

/Let us begin with the twelfth lecture on Exodus. / Chapter 23 is about five blessings. / God first told the Israelites not to do wicked things.

/Please read verses 1-3. / "Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness. "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.

/God told them not to spread false reports. / We must be careful not to slander another. / We believers must especially be careful not to partner up with wicked people and conspire against others.

/We must not do things that will harm other people. / Just because a large group of people does something does not mean that it is right.

/Just because the majority does something in the church, it does not mean that it is right. / The church should not make decisions based on the majority. / Decisions must be unanimous if possible.

/There may be divisions among believers in case of a failure to come to a unanimous decision. / If it is not an important matter, pastors must tell believers to pray, and extend the time.

/The majority might make wrong decisions. / God's world is the world of truth and in his world, the truth wins. / One man may hold onto God's word even if the majority doesn't.

/Whoever stands on the side of the truth and on the side of God wins. We must be careful that the majority does not decide everything. / The verses also tell us not to look down the poor.

/Leviticus 19:15. / No one should show partiality to the poor. / No one should show favoritism to the great or to someone he is close with.

/Judgment should be fair and just. / Even in the church, one should not side with a person just because he knows the person well. / It is not fair for one to side with a person because the person treated him well.

/If someone does something wrong, he should be judged based on what he has done wrong.

/Verses 4-5. / "If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.

/God commanded the Israelites to do difficult things. / God said that they were to return their enemy's wandering ox or donkey. / If they saw the donkey of someone show hatred to them fall down, they were to help.

/God commanded us to love even our enemies and show compassion to them. / Believers of Jesus should do everything fairly and justly. / We must not deceive other people when doing business.

/In verse 6, God forbid denying justice to the poor. / In verse 7, God commanded them to stay far from false charges. / We must not harm the innocent or the righteous for our benefit.

/Verses 6-7. / "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty.

/In verse 8, God commanded the people not to take bribes.

/Verse 8. / "Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous.

/Receiving bribes was acceptance of an unjust benefit. / One cannot judge properly if he accepts bribes. / One should discern whether something is a bribe or not.

/In verse 9, God commanded the people to receive an alien with gladness. / They were to treat their visitors well. / The Israelites lived as aliens in the past. / Abraham and Lot received visitors well and they received an angel.

/Verse 9. / "Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt.

/From verse 10, God speaks about the Sabbath day.

/Verses 10-13. / "For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove. "Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed. "Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

/God commanded the people to sow their fields and harvest the crops for six years, but they were to let it rest on the seventh year. / They were not to gather the crops of the land.

/On the seventh year, they were to let the poor and the wild animals eat crops from the land. /The seventh year indicates the Sabbath year. / When the Sabbath year came around seven times, it was forty-nine years.

/The fiftieth year was the Year of Jubilee. / The Israelites were to show compassion to the poor on this year, just as they did in the Sabbath years.

/The sabbatical year and Year of Jubilee refers to rest that God will give the believers. / The Millennial Kingdom is the world of rest that is to come. / It will come after the Second Coming of Jesus.

/God will create a new heaven and new earth. / The New Jerusalem will descend from heaven. / The resurrected believers will reign in this kingdom. / The Millennial Kingdom is a world of rest and joy.

/It is not a symbolical kingdom, but it will actually happen on this earth. / People will build houses and harvest in vineyards in the Millennial Kingdom. / It is not a place of imagination.

/In verse 12, God told the Israelites to work for six days but rest on the seventh day. / Not only did humans rest, but the animals rested as well. / Employers who believe in Jesus must not rest by themselves, but must let their employees rest as well.

/Even the slaves and their children, as well as the aliens were to be left to rest. / Anyone who keeps the Sabbath is truly a believer. / Also, the people were not to call on the names of other gods aside from God.

/God judges when other believers call on the names other gods. / In Israel, there are three major festivals.

/Verses 14-15. / "Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in that month you came out of Egypt. "No one is to appear before me empty-handed.

/The three festivals are the Passover, the Feast of Harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering. / The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are related. / Verse 15 says that they are held in the month of Abib. / The first day is the Passover and the next seven days are the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

/Thus, we can say that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is held for eight days. / The Passover is the feast in which the Israelites celebrate the time they were delivered out from Egypt by God.

