

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

March 7, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Compassionate Action

Background Passage:

Exodus 1:1-4:31

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 2:23-3:10, 19-20

Introduction:

This is the first lesson in a series of six lessons under the general theme “Desire for Redemption” which constitutes Unit 1. This lesson will emphasize God’s compassionate concern for the Hebrew people. It looked to some Israelites as if God had forsaken His people, but He had not!

I. God Takes Notice: Ex. 2:23-25

1. After the Egyptian Pharaoh died, the Israelites groaned because of their slavery and they cried out to God - - 2:23.
2. God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - - 2:4-25.

II. God Discloses Himself: Ex. 3:1-6

1. While shepherding in the wilderness, Moses came to Mount Horeb (also known as Sinai) - - 3:1.
2. The Lord appeared to him in a burning bush - - 3:2.
3. Moses drew aside to see why the bush was not consumed - - 3:3.
4. The Lord called Moses out of the bush - - 3:4.
5. God commanded him to take the sandals off his feet and God identified Himself as the God of his forefathers - - 3:5-6.

III. God Takes Action: Ex. 3:7-10

1. God declared that He was aware of the misery of the Israelites in Egypt - - 3:7.
2. Therefore God declared He had come down to rescue them - - 3:8.
3. God indicated that He had heard the Israelites cry for help - - 3:9-10.

IV. God Works Wonders: Ex. 3:19-20

1. God told Moses that the Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go free without being forced to do so - - 3:19.
2. Therefore God would stretch out His mighty hand with miracles in order to force the Pharaoh to let the people go - - 3:20.

Applications:

1. The true God is not only Creator but also a God who acts within history.
2. The God we know in the Bible is not one of many gods, like Polytheism says, but the only God!
3. The God of the Bible makes covenant with His people and keeps His covenant!
4. Because God had compassion on the Hebrew people we also can be assured He will have compassion on us in times of our need!
5. For us as Christians, we know that God takes compassionate action because He let His Son die to save us from our sins!

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

March 14, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Divine Purpose

Background Passage:

Exodus 5:1-10:29

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 5:1-3; 6:6-8; 7:1-5

Introduction:

The lesson last Sunday focused on “Compassionate Action” by God in behalf of His people, and this lesson focuses on God’s “Divine Purpose.” God’s purpose in redeeming the Hebrew people was so that they might worship Him and live in a right relationship with Him and then testify to His salvation of them. His purpose was not only to help the Hebrew people but also to glorify His Holy Name! The Hebrew people were to be delivered from Egypt so that they might carry out God’s purpose in their lives and be a testimony to a polytheistic world of the one true God.

I. People Who Worship the Lord: Ex. 5:1-3

1. Moses and Aaron told the Pharaoh that their God wanted them to be free in order to worship Him in the wilderness - - 5:1.
2. But the Pharaoh declared that he did not recognize the God of Israel and therefore would not let Israel go free - - 5:2.
3. Moses and Aaron answered that their God had met with them and they asked the Pharaoh to let them go or God might punish them for disobedience - - 5:3.

II. People Who Belong to the Lord: Ex. 6:6-8

1. After being rejected by the Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron were told by God that He would deliver them because He was “Yahweh” - - 6:6.
2. God further declared that He would take the Israelites as His people and they would know His mighty power when He delivered them from Egypt - - 6:7.
3. God also promised to bring them into the land that He had sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give them as a possession - - 6:8.

III. People Who Bear Witness of the Lord: Ex. 7:1-5

1. The Lord told Moses that He had made Moses like God to Pharaoh and Aaron would be his spokesman or prophet - - 7:1.
2. Therefore Moses and Aaron must say whatever God commanded them - - 7:2.
3. But God indicated that He would harden Pharaoh’s heart so that He could multiply His signs and wonders and show His power in Egypt - - 7:3.
4. Pharaoh would not listen to Moses, but God would bring them out of the land by great acts of judgment - - 7:4.
5. Thus, the Egyptians would know that the God of Israel was the true God and would say it in the power by which He delivered the Hebrew people - - 7:5.

