

Our God gives good instructions

Exodus 21-23 ‘The book of the covenant’

How to respond to God’s law?

Sample instructions 21:16-17, 21:28-29, 22:5, 22:16

Ignore? Maybe! (see 21:7! 21:20!)

No. Not ignore. Because:

Jesus treats the law as an authority (Matthew 5)

The New Testament treats law as useful (2Tim 3:16)

The laws themselves are often really impressive!

Should we treat the law as morally binding?

No, because we can not

No, because we should not

See purposes: Obedience (Ex 23:21), Blessing (Ex 23:25-26), Displaying God’s wisdom (Ex 19:4-6; Deut 4:5-8 cf. 1Pet 2:9)

Example of Jesus’ law modification (Mark 10:5 cf. Deut 24)

No, because the fulfillment of the law has arrived in Jesus

Matt 5:17, 21-22, Rom 10:4, Gal 3:23, Rom 7:10, 3:20, 8:3, 6:14, 13:8-10

But has the law any enduring value?

Yes! The law gives moral shape to love

Example reading God’s law as wisdom: Exodus 23:1-12

Laws of fair justice

Enemies

Sabbath