/In today's sense, it also signifies the redemption of believers who believed in Jesus. / It symbolizes our salvation through Jesus Christ. / The Passover is the most important holiday in Israel.

/Next, there is the Feast of Harvest. / This festival is held after people harvest barley. / Next there is the Feast of Ingathering. / This festival is also called the Feast of Tabernacles. / This celebrates the time the Israelites lived in tabernacles in the wilderness.

/The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the Feast of Ingathering. / This festival is held after the Israelites gathered the harvest for a year. / There are two teachings behind these two festivals. / First is that God grants us everything we need.

/God provided the Israelites with water, manna, and quails in the wilderness. / Their shoes and clothes did not wear out. / God provided for them according to their needs.

/Second is that God is with his people at all times. / The Israelites were to go before God three

times a year, and they were not to come empty-handed.

/They were to give offerings to God with all their hearts and strength. / Did God receive offerings because he was poor? / God is the owner of the universe and everything in it. / God examines our devotions and hearts.

/Verse 16. / "Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. "Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.

/The Feast of Harvest is also called the Feast of Weeks. / The Feast of Weeks is related to the Pentecost. / After forty-nine days, the fiftieth day is the beginning of the Pentecost. / The fiftieth day after the Passover is the Pentecost.

/Verses 17-19. / "Three times a year all the men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD. "Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast. "The fat of my festival offerings must not be kept until morning. "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. "Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

/God told the Israelites that all males were to appear before the LORD God three times a year. / What else did God say? He said that they were not to appear empty-handed.

/Also, when they offered sacrifices to God, they were not to offer bread made with yeast. / Yeast. / Yeast symbolizes sin in the Bible.

/They were to give clean things that did not have yeast. / The first fruits belong to God. / We must give our first income to God.

/Some people offer their first salaries to God. / Some people offer their firstborn sons to God to be God's servants.

/This shows that they remember that all things come from God. / When believers today give tithes, they give their first fruits to God.

/A young goat as not to be cooked in its mother's milk. / They were not to mercilessly kill a goat. / God also said that no one was to catch both the mother bird and its young. / God forbade them from acting mercilessly.

/Verses 20-21. / "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.

/God said that he sent an angel ahead of them to lead them. / God also protects his people when he leads them. / Deuteronomy 1:30-33.

/God went ahead of them and led them. / God found places for them to encamp at. / Who leads us? God leads us.

/We must never forget this. /God never disappoints those who trust and lean on God. / Also, God appoints his servants in each time period so that they preach God's word.

/When someone teaches us and encourages us in love, we must receive it well. / We must not be angry or rebel against the person. /Nobody is perfect, but we must respect people God appointed.

/Here in the verse, who is the "angel" God sent? / First, it was an angel. / Second, they refer to servants that God brings up in each generation. / God said that he would provide the best way if we listen to God's appointed servants.

/Verses 22-23. / If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

/God will help us when we obey his guidance and commands. / The enemy of God's people is an enemy of God. / Whoever opposes the church and believers opposes God.

/On which side are we on right now? / If we stand on God's side, then God is on our side. / If we forsake the truth and disobey God's word, God will not be on our side.

/God promised that he would drive out the enemies, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

/From verse 24, it speaks of five blessings.

/Verses 24-25. / Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,

/The Israelites were not to serve the idols the Canaanites worshipped when they entered the land of Canaan. / The Canaanites committed sins that led them to destruction.

/Why did they receive God's judgement and why were their lands taken by the Israelites? / Do you think God went over the top? Do you think the Canaanites did nothing wrong?

/That is unjustified. / They worshipped many idols. / God told the Israelites, "Do not follow their practices, and break their idols."

/God said that they were to worship God only. / If they did so, God promised that he would bless Israel and take away all sicknesses from them.

/No one would miscarry or be barren. / God also said that they would have long life. / God would be with the Israelites, and God would protect them.

/Verses 26-27. / and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.

/Verses 28-30. / I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

/God said that he would send the hornet. / The Canaanites fled because of the hornets, even before war began.