Applications:

1. When God delivers or saves His people, He does it not only for their good but also for His glory!
2. We Christians today should remember that our salvation is so that God might be glorified!
3. Because God has a purpose for us we can therefore conclude that there is a meaning and purpose in our lives.
4. How grateful we Christians ought to be to see a pattern of God acting within history to call people to Himself in a living and loving relationship.
5. Christian theologians see a theological significance between God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt and God delivering us from our sin through the mighty act in Christ.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

March 21, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Amazing Deliverance

Background Passage:

Exodus 11:1-13:16

Lesson Passage:

Exodus 12:1-14

Introduction:

This lesson focuses on the Israelites' preparation for the first Passover. Instructions were to be followed in detail! Everything in it was significant. The Hebrew people were to observe this every year as long as history continued. Jesus would later use the Passover as a time to institute what we call The Lord's Supper.

I. New Beginning: Ex. 12:1-5

1. The Lord told Moses that this act would mark the beginning of their new year - - 12:1-2.
2. All the families of the Israelites were to select an animal per household in order to sacrifice - - 12:3.
3. Small family units could join with other small families to share a sacrificial animal - - 12:4.
4. The sacrificial animal, whether a sheep or a goat, was to be unblemished - -12:5.

II. Urgent Attitude: Ex. 12:6-11

1. The animal must be kept carefully so that no sore or blemish or illness would come to it when it was to be slaughtered - - 12:6.
2. Blood from the animal was to be put on the doorpost and above the door - - 12:7.
3. The meat was to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs - - 12:8.
4. None of it was to be eaten raw or cooked in boiling water - - 12:9.
5. None of the animal's remains were to be carried over to the morning but were to be burned up if not eaten - - 12:10.
6. When the Israelites ate the roasted meat, they must be dressed for travel with sandals on their feet and ready to leave Egypt in a hurry - - 12:11.

III. Divine Mercy: Ex. 12:12-13

1. God would pass through the land of Egypt and kill every first born male, both human and animal - - 12:12.
2. Blood on the doorposts and above the door would keep the death angel from taking the first born male in that home - - 12:13.

IV. Precious Memory: Ex. 12:14

1. That Passover day was to be a memorial to the Hebrew people as a festival to God - - 12:14a.
2. The Israelites were to celebrate it through all future generations - - 12:14b.

Applications:

1. We Christians can learn much from the institution known as the Passover.
2. We need to remember that Christ used the Passover meal the night before He was crucified in order to institute what we call The Lord's Supper.
3. Jesus used only two of the four elements of the Jewish Passover: He used the unleavened bread and the wine. He did not use the bitter herbs or the meat.
4. Even as the Passover reminded the Hebrew people of God's mighty deliverance from Egypt, so the Lord's Supper should remind us of God's mighty deliverance of us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

March 28, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Persevering Faith

Background Passage:

Exodus 13:17-15:21

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 13:17-18; 14:9-18, 31

Introduction:

After the tenth plague of the death of the first born sons in Egypt, Israel at last left Egypt. They walked as fast as they could with their elderly parents and young children, but soon the Pharaoh recovered and repented of his letting them go and marshaled his army to pursue them. He caught up with them at the "Red Sea" but the Hebrew words literally mean "Sea of Reeds." Scholars do not agree on its exact location of this part of the Red Sea. Whatever the case, Israel was faced with a crisis! God responded by reassuring His people and commanding Moses to divide the water.

I. Following Where God Directs: Ex. 13:17-18

1. God did not lead the Israelites by the regular road because there were Egyptian military stations there - - 13:17.
2. He lead them in a different direction so as to avoid war - - 13:18.

II. Standing Firm When Fears Arise: Ex. 14:9-14

1. In due time the Pharaoh's army caught up with the Israelites - - 14:9.
2. The Israelites were terrified when they saw the Egyptian army in the distance - - 14:10.
3. They complained to Moses for bringing them out into this crisis - - 14:11.
4. The Israelites declared it would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die out in the wilderness - - 14:12.
5. But Moses tried to reassure them and challenge them to see God's deliverance - - 14:13-14.

III. Obeying What God Commands: Ex. 14:15-18

1. The Lord commanded the people to move out and commanded Moses to lift his staff toward the Sea and divide it - - 14:14-16.
2. The Lord declared He would cause Egyptians to go into the Sea after the Israelites so they might be destroyed - - 14:17.
3. Then the Egyptians and the Israelites would know that God was the God of Israel - - 14:18.

