

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

#78 – Preserving Justice, Grace and
Sabbath Rest in the New Land

Exodus 23:1-13

False Witness

Exodus 23:1

“¹ You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.”

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Exodus 20:16

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Something that is “unfounded”

Rules regarding minorities

Exodus 23:2-3

“² You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice; ³ nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute.”

Leviticus 19:15

“¹⁵ You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.”

Exodus 23:6-7

“⁶ You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute. ⁷ Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.”

Exodus 23:8

“⁸ You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.”

Deuteronomy 10:17

“¹⁷ For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.”

Regarding Samuel's sons:

I Samuel 8:1-3

“¹ And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. ² Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. ³ His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.”

Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, remarks:

II Chronicles 19:5-7

“⁵ He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city. ⁶ He said to the judges, ‘Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord who is with you when you render judgment. ⁷ Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe.’”

Exodus 23:9

“⁹ You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Loving your enemies

Exodus 23:4-5

“⁴ If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him. ⁵ If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release it with him.”

Proverbs 24:17

“¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles.”

Proverbs 25:21

“²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.”

Matthew 5:43-45a

“⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.”

Deuteronomy 22:4

“⁴ You shall not see your countryman’s donkey or his ox fallen down on the way, and pay no attention to them; you shall certainly help him to raise them up.”

Finally the Sabbath ... AH!

Exodus 23:10-12

“¹⁰ You shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield, ¹¹ but on the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove. ¹² Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.”

Sabbath comes from the
Hebrew word for “cease.”

Do it God's way and not your way.

Exodus 23:13

“¹³ Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth.”

Work

Sex

Slavery

Money

Injury

Poverty

Property

Justice

Psalm 16:4

“⁴ The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips.”

**Gossip and false reports
begin with loose lips.**

**Beware of
following the crowd –
any crowd.**

These laws have direct bearing on judges and juries, but also apply to all manner of disputes.

**“Be careful to do everything
I have said to you....”**

Exodus 23:13.