/Whether they were in a cave or in a quiet room, the hornets began to sting them, and they all fled. / When the Israelites arrived at the city, no one was there.

/The city was beautiful. / There were houses that were filled with expensive things. / There were wells that stored cool and sweet water. / There were tree groves that bore delicious fruit.

/Everything remained except the people. / God said that he would give the Israelites land just like this if they obeyed him. / God also said that he would drive the enemy out little by little.

/The reason for this was to help the Israelites grow in ability, and so that they would gradually take possession of the land. / If the inhabitants left at once, the number of wild animals would increase.

/There are three ways to receive blessings from God. / First is to thoroughly repent and be led by God. / Second is to obey God's words.

/Third is to get rid of all idols. / One's hardened heart is also an idol. / Whose heart was hardened? / Saul. / Anyone who has a strong ego idolizes himself.

/Verses 31-33. / "I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River. I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you. Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you."

/God established their borders. / God told them, "Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods."

/Today, believers must not marry unbelievers. / We must also never worship idols.

/Now we will continue with chapter 24.



/Please read verses 1-2. / Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

/There were people who were specially called by God. / They were Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's descendants. / God also called 70 elders from among the Israelites. / There are servants God specially appoints.

/Numbers 12:6-7. / Listen to the prophets if they are among you. / God shows them visions and revelations.

/The most important person among them was Moses. / Moses spoke directly to God.

/Verses 3-5. / When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD.

/Moses heard all the words of God and told them to the people. / Then the people all agreed to serve God as they heard.

/Then Moses recorded all of God's words. / Then he built an altar at the foot of the mountain as well as twelve pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. / Then he sent young men of Israel to offer burnt offerings and peace offerings.

/Why did Moses record God's words? / It was so that the people would remember God's word and obey God's word.

/God's word was recorded, and it has been testified to us even today. / It is our duty to obey God's written word.

/Verses 6-8. / Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

/Moses took half of the animal's blood. / He put half of it in bowls, and he sprinkled the other half on the altar. / The blood that was sprinkled on the bottom of the altar symbolized the blood of Jesus Christ.

/This symbolized that our sins would be cleansed with the blood of Christ. / The blood that were placed in bowls were used to cleanse the sins of the people.

/Then Moses told the people about God's recorded word. / Then they agreed that they will obey the LORD. / Then Moses spoke as he sprinkled the blood on the people.

/"This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." / What is the "blood of the covenant?" / The wine we drink at communion symbolizes the blood of the covenant.

/God made a covenant with us through his words and he confirmed it with blood. / The blood symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ. / We can go before God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

/Where was the blood sprinkled? / It was sprinkled on our spirits. / We worship God with our reborn spirits. / Hence, our reborn spirits do not commit sins.

/Verses 9-10. / Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself.

/Verse 11. / But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

/Moses, Aaron and his sons Nadab and Abihu, / as well as the seventy elders of Israel went up to see God. / Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself.

/Sapphire is a jewel that is blue in color, and it symbolizes God's life and dignity. / The pavement of sapphire that was like the sky / means that it was clean and pure. / God's world is a world of life and a world of purity.

/They did not see God with their eyes, but went to the line where they could be near God. / 1 Timothy 6:16. / God alone is immortal and lives in unapproachable light, / whom no one has seen or can see.

/Exodus 33:20. / God said that no one could see his face.

/Verses 12-14. / The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

/God called Moses separately. / God told Moses that he would give the stone tablets where the law and the commandments were written on. / These are the stone tablets that God's commandments were written on.

/Moses went to God with his servant Joshua. / Aaron, the elders, and the priests waited for them at the foot of the mountain.

/Verses 15-18. / When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

/Aaron and the elders and priests had the responsibility to look after the people. / Moses had the duty to go before God and pray. /For six days, God did not appear, but the cloud covered the mountain.

/God prepared Moses. / God showed him his great grace. / God called Moses from within the cloud on the seventh day. / When the Israelites looked at the mountain, they saw the glory of the

LORD on top of the mountain.

/Moses entered the cloud and met with God for forty days. / Thank you very much.