IV. Attesting What God Accomplishes: Ex. 14:31

1. Then Israel saw the great power that God used against the Egyptians - - 14:31a.
2. And thus the Israelites feared the Lord and believed in Him and also in Moses - - 14:31b.

Applications:

1. Difficulties in life can either cause us to doubt or cause us to increase our faith and trust in God!
2. Some of the greatest lessons in life are learned in times of difficulty.
3. We Christians, like the ancient Israelites, need to trust God in times when life becomes most difficult.
4. True faith is deepened and strengthened and not destroyed when difficult situations arise in our lives.
5. How grateful we Christians ought to be that the God whom we know revealed in Jesus Christ is a God who delivers His people!

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

April 4, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Resurrection Hope

Background Passage:

Luke 24:1-53

Lesson Passages:

Luke 24:1-8, 36-39

Introduction:

The lesson this coming Sunday breaks our series of lessons from the Book of Exodus. The reason obviously is because it is Easter Sunday. While all four Gospels tell us about the resurrection, this lesson will focus on Luke's account. We teachers need to emphasize that the resurrection of Christ is a crucially important doctrine in the Christian faith!

I. The Lord Has Risen! Luke 24:1-8

1. Early on Sunday morning a group of women came to the tomb and found the stone had been rolled away - - 24:1-2.
2. They found the tomb empty with no body in it but suddenly two angels appeared - - 24:3.
3. The women were terrified but the angels asked them why they were looking for the living among the dead - - 24:4-5.
4. The angels declared that Jesus had been resurrected - - 24:6.
5. The angels also reminded the women that Jesus had told them that He would be crucified and would rise on the third day - - 24:7-8.

II. Doubts Can Be Let Go! Luke 24:36-43

1. Jesus appeared to two of His disciples on the Road to Emmaus that first Sunday afternoon - - 24:36.
2. But the two men were startled by Jesus' greeting and thought he was a ghost - - 24:37-38.
3. Jesus invited them to look at his hands and feet to prove who He was and that He was not a ghost - - 24:39-40.
4. The disciples could hardly believe what they saw and their joy was overwhelming - - 24:41.
5. Jesus took a piece of raw fish and ate it so they would know He was really alive - - 24:42-43.

III. Forgiveness Is Available to All! Luke 24:44-49

1. Jesus reminded the men that He had told them these things while He was with them and how He fulfilled the law of Moses and the prophets - - 24:44.
2. Jesus then opened their minds to help them understand the Scriptures and how He had to die and be raised from the dead - - 24:45-46.
3. As a result, they were to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sin to all the nations - - 24:47-48.
4. Then He commissioned them and sent them to do what God had promised - - 24:49.

Applications:

1. Christian believers today need to understand the extreme importance of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
2. Jesus Himself used His death and resurrection as supreme proof of His being the Messiah.
3. No other religious leader of the world has the intelligent eyewitnesses to declare their resurrection as does Jesus Christ.
4. Since no other religious leader has been resurrected from the dead and Jesus Christ has been, it truly magnifies the uniqueness of Jesus Christ.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

April 11, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Tested Devotion

Background Passage:

Exodus 15:22-18:27

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 16:2-4, 11-15, 18, 32-34

Introduction:

The Sinai Peninsula is one of the most desolate parts of the planet earth! This writer has been through it several times on a tour bus. Photographs show clearly the barren sand and rocks! The Hebrew people face severe shortages of drinking water and good food. Their faith in God and God's provision for them was put to a severe test.

I. Grow in Loyalty: Ex. 16:2-4

1. The Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the barren wilderness - - 16:2.
2. They declared that they had rather have died in Egypt where at least they had plenty to eat instead of dying in the barren wilderness - - 16:3.
3. The Lord promised through Moses that He was going to rain bread from heaven for them and they would gather it each day according to their needs - - 16:4.

II. Grow in Confidence: Ex. 16:11-15, 18

1. The Lord told Moses that He had heard their complaints and Moses was to reassure them that at twilight they would eat meat and in the morning they would eat bread so that they would know that He was the Lord their God - - 16:11-12.
2. That evening quail would come and in the morning a layer of dew would fall around the camp - - 16:13.
3. When the dew evaporated there would be fine flakes which could be eaten - - 16:14.
4. When the Israelites saw this strange thing they asked what it was and Moses said it was the bread that the Lord had given them to eat - - 16:15.
5. The people were to gather only a certain amount, just enough for them to have for that day but it would be enough for each person - - 16:18.

