

## **Exodus 22:14-23:9 General Moral Laws**

**14** "And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good. **15** If its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.

**16** "If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife. **17** If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins.

**18** "You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

**19** "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

**20** "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

**21** "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

**22** "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. **23** If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; **24** and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

**25** "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. **26** If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. **27** For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

**28** "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

**29** "You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. **30** Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

**31** "And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

## **Exodus 23:1-9**

**1** "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

**2** You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

**3** You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

**4** "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

**5** If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

**6** "You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.

**7** Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

**8** And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.

**9** Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ◊ We remember that the Children of Israel were eyewitnesses as God spoke the moral law in the hearing of Israel. We find that the Children of Israel are standing far back from the mountain while Moses is standing near, but the Children of Israel can still hear the words being spoken by God. [\[Exodus 20:21\]](#)
- ◊ God's laws reflect true righteousness and justice. Any nation that adheres to these laws will be a righteous nation and eliminate many problems associated with laws made from purely humanistic arguments and reasoning. [\[Deuteronomy 4:8\]](#)
- ◊ The borrower is liable for the item borrowed, if it becomes damaged or destroyed he shall make it good to the owner. [\[Exodus 22:14\]](#)
- ◊ Hired property being operated in the presence of the owner, that becomes damaged or destroyed, came for its hire, and the one who hired it is not liable for the damage. [\[Exodus 22:15\]](#)
- ◊ If a man entices an unengaged virgin into a sexual relationship, he has an obligation to take her as his wife and must pay the bride price for her. However the father has the right to prevent the marriage if he chooses to do so, but the man will still pay the bride price because he has defiled her. [\[Exodus 22:16-17\]](#)
  - ◊ The story of Dinah the daughter of Jacob set the precedent. [\[Genesis 34:1-5\]](#)
  - ◊ The concept of sexual relationship being equal to marriage is confirmed by Paul. [\[1 Corinthians 6:16\]](#)
  - ◊ The message is that God holds a man to be fully responsible in his sexual contacts.
- ◊ Sorcery (witchcraft, divination, fortune telling, etc.) is prescribed the death penalty. [\[Exodus 22:18\]](#)
  - ◊ It causes people to trust in something other than in God, or to turn to someone who does not represent God for revelations, thus it becomes a form of idolatry.
- ◊ Having sexual contact with an animal is prescribed the death penalty. [\[Exodus 22:19\]](#)
- ◊ Idolatry, sacrificing to any god other than Yehowah (the God of Creation, the God of Israel) Who spoke these laws from heaven in the hearing of Israel, draws the death penalty. [\[Exodus 22:20\]](#)
- ◊ Do not oppress or mistreat a stranger. [\[Exodus 22:21\]](#)

- ✧ God uses the experience of the 400 year history of Israel in bondage in Egypt as the basis for them to be expected to behave properly and kindly toward strangers in their midst.
- ◊ Do not afflict a widow or fatherless child. [\[Exodus 22:22-24\]](#)
  - ✧ This command comes with a warning that **if you afflict them in any way, and they cry out to God**; then God will hear their cry and His wrath will rise up and He will take action against the evildoers.
  - ✧ God will bring on the enemy to avenge the affliction, so you will be killed by the sword, and your wives will be widows, and your children will be fatherless.
  - ✧ This is also in keeping with God's policy for justice, of a proportional punishment of a life for a life, an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, and stripe for stripe. [\[Exodus 21:22-25\]](#)
  - ✧ Jesus took it a little further when He spoke to the one being oppressed and said: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. [\[Matthew 5:38-39 NKJV\]](#)
  - ✧ Either way the victim is looking to God for final justice for his or her cause. Do not seek to avenge yourself but leave the doing to the hand of God. [\[Romans 12:19\]](#)
- ◊ If you loan money to the poor of God's people, do not be like a money lender by charging interest. [\[Exodus 22:25-27\]](#) [\[Leviticus 25:35-37\]](#) [\[Deuteronomy 23:19-20\]](#)
- ◊ If you take another's garment as a pledge of security, it must be returned before sundown, because it is his only covering. If he cries out to God, Yehowah will hear and it will become a sin to you before God, because God is gracious and cares for the poor.
  - ✧ This is suggesting that the man is very poor and only has the cloths he is wearing. God would prefer us to be generous and help him, than to take advantage of his poverty and oppress him. [\[Deuteronomy 15:7-11\]](#)
- ◊ You shall not revile (scorn, ridicule, sneer at, mock, despise) God or curse a ruler of your people. [\[Exodus 22:28\]](#)
  - ✧ God requires that we show honor toward God Himself and toward the rulers of men. [\[1 Peter 2:13-17\]](#)
- ◊ First fruit of the land and first born of man and animal belong to God, to be given on the eighth day of its life. [\[Exodus 13:1, 13:11-16, 22:29-30, 23:19\]](#)
- ◊ You shall be holy (set apart to God) to Me. [\[Exodus 22:31\]](#)
  - ✧ God commands us to come out from among them and be separate (holy), [\[2 Corinthians 6:17, Exodus 19:6, Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 20:26, 21:6, Numbers 15:40, Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, 22:31, 26:19, 28:9, Isaiah 62:12, Ephesians 1:3-4, Colossians 1:22, 1 Peter 1:15-16, 1 Peter 2:9, Matthew 5:48\]](#)
- ◊ You shall not eat any meat that was torn by beasts in the field, it shall be thrown to the dogs. [\[Exodus 22:31\]](#)
- ◊ You shall not bear false witness against anyone, to anyone (rumor, gossip, slander, scandal) [\[Exodus 23:1\]](#)
- ◊ Do not join with the wicked to bear false witness in court. [\[Exodus 20:16, 23:1\]](#)
- ◊ Do not follow a crowd to do evil. [\[Exodus 23:2\]](#)
- ◊ Do not pervert justice by false testimony in a dispute in going along with the crowd. [\[Exodus 23:2\]](#)
- ◊ Do not show partiality in favor of a poor man in his dispute. [\[Exodus 23:3\]](#)
- ◊ Bring back to your neighbor his animals you find going astray. [\[Exodus 23:4, Deuteronomy 22:1-3\]](#)
- ◊ If you see the animal of someone who hates you fallen under its burden, you shall lend a helping hand. [\[Exodus 23:5, Deuteronomy 22:4\]](#)
- ◊ Do not pervert the judgment of the poor in his dispute. (Do not show him favoritism, nor favoritism to the other party). Let justice be true justice. [\[Exodus 23:6\]](#)

- ◊ Keep yourself from a false matter. [\[Exodus 23:7\]](#)
- ◊ Do not kill the innocent and the righteous, because God will not justify the wicked. [\[Exodus 23:7\]](#)
- ◊ Do not take a bribe. Because a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous. A bribe distorts justice. [\[Exodus 23:8\]](#)
- ◊ Do not oppress a stranger. [\[Exodus 23:9\]](#)
  - ◊ Here again, God uses the experience of Israel being in bondage 400 years in Egypt, as an object lesson to teach them to do right toward a stranger in their midst, by remembering how terrible their experience had been as slaves in Egypt.
- ◊ These commandments are all straight forward and mean exactly what they say as the proper way to live if we want to be pleasing and acceptable to God.
- ◊ All these words were heard by Moses and by the Children of Israel as God spoke from heaven, while His awesome presence was visible on the mountain in the most spectacular display of power. [\[Exodus 19:9-19, 20:18, 20:22\]](#)