

Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 8)

Story: **Ten Commandments and other instructions** (E: Jethro Advises Moses, God Gives the 10 Commandments, The Golden Calf, God Writes the Commandments Again, Gifts for the Tabernacle, The Tabernacle, Worship at the Tabernacle, and The Second Passover, p 95-109)

Location: **Exodus 18:1-40:38, Leviticus 1-10**

Bios & definitions

Jethro: father-in-law to Moses, a priest of Midian; gives Moses counsel on how to organize leadership within the people of Israel

Joshua: name given to Hoshea son of Nun, Hoshea means “salvation” and Joshua means “The Lord saves; called by Moses to lead the battle of Israel against the Amalekites (Exo 17:8-26); traveled up Mt Sinai with Moses while Moses received instructions for the building of the Tabernacle (see Exo 24:13)

10 Commandments: also called the Decalogue (10 words); Order of commandments: 1) Only one God, 2) Don't bow down to idols, 3) Don't take God's name in vain, 4) Keep the Sabbath, 5) Honor your Father and Mother, 6) Don't **M**urder, 7) Don't Commit **A**dultery, 8) Don't **S**teal, 9) Don't **L**ie, 10) Don't **E**nvoy

NOTE: It is possible that in chapters 19-24, the narrative of Moses is interrupted by the listing of the Commandments. Biblical scholars suggest that where 19:25 concludes with Moses going to Israel to tell them the Lord's words, the narrative picks up at 20:18, and the commandments are given when Moses approaches the Lord again in 20:21. The passage from 20:22-23:19 is known as “the book of the covenant” (see 24:7), which includes all the ordinances given beyond the commandments. In essence, when Moses approaches the Lord in 20:21, he receives both the commandments and the ordinances, and Moses returns to share “all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances” (24:3). Neither the written order, nor this suggested order, changes the meaning and intention of God's instructions to His people.

Tabernacle: tent-like structure with specific dimensions and building designs given to Moses by God to be constructed so that God might dwell among the people of Israel; created with the ability to be mobile, as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness on their journey to Canaan

NOTE: The area surrounding the tabernacle consisted of an outer court in which there was a Bronze Altar for burnt offerings/sacrifices. The bronze altar had two poles attached so the altar could be carried when the Israelites moved camp. The fire on this altar was kindled by God (Lev 9, especially v 24), and was to be maintained by the priests at all times. Just beyond this altar was the Bronze Laver, or wash basin, where the priests would wash their hands and feet. Beyond the laver stood the tabernacle, divided into two sections: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (or the Holy of Holies). The Holy Place included items covered in gold: the Table of Shewbread (also called Bread of the Presence), a golden table holding 12 loaves, one representing each of the tribes, which was refreshed every week; a Golden Lampstand with seven burning lights; and the Altar of Incense, which constantly burned with sweet smelling perfume, the fire of which came from the Bronze Altar of sacrifice. Beyond the Holy Place was the Holy of Holies, containing only the Ark of the Covenant (or Testimony), a golden chest containing the stone tablets upon which was engraved the covenant agreement between Israel and the Lord. The top of the Ark was known as the “mercy seat,” or atonement cover, crowned with two cherubim; this is the symbolic throne where God would meet with the priest (see Exo 25:22 and Lev 16:2).

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Story: **Spies, Shame and Succession** (E: The Twelve Spies, Water at Meribah, and Moses' Last Journey, p 113-115, 117-118, 126-128)

Location: **Numbers 13:1-14:38, 20:1-13, 27:12-23, Deut 34**

Bios & definitions

Caleb: son of Jephunneh of the tribe of Judah, one of 12 spies sent into Canaan, the first to speak in favor of going into the land of Canaan; he tore his clothes in grief that the assembly would not believe his testimony; identified by God as "My servant... (who) has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully" (Num 14:24)

Joshua: son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim, one of 12 spies sent into Canaan; along with Caleb, voiced his confidence that Israel could take possession of Canaan; survived the plague that befell the doubting spies; identified by God as "a man in whom is the Spirit" (Num 20:18) and "filled with the spirit of wisdom" (Deut 34:9), commissioned as the new leader of Israel by Moses through the laying on of hands (Num 20:22-23)

Meribah: a different location than the first account of water from a rock (Exo 17:7), this time at Kadesh, where the Israelites rebelled against the Lord following the spies negative account of the Promised Land; the name means "contention"

Story: **Joshua, the Jordan and the Jericho** (E: Rahab Helps the Spies, Crossing the Jordan, and the Walls of Jericho, p 129-136)

Location: **Joshua 1:1-6:27**

Bios & definitions

Rahab: Canaanite woman living in Jericho, a harlot who expressed fear and faith in the great acts of Israel's God and became a part of His people; she sheltered two Israelite spies and received a blessing from God for doing so; raised to a position of honor; she married into an Israelite family, and was blessed by being the ancestor of David (Ruth 4:21, 22), thus placing her in the line of Jesus (Matt 1:5); she is also listed in the NT "hall of faith" (Heb. 11:31; James 2:25).

Jericho: from the Hebrew *yereho*, meaning "a place of fragrance;" the first city taken by the Israelites as they entered Canaan; its defeat was to serve as a model of what God could and would do for His people if they were faithful to Him (Joshua 5-7); a city with great walls; Joshua laid a curse on anyone who might rebuild Jericho (Joshua 6:26). The curse was fulfilled about 500 years later when Hiel rebuilt the city at the cost of two of his sons (1 Kings 16:34)

Jordan: the most famous river in Israel; named more than 180 times in the OT; the Hebrew *yardēn*, means "the one going down" or "descender" and it becomes the lowest river on earth (starting at an altitude of 300 feet at the foot of Mount Hermon it drops to 1,200 feet below sea level at the Dead Sea)