III. Grow in Testimony: Ex. 16:32-34

1. Moses gave clear instructions that the Lord wanted them to have two quarts of it per person per day - - 16:32.
2. Thus Moses instructed Aaron to take a container and put two quarts of manna in it to preserve it - - 16:33.
3. Aaron did as the Lord and Moses told him and to keep it in their presence as a testimony to God's provision - - 16:34.

Applications:

1. Even though God loves us He will let our faith be tested from time to time.
2. Testing our faith is not wrong or bad, because it can force us to strengthen our faith and trust God all the more!
3. God provided for the physical needs of His people in the wilderness and He will provide our needs if we only trust Him and obey Him.
4. The Hebrew people had to learn to live by faith and not simply by human sight!
5. Christians ought to thank God every day that we live for God's abundant provisions for our well being.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

April 18, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

What Are Your Ground Rules?

Background Passage:

Exodus 19:1-24:18

Lesson Passage:

Exodus 20:1-17

Introduction:

The lesson this Sunday is about the most famous code of laws in the history of mankind! We will study the Ten Commandments. They were not the oldest code of laws in the history of mankind, but by far the most famous and most influential!

I. Worship the Lord Only: Ex. 20:1-6

1. The Lord declared that He was the God who had brought the Israelites out of Egypt - - 20:1-2.
2. They were to have no other gods besides Him - - 20:3.
3. No idols of any shape or form were to be made of anything in heaven or in earth - - 20:4.
4. They were not to bow down to any type of idol or worship anything because God was a jealous God - - 20:5.
5. God was the type of God who showed faithful love to thousands of generations of those who love Him - - 20:6.

II. Show Respect for the Lord: Ex. 20:7-11

1. God's name was not to be used in a vain or empty way - - 20:7.
2. The Sabbath was to be remembered and honored and no work was to be done on it - - 20:8-9.
3. The seventh day was to be sacred to God and the people were not to do any work nor members of their family - - 20:10.
4. The Lord made the heavens and earth in six days and rested on the seventh, therefore, it was a holy day to Him - - 20:11.

III. Treat Others Right: Ex. 20:12-17

1. Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land - - 20:12.
2. Do not murder - - 20:13.
3. Do not commit adultery - - 20:14.
4. Do not steal - - 20:15.
5. Do not lie or give false testimony against any one - - 20:16.
6. Do not covet anything or any body - - 20:17.

Applications:

1. Although we Christians are saved by grace through faith in Christ we will be wise to live according to the Ten Commandments.
2. The Ten Commandments gave guidance for people to rightly relate to God.
3. Jesus fulfilled the Ten Commandments and empowers us to do it also.
4. The Hebrew people were most fortunate to have God reveal these wise and wonderful commandments early in their history.
5. Anyone who seriously and sincerely follows the Ten Commandments will find his or her life richly blessed.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

April 25, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Why Do You Worship?

Background Passage:

Exodus 25:1-31:18

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 25:8-9, 17-22; 29:38-46

Introduction:

Our English word “worship” literally means “worth-ship.” It means whatever we put supreme worth or value upon. There are differences in our worship styles, formal and more informal, but all worship must be sincere and centered on God and not on ourselves. This lesson studies some information about the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, and the sacrificial system.

I. Affirming the Lord’s Presence: Ex. 25:8-9

1. God commanded the Israelites to build a sanctuary so that He might dwell among them - - 25:8.
2. They were to build it according to God’s instructions - - 25:9.

II. Hearing the Lord’s Message: Ex. 25:17-22

1. The people were to make a mercy seat of pure gold with two cherubim on top - - 25:17-18.
2. A cherubim at each end and facing each other - - 25:19.
3. The cherubim were to have wings spread out covering the mercy seat and facing each other - - 25:20-21.
4. God would meet with His people above the mercy seat - - 25:22.

