

How does God work through the ages? - Tony Pearce

If you've been with us for the last few weeks when I've been speaking, we've been looking at the subject of how the **Exodus** story applies to us as believers in Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah. And how what happened to the Israelites is as an example to us of things which we can learn from their experience, and apply to our experience as believers in Jesus.

Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians chapter 10**: **Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ, or Messiah... ¹¹ Now, all these things happen to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, for whom the ends of the ages have come.**

Paul was saying it that the Lord was with them there in the wilderness, and that we can learn things from what they experienced, and they were examples to us as to how we should live as believers in the Messiah.

I'm going to look, specifically today, at **chapters 18 and 19 of Exodus**, which are leading up to the giving of the 10 Commandments. The giving of the 10 commandments, if you understand the whole structure of the Bible, is really the central event of the Old Testament, the Hebrew scriptures, the Tanach. And it's the event, which everything leading up to and everything which follows afterwards is really measured against in accordance to Israel's, either obedience and keeping the commandments of God, or disobedience.

So, if you want to understand the history of the Old Testament, you have to understand what's taking place at this point in the book of **Exodus**. In **Deuteronomy**, which is the second statement of the Law, (that's what it actually means: *deutero* 'second', *nomos* 'law'), it's the occasion when Moses speaks to the Israelites just before they go into the wilderness, into the Promised Land. He repeats the Law and in **Deuteronomy chapter 4**, he says, **verse 12 And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. ¹³ So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴ And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.**

As Israel becomes a nation, God's giving them His Torah, His Law. And that's going to be their constitution, that's how they're to live, and God's going to bless them if they're obedient. And if they're disobedient to them, judgement will come upon them.

So, we come to the 10 Commandments. I'm not going to read the 10 Commandments because we'll look at that next time. We're reading from **Exodus 18 and 19** which are leading up to the 10 Commandments. But these are the commandments of God which are given and are going to be the Law by which they're to live in the land. We read in the previous chapters how God has brought Israel out of Egypt, and how He's going to bring about a change now in their status: they're going to become a nation before Him. They're going to be a nation with a programme to work out, which is to obey the Lord, and to be a light even to the nations round about them.

And this actually involves what we call a change in the dispensations. Now, that's a long word and it actually means that God is changing the way in which He's dealing with people from this time onwards.

dispensations

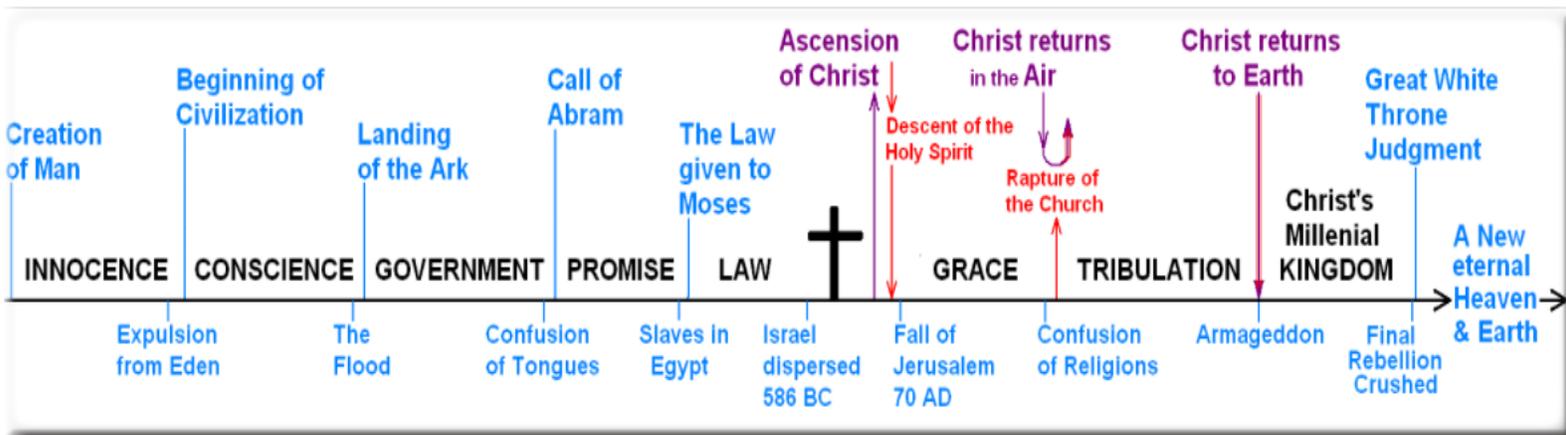
From Moses, through to Jesus, we have what we call the dispensation, or the age of the *Torah* or the Law, in which God is revealing Himself to Israel through the Law, and through the prophets, and through the priests who are going to be the ambassadors of God to teach the people, the ways of God in the days which follow.

One of the things which I have said before is that when we come to a change in the dispensations, we always find that there is a major action of God to reveal Himself in some supernatural way. So, every time there is a change in the dispensation, there is some kind of supernatural encounter which people have with God, which is very much on evidence here as we come to the revealing of the 10 Commandments.

And as we come into the dispensation we now live in, which is the dispensation of Grace through Jesus the Messiah, we see it began with the supernatural manifestation of God in real life and the ministry of the Lord Jesus, His death, His Resurrection, the giving of the Holy Spirit.

As we come to the end of this dispensation, we're looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus in which we'll see again a supernatural intervention of God, as Jesus comes the second time to judge the world in righteousness, and to set up his Messianic Kingdom.

So, every time there is a change in the dispensation there is a manifestation, in some way, of God's power, of God's presence, and God's being with the people in a supernatural way.



MARCH 7, 2021
BRIDGE LANE
LONDON - UK