

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 6

What is the covenant that is made between God and the Israelites at Mount Sinai? What does God promise the Israelites? What do the Israelites promise God? How do the Ten Commandments fit into this covenant agreement? (Exodus 19:1-20:17; 23:23-24:8)

List the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). What is the meaning and purpose of each commandment? Which commandment or commandments do you find easiest to obey and follow? Why? Which are the most difficult for you to obey and follow? Why?

How does God appear to the Israelites on Mount Sinai? How do they react to God's presence? How does this impact the relationship between God and the Israelites? (Exodus 20:18-20)

Why do you think the laws in Exodus 21-23 (which follow the Ten Commandments) are so detailed in nature? What would they have meant for the Israelites who came out of slavery in Egypt? What, if anything, do these laws mean for you today? Was there one particular law in these chapters that caught your attention more than some of the others? Why?

What are the three festivals that the Israelites are supposed to hold each year (Exodus 23:14-19)? What is the purpose of each festival?

What is the Tabernacle? Why was it so important to the Israelite community in the wilderness? Why do you think the instructions for its construction were so detailed? Who was allowed in the Tabernacle? Why? Who was not allowed in the Tabernacle? Why? (Exodus 25-29)

What is contained in the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-16)? What was the purpose of the veil in the Tabernacle (Exodus 26:31-37)?

From which of Jacob's sons did the order of Israelite priests descend? What role did the priests play in the Tabernacle? What was their main responsibility? Why was this so important in the worship life of the Israelites? (Exodus 29-31)

Why does God become so angry with the Israelites in Exodus 32-33? What did they do? Why are the Israelites referred to as "stiff-necked" people? What does that mean? How does God respond to the actions of the Israelites in this incident? How does Moses intercede on behalf of the Israelites? How does God respond to Moses? What does this tell us about the character of God?

What does Moses ask of God in Exodus 33:12-23? How does God respond? Why does Moses have to veil his face after this encounter with God (Exodus 34:29-35)? What does this encounter tell us about the power of God's presence? Can it be dangerous to human beings? If so how? Why?

Who builds the Tabernacle? Why? Who are Bezalel and Oholiab? What are their special gifts? (Exodus 35)