III. Giving the Lord Offerings: Ex. 29:38-42

1. The people were to offer regularly two young lambs, one in the morning and one in the evening - - 29:38-39.
2. They were to mix flour and olive oil with the offering - - 29:40.
3. The lamb in the evening was to include a grain offering and a drink offering - - 29:41.
4. These offerings were to be continued throughout future generations - - 29:42.

IV. Acknowledging the Lord’s Greatness: Ex. 29:43-46

1. The Lord promised to meet with the Israelites in the place which was consecrated to His glory - - 29:43.
2. God would consecrate the Tabernacle and the altar - - 29:44.
3. He would consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve as priests and would dwell among the Israelites - - 29:45.
4. Then the people would know that the Lord was their God who brought them out of Egypt - - 29:46.

Applications:

1. There is a place in genuine religion for material objects to help us in our worship but those objects must never be worshiped!
2. Just as the Tabernacle and the Ark and the offerings were to help the ancient Israelites, so we have things which help us to be aware of God’s awesome and wonderful presence as we worship Him today.
3. Christians should be aware that there is always a subtle danger in letting our “aids” to worship become “objects of worship.”
4. It is imperative that true believers worship God Himself and not let ritual or ceremony become the main or primary things in our worship.
5. As a result of our worship we ought to live Godly lives everyday that we live!

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

May 2, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

What If You Falter?

Background Passage:

Exodus 32:1-34:35

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 32:1-4, 30-34; 34:6b-9

Introduction:

The lesson this Sunday focuses on the tragic story of the building of the golden calf. But it also includes the experience whereby Moses shows himself to be one of the greatest intercessors in prayer in the entire Bible! The Hebrew people committed a horrible sin when they built the golden calf, but there are lessons that can be learned even for us today from their tragic experience.

I. How We Falter: Ex. 32:1-4

1. When Moses was delayed on Mount Sinai, the people asked Aaron to make for them a god - - 32:1.
2. Aaron instructed them to take the gold rings from their ears - - 32:2.
3. The people obeyed and brought the gold rings to Aaron - - 32:3.
4. Aaron then took the gold and fashioned it into the image of a calf - - 32:4a.
5. Then the people declared that this was their god who had brought them out of Egypt - - 32:4b.

II. When We Falter: Ex 32:30-34

1. After Moses saw what the people had done with the golden calf, he declared they had committed a great sin, but he would go up and pray for them - - 32:30.
2. Moses went to the Lord and confessed the sin of His people - - 32:31.
3. Then Moses asked God to forgive their sin, but if not then he asked God to erase his name from God's Book - - 32:32.
4. The Lord told Moses that whoever sinned against Him would be erased from His Book - - 32:33.
5. Then God commanded Moses to go down and lead His people and God would settle the accounts of their sins - - 32:34.

III. Although We Falter: Ex. 34:6b-9

1. God is a compassionate and gracious God who is faithful in love and in truth - - 34:6b.
2. God is faithful in His love and forgiving, but He will hold people accountable for their sins - - 34:7.
3. Moses bowed down and worshiped the Lord - - 34:8.
4. Then Moses asked God to please go with them even though the people were sinful and Moses asked God to forgive them of their sins - - 34:9.

Applications:

1. If we Christians are not careful we can have "golden calves" in our lives!
2. Idolatry does not have to be with physical objects, but can be things like success, power, and wealth!
3. We need to realize that any form of idolatry is a serious and awesome sin against the holy God.
4. We Christians ought to pray every day that God would help us to worship only Him and not let anything else be supremely important in our lives.
5. We need daily to confess our sins, ask God's forgiveness, and clear the idols out of our lives.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

May 9, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

How Do You Contribute?

Background Passage:

Exodus 35:1-40:38

Lesson Passages:

Exodus 35:4-9, 30-36:1; 40:12-15

Introduction:

This is the last in our series of lessons from the Book of Exodus. There are three key ideas in this lesson. The first is the willingness of the people to contribute to the building of the Tabernacle; the second focuses on the skills of craftsmen to do the work; and the third is the consecration of Aaron and his sons to do religious priestly work.

I. Are You Willing to Contribute? Ex. 35:4-9

1. Then Moses told the people what the Lord had commanded and that was to take an offering of all those whose hearts were willing - - 35:4-5.
2. They were to give gold and precious metals as well as expensive cloth - - 35:6.
3. Also, animal skins of various kinds as well as precious wood - - 35:7.
4. The oil would be given as anointing oil and incense - - 35:8.
5. Precious stones also were needed for the High Priest's garment - - 35:9.

