives the second tablet of the Ten Commandments.
2. For All Humanity: This is addressed to all people and not just to the Jewish people in the land of Canaan. It is interesting that this was given to the people not in the land of Canaan but from Mount Sinai in the wilderness, which represents the world. These Ten Commandments are not just for the Jewish people in the Old Covenant. It is for all people of all times.
3. Covenant with Israel: This is a covenant that God is making with Israel and addresses spiritual and social obligations.
4. National Prosperity: Obeying the Ten Commandments has made the Jewish society a remarkable and prosperous society. And nations that made the Ten Commandments foundational to their legal system made their respective nations more prosperous than others. Just obeying two of the commandments, not to steal or lie, could transform a nation.
5. Hyper-Grace Teaching: There are some believers who reject the Law and Old Testament. True, the Commandments cannot save you. By grace we are saved through faith. But they are a moral guideline to help transform us into the image of God. Truth transforms. We see these Commandments in the New Testament primarily in the Sermon on the Mount and in Paul’s letters, but they are all throughout Scripture. Which commandment are you “not under” since you are under grace? Murder? Adultery? Stealing? Hyper-grace teaching is heresy.
6. Jesus Affirms the Law: **Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**
7. Greater Demands in the New Testament: In the New Covenant, His demands are even greater (e.g. lust vs. adultery).
8. Individual Responsibilities: The Commandments are addressed in the singular and not plural. The Commandments are addressed to each person individually. A good society is made up of individuals doing what is right.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: We have three truths from the introductory verses of Exodus 20:1-2.

I. GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A. Exodus 20:1 Then God spoke all these words, saying

1. If man is the author, even a great moral individual, like Moses, why would we have to obey these commandments?
2. And if man is the author, then you can change and modify it if you want.
3. But these commandments have stood the test of time, around 3,500 years, and they are as true today as when they were given to Moses.
4. **The Commandments are simple, absolute, brilliant, and profound. The Ten Commandments came from God and not from man. They are unique, unparalleled, and original.**

B. NOT JUST ANY GOD BUT JEHOVAH ELOHIM

1. **Exodus 20:2 “I am the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim)”**
2. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
3. The God who created the universe.

II. THE GOSPEL IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A. Exodus 20:2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

B. HOW IS THE GOSPEL OR THE GOOD NEWS CONTAINED IN THIS PACKED STATEMENT? Four Gospel truths:

1. **LOVE:** The Father’s love and compassion for His people led to the deliverance of the Jewish people. God acted first with His love and His mighty power to deliver them from slavery. In Exodus 33, Moses asks for God to reveal His glory. God reveals Himself as being “good” and “compassionate.”
2. **PASSOVER LAMB:** The Passover lamb is a prophetic foreshadow of Jesus, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). The lamb was to be without blemish, and the blood had to be shed on the side of the door and the lintels of the door, the sign of the cross. Jesus died during the Passover.
3. **DELIVERANCE FROM SLAVERY:** The people of Israel were set free from the bondage of slavery, and Jesus’ death has delivered us from the bondage of being slaves to sin.
4. **OBEDIENCE FLOWS FROM LOVE:** To obey the commandments by duty or fear will never work. God wanted to remind them of what He did for them before they make that covenant commitment to obey the Commandments. God motivates us with grace. The difference in the New Testament is that He gives us His Spirit to obey all the commandments.
5. **Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

III. GOD HATES RACISM AND AFFIRMS THE VALUE OF FREEDOM

- A. **Exodus 20:2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”**
 - 1. The value of freedom was imbedded into our nation’s foundation. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which was a symbol of the American Revolution, has a scripture written on it: **“Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof.” Leviticus 25:10**
 - 2. The Jewish people being set free was the foundation for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in England and in the USA. The biblical basis for the abolition movement was the Exodus of the Jewish people.
 - 3. The deliverance from slavery was a major act of justice from God. The abolition movement is a justice issue to this day. Whether it is delivering people from national slavery, as the Civil War brought about in America, or rescuing women and children from sex trafficking.
 - 4. God begins not by identifying Himself as the creator of the universe but as a God who values freedom. He begins by stating that He desires people to be free. Specifically, the Jews, one people group, were delivered from the racism and the injustices of another people group, the Egyptians.
 - 5. God is passionate about His hatred toward idolatry, racism, and injustice by judging the Egyptians with the ten plagues and by judging Pharaoh and His army, who were to uphold justice, but they were anything but just.
- B. **UNITY IS THE KEY TO REVIVAL**
 - 1. God wants unity not only among the different streams of the church but between all different races on earth.

CONCLUSION: HOW TO WALK OUT RACIAL RECONCILIATION & UNITY

- 1. **Repentance**
- 2. **Renewing of the Mind/Empathy**
- 3. **Respect & Honor**