

Torah Studies

Justice, Holidays,
and Holiness

Exodus 23

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



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Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Oh, that my ways were directed
To keep Your statutes!

6 Then I would not be ashamed,
When I look into all Your commandments ...

Torah Studies

Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:5-8 (NKJV)

... 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart,
When I learn Your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep Your statutes;

Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Introduction

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Previously in Exodus:

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Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

- Throughout Exodus 21 – 22 we saw numerous laws that were divided into several sections.
- We addressed laws concerning servants, physical violence, and theft to name a few.

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Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 23:

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Introduction

What to expect in **Exodus 23**:

- In this chapter we look at laws concerning speech and behavior, especially in a court of law.
- Regulations that anticipate life in the Promised Land.
- Specifically, we see commands about the celebration of holidays and the initial conquest of Canaan.

Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Message Outline



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Message Outline

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9

II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- **23:1-3** All of these laws pertain to the Ninth Commandment against false witness.
- It doesn't matter if the defendant is rich or poor, we tell the truth.
- It doesn't matter what the majority thinks, we have to be honest.

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- 1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- 23:4-5 These verses deal with our treatment of our enemies.
- We don't get to treat our enemies badly just because we don't like them.

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- **Romans 12:19-21**

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; ...

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- **Romans 12:19-21**

... if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9

The principle was clear: How you feel about someone does not determine right and wrong behavior towards them. There are principles of justice that must be observed above our feelings.

*– David Guzik, Calvary Chapel
Pastor and Bible Teacher*



I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- **23:6-8** Again we have laws concerning justice in a court of law.
- No false charges, no bribes.
- There is no good reason for anyone to get anything but a fair trial if they are accused.

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- **23:9** Last week we also saw mention of the sojourner or foreigner.
- Any person who wanted to worship the God of Israel and join him/herself to the people of Israel was allowed to do so.

I. Speech and Action

23:1-9



- 23:9 A good example of this was a man named Ittai the Gittite.
- He was a Philistine officer over 600 men who aligned himself with David during Absalom's rebellion.
- See 2 Samuel 15:18-23.

II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- **23:10-12** The nation of Israel was to keep a **Sabbath Year** as well as a **Sabbath Day**.
- They were not particularly faithful to keep this law.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

- 2 Chronicles 36:17a, 20-21

17 Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, ...

20 He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, ...



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- 2 Chronicles 36:17a, 20-21

... 21 to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- **23:10-12** The *weeks* (or *sevens*) of years is also relevant as far as interpreting the prophecy in **Daniel 9**.
- According to Daniel, Israel was allotted “**seventy sevens**” or 490 years.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

- 23:10-12 All but one “seven” have already been fulfilled.
- There are seven more years to come, but they won’t begin until the church is taken out of the way.
- At that point God will once again work in and through the nation of Israel.



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

- **23:13** Israel was never meant to have religious freedom.
- They are a nation that is to be devoted to the LORD and Him alone.
- They didn't follow this closely and eventually worshiped the gods of the surrounding nations.



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- **23:14-17** The men of Israel were supposed to gather in Jerusalem three times a year.
- Unleavened Bread (literally *Matzot*)
- Harvest (also *Weeks* or *Pentecost*)
- Ingathering (also *Sukkot* or *Booths*)

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- The **Feast of Sukkot** had an interesting custom regarding the pouring of water.
- Let's listen to a description from an Orthodox rabbi.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

In the times of the Holy Temple every burnt offering and peace offering sacrificed on the altar was accompanied by a flour offering and by the pouring of a prescribed amount of wine on the altar ...

– Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov,
On chabad.org



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

... During the seven days of the Festival of Sukkot water too was poured on the altar as a libation accompanying the daily morning sacrifice ... Of all the joy on Sukkot ...

– Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov,
On chabad.org



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

... the most intense joy was reserved for the nisuch ha-mayim – the pouring of the water on the altar to accompany the daily morning sacrifice.

– Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov,
On chabad.org



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- In the **Gospel of John**, we see Jesus in Jerusalem in conjunction with festival of *Sukkot*.
- Let's read **John 7:2-10, 37-39**.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- **23:18-19** You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.
- While it goes beyond the literal verse, to this day a kosher meal will separate meat from dairy.
- A truly kosher kitchen will also separate the pots and utensils.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

- **23:18-19** You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.
- In case you are wondering:
- Fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables and grains all go with either side.

23:10-19



II. Sabbath and Festivals

23:10-19

- Most McDonald's in Israel are not kosher – but some are.
- In either case you won't find cheeseburgers on the menu.



III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:20-22 God would send His angel to guard and to guide.
- This Angel of the Lord seems to be the pre-incarnate Christ.
- And it was very important to obey all that the Angel directed them.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- Sometimes people want God's guidance, but then they refuse to do what God says.
- We'll see an example of this when the Israelites reach the Promised Land for the first time.
- They refused to go in.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- **23:23-28** God promised to help them conquer the land.
- They had to be sure, however, to not fall into the trap of serving foreign gods.
- They were to destroy all their idols and symbols of worship.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- **23:23-28** As we move forward in our relationship with God, we cannot allow any room for the old life – for the flesh.
- Some people make many little compromises.
- In the end, they don't grow in their faith – they don't mature.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



You cannot make a covenant with your flesh. You cannot make a peaceful coexistence pact with your flesh ... Don't coddle your flesh. Don't give a place for the flesh. Reckon it to be dead. Make no covenant with it.

*— Chuck Smith,
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:29-33 Little by little
- God would allow Israel time to expand into the land.
- They would not be able to take it all at once.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:29-33 Little by little
- This is a lot like how we grow in Christ.
- Sometimes there is a lot of excitement at our conversion.
- Then we realize we still have a lot to learn, and a long way to go.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:29-33 Little by little
- We can then get discouraged and stop growing.
- This is what happened to the Israelites in the land.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:29-33 Little by little
- They lacked perseverance and let some of the idols and idolaters remain among them.
- Eventually this destroyed the nation and led to their exile.

III. Conquest and Covenant

23:20-33



- 23:29-33 Little by little
- God wants us to keep learning and keep growing as long as we live.
- Don't stop reading your Bible.
- Don't stop praying for yourself and others.
- Don't stop serving.
- You are not done yet.

Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

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Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Treat Everyone Fairly

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Treat Everyone Fairly

- There can be a lot of good reasons to treat people differently according to our personal standards.
- We might favor the rich; we might choose to favor the poor.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

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Treat Everyone Fairly

- We should be honest and fair in all that we do.
- Remember that God has been unfairly gracious toward you.

Conclusions



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Christ Promises Us Living Water.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Christ Promises Us Living Water.

- When we put our faith in Christ, His Holy Spirit comes to reside within us by faith.
- Just as water is necessary for life, the Living Water of the Spirit is necessary for spiritual life.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Christ Promises Us Living Water.

- Without the power that the Spirit gives, we do not have the capacity to serve God, obey Him, and carry out His will.
- No amount of religion can take the place of the living presence of God in our lives.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Christ Promises Us Living Water.

- And again, this comes through faith in Christ.

Conclusions



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Persistence in the Christian Life

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Persistence in the Christian Life

- God promised to help the Israelites conquer the Promised Land.
- In the same way, He promises us help in overcoming the old life of our flesh – our life without Christ.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Persistence in the Christian Life

- This does not happen all at once.
- It happens by means of little daily victories, and little daily accomplishments.
- We grow in our faith little by little over time.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Persistence in the Christian Life

- Certainly, some spiritual victories seem bigger than others.
- Still, there is no such thing as instant maturity in our walk with Christ.
- Persistence – faithfulness – is the key to continuous growth.

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

Exodus 23

Persistence in the Christian Life

- Whatever challenge you face, don't ever give up.
- Whatever trials you endure, don't ever give up.
- God has promised to be with you no matter what.

Conclusions



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Persistence in the Christian Life

- Joshua 1:8-9

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, ...

Conclusions



Justice, Holidays, and Holiness

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Persistence in the Christian Life

- Joshua 1:8-9

... and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Conclusions