II. Do You Have Skills to Use? Ex. 35:30-36:1

1. Then Moses indicated that God had chosen a man named Bezalel who was especially gifted in the ability to create intricate designs - - 35:30-31.
2. He could do artistic work in gold and silver as well as in precious stones and wood - - 35:32-33.
3. God had chosen another man named Oholiab who was especially gifted to do work with precious stones and various types of cloth - - 35:34
4. All kinds of jewels and cloth materials were given so that craft and artistic designs could be used for the Tabernacle - - 35:35.
5. These two men could teach and lead others to do the work of building the sanctuary - - 36:1.

III. Is the Lord Calling You to Serve? Ex. 40:12-15

1. Aaron and his sons were to be washed so as to be holy - - 40:12.
2. Moses was to clothe Aaron with the holy garments so he could serve as priest - - 40:13.
3. Aaron's sons also were to be properly clothed - - 40:14.
4. This family was to serve as a regular and permanent priesthood through coming generations - - 40:15.

Applications:

1. God's people, both ancient and modern, need to be willing to give of our material things so that God's work in our world might go forward.
2. Both Judaism and Christianity have emphasized the rightness and importance of giving material things to the glory of God.
3. And both religions have emphasized things are to be given in the right spirit.
4. It is also wonderful when skilled people are willing to give their special abilities to serve God.
5. And, of course, there has always been a need for those to serve as religious leaders in the worship and service of God.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

May 16, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Do Right When You Do Wrong

Background Passage:

Leviticus 1:1-16:34

Lesson Passages:

Leviticus 5:1, 4-5, 14-16; 6:1-7

Introduction:

This is the first in a series of three lessons from the Book of Leviticus. Along with the Ten Commandments which God gave Moses on Mount Sinai, the Lord gave many moral, legal, and civil instructions to help the Israelites live in a righteous and holy and God-pleasing way. We can learn much from these ancient instructions.

I. Acknowledge Your Wrongdoing: Lev. 5:1, 4-5

1. We sin when we hear or see or know a wrong and refuse to testify when publicly called upon to do so - - 5:1.
2. If we swear rashly to do either good or evil and do not know it at the time but later recognize it, we are guilty of sin - - 5:4.
3. Whenever we incur such guilt as in the above cases, we are to confess that we committed a sin - - 5:5.

II. Get Right With God: Lev. 5:14-16

1. If a person sins unintentionally that person must bring a restitution by an offering to the Lord - - 5:14-15.
2. A restitution of twenty percent must be added to the value of the restitution and a priest will make an atonement in that person's behalf - - 5:16.

III. Make Restitution Where Possible: Lev. 6:1-7

1. We sin and offend the Lord when we deceive our neighbor in regard to deposit, a security, or a robbery - - 6:1-2.
2. If we find something lost and lie about it or swear falsely we have sinned - - 6:3.
3. When we know we have sinned in such a fashion, we must return what has been stolen - - 6:4.
4. We must make full restitution and add twenty percent to the value of it - - 6:5.
5. When we sin we must bring our restitution offering to the Lord - - 6:6.
6. A priest or minister can make atonement on our behalf before the Lord and God will forgive us - - 6:7

Applications:

1. The Lord expects His people to tell the truth when they are called upon to be a witness.
2. God's people are to be ethical and honest in all of our dealings with the Lord and with other people.
3. Of all people, we Christians ought to be the most honest and truth telling on the planet earth!
4. We ought to be willing to admit it when we are wrong and ask forgiveness from others and from the Lord.
5. When we commit certain wrongs and other people suffer loss, we ought to be willing to make restitution according to scripture.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

May 23, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

Stay Away From Perverted Practices

Background Passage:

Leviticus 17:1-22:33

Lesson Passages:

Leviticus 18:1-5, 20-26; 20:6-8

Introduction:

We Americans live in a society which often glamorizes immorality in television programs and in movies. Also, magic and superstition are often glamorized in our public media. We can learn much from what the Lord commanded the Israelites in biblical days.

