

## Episode #335 We Establish the Law 11 - The Broken Covenant

I. The Lord said in Romans 3:31, “We Establish the Law.” We are not under the law, but with proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. The Ten Commandments were in fact the ten terms of a covenant God made with the people of Israel. Exodus 34:28. Yet Israel did not keep this covenant longer than a very short time.

III. The Covenant Kept.

A. God proposed the covenant to Israel, they accepted it, then the terms were revealed. Exodus 19:3-8; Exodus 20.

1. This is not strange, because God can be trusted. We can sign a blank sheet of paper and then let God fill it in because we can know He will be fair and favorable to us.
2. The terms of the covenant God revealed were not unreasonable nor impossible. The faithful Israelite was already doing these things!

B. Israel kept the law from Exodus 20 to Exodus 32.

1. A period of 47 days elapsed, during which *they kept the law*. If they could do it for 47 days, they could have done it for 47 weeks, or 47 months, or even 47 years, and on in perpetuity.
2. This was the most favorable position Israel was ever in. They had an agreement with God and were keeping it. Soon they would be in reality a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

IV. The Covenant Broken.

A. When their leader Moses remained in the mountain for 40 days, they began to become uneasy, then to panic, give way to emotions, and demand that Aaron make them gods to worship instead of the true God. Exodus 32:1-6.

B. This not only was a grievous sin, but also broke the first 2 terms of the covenant.

1. To make a golden calf and worship it would have been a sin for the 2,500 years before the Ten Commandments. But after Sinai, it was more than a sin for Israel to do this. It also broke the covenant.
2. Jeremiah 31:32. To break the covenant was like breaking marriage vows.

C. There was no second chance to keep the covenant. They could not try again.

1. Exodus 32:7-10. The LORD is ready to consume them for this!
2. Exodus 32:11-14. Moses' advocacy was the only thing that spared the people from the consequences of their actions.
3. Exodus 32:15-20. When Moses saw the evidence of the people breaking the covenant, he shattered the record of the covenant at the foot of the mount.
4. Exodus 32:29. This took place on the very day when the LORD was to bless Israel. Perhaps to make them a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation? Perhaps to transfer the law from the tables of stone to the fleshly tables of their hearts? We will never know, as no blessing was given.

V. Conclusion: The ten commandments were the ten terms of a covenant God made with Israel. They kept this covenant for 47 days, which shows they could have kept it longer. However, they then broke the covenant. They would receive no second chance. Their covenant with God was not, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” The blessings that the covenant promised could never be theirs under this covenant once they had broken it.