Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 21: The Law of God reveals the heart of God to the people of God

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 21. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a journaling question.

Israel had only known slavery and oppression until the Exodus. Now Moses’ job was to teach a people how to be a people and form and run their own nation. There needed to be laws for the principles of government, economics, family and social relationships, and the priesthood.

The Ten Commandments were the broad strokes of relating to God and relating to people, now the law would break those Ten Commandments into specifics. Chapters 21-23 of Exodus and the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy communicate in detail the laws that the nation of Israel was given by God.

When Israel entered the wilderness at the Exodus, they were without a doubt the most undeveloped nation of people that has ever existed still to present day. They had left one of the greatest civilizations in human history, Egypt, which had been built on the backs of the Israelites.

In Deuteronomy 4:5-8, God tells the Israelites that they will be a great nation. “*See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’. What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today*?” In just about 300 years’ time, God does it! He makes them one of the greatest nations, if not the greatest nation. We see in I Kings 10:1-10 that the Queen of Sheba shares the report that she has heard of Israel’s fame, fortune and Solomon’s wisdom.

Laws are for our freedom. When we live under God’s authority we live free! Psalm 16:6 tells us, “*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance*”. Boundaries are good for us. We have room to roam inside the boundary lines. Such freedom. When there are no boundaries in place, life is unrestrained. Have you ever seen children in a home where there are no boundaries? The children typically are wild and uncontrollable. Boundaries tell us where the limits are, what is ok and what is not. Imagine driving down the street and there were no lanes marked off. You wouldn’t know where to drive. What if someone coming the opposite way is driving in the same area you are? What would happen? The lines on the street set a boundary and they tell all drivers which side of the street to drive on. There are countless examples I could write about because laws and boundaries are a part of our everyday life.

God’s laws reveal His heart for His people. His laws speak to His goodness.

Journaling question:

Psalm 16:6 speaks of the boundary lines falling in pleasant places with a delightful inheritance. Think about your own life with God. How do boundary lines and delightful inheritance go together? Journal your thoughts here.