I. Avoid Worldly Practices: Lev. 18:1-5

1. The Lord's commands to Moses were based upon the fact that the Lord was their God - - 18:1-2.
2. The Israelites were not to follow practices of the land of Canaan - - 18:3.
3. They were to practice the ordinances and statutes of the Lord their God - - 18:4.
4. If the Hebrews would keep the statutes and ordinances of the Lord then they would live - - 18:5.

II. Avoid Immorality: Lev. 18:20-26

1. Men were not to have sexual relations with their neighbor's wife - - 18:20.
2. Children were not to be sacrificed to a pagan god - - 18:21.
3. Homosexuality is forbidden for God's people - - 18:22.
4. Sexual relations with animals is also forbidden to God's people - - 18:23.
5. God would drive out the Canaanites because of practicing the above sins - - 18:24.
6. God would clearly punish the Canaanites for practicing such sins - - 18:25.
7. God's people are to keep God's statutes and ordinances - - 18:26.

III. Avoid Sorcery: Lev. 20:6-8

1. God's people are not to turn to people who claim they can communicate with the dead - - 20:6.
2. God's people are to consecrate themselves and be a holy people because the Lord our God is that kind of God - - 20:7.
3. God has always commanded His people to live by His teachings - - 20:8.

Applications:

1. Christians need to be aware that much in our society displeases God and we ought to want to please the Lord our God.
2. God has given us a much higher ethical and moral standard than the unbelieving world.
3. We who claim to follow Christ should hear and heed the clear calling of scripture to be sexually pure.
4. In a society which often glamorizes immorality, we ought to be willing to live by the higher ethic of Holy Scripture.
5. Christians ought not be given to superstition or to magic or to astrology.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LESSONS

May 30, 2010
Dr. W. B. Tolar

Show Others Godly Grace

Background Passage:
Lesson Passages:

Leviticus 23:1-27:34
Leviticus 25:10-22, 35-38

Introduction:

This lesson concludes our series from the Books of Exodus and Leviticus. Not everything in those two books may directly apply to us today but there is much we can learn from the high ethical teachings of these two books. We can be deeply grateful that both books are in our Bible.

I. Share Freedom! Lev. 25:10-12

1. The Hebrews were to return the land every fifty years to the original owners so that greedy landowners would not deprive common people of their lands - - 25:10.
2. During that fiftieth year the land was not to be sown with seed or reaped - - 25:11.
3. The people were to live off of what they had saved from the food of the previous year and what they could find in the fields - - 25:12.

II. Exhibit Fairness! Lev. 25:13-17

1. During the Year of Jubilee, land is to be returned as previously instructed - - 25:13.
2. If land is sold or purchased there is to be no cheating - - 25:14.
3. The purchase of land is to be based upon the number of years since the last Jubilee - - 25:15.
4. The land that is bought and sold is to be apportioned to the number of harvests which can be produced by the land - - 25:16.
5. The Hebrew people were not to cheat one another but to fear the Lord their God - - 25:17.

III. Manage Blessings! Lev. 25:18-22

1. The security of the Hebrew people in the land of Canaan was based upon their obedience to God's teachings - - 25:18.
2. The land would yield its fruit if the people would obey the Lord - - 25:19.
3. The people were to trust the Lord to give them enough food in the sixth year to carry them through the seventh year - - 25:20-21.
4. They could trust that God would give them a harvest abundant enough to carry them through the year they did not have to sow or reap - - 25:22.

IV. Extend Kindness! Lev. 25:35-38

1. If a fellow Israelite became destitute and could not help himself or herself, then they were to be helped by their fellow Israelites - - 25:35.
2. Such a destitute fellow Israelite was not to be profited from or taken advantage of - - 25:36.
3. Money was not to be loaned with an interest or for a profit to such a destitute fellow Hebrew - - 25:37.
4. All the above was commanded by the Lord God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt - - 25:38.

Applications:

1. God's people are to recognize that all of our blessings come from the generosity of our loving heavenly Father.
2. We should seek to learn and obey the teachings of the Lord in Holy Scripture.
3. We Christians should seek to be honest in all of our business dealings with other people.
4. We Christians, like the ancient Hebrews, should manage our material blessings in such a way that they will not only meet our own needs but can help meet the needs of the needy and less fortunate.