

EXODUS

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

20:1-2

EXODUS

LAW

STRUCTURE

INTENT

20:1-2

EXODUS

STRUCTURE

A covenant is an arrangement between two parties involving mutual obligations; especially the arrangement that established the relationship between God and his people, expressed in grace first with Israel and then with the church.

Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (p. 530). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

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STRUCTURE OF A COVENANT

1. Preamble: which identifies the giver and recipients of the covenant (“the Lord your God,” 20:2)
2. Prologue: a reminder of the relationship of the suzerain to the people (“who brought you out of Egypt,” 20:2)
3. Stipulations: various laws/obligations on the part of the people (20:3–23:19; 25:1–31:18)
4. List of witnesses to the covenant [“I am Yahweh,”
Exod 29:46; 31:13; Lev 11:44]

STRUCTURE OF A COVENANT

5. Document clause: providing for writing down of the covenant so that periodic reading and relearning of the covenant can take place as time goes by (see Exod 24:4, 7, 12)
6. Sanctions: blessings and curses as incentives for obedience (see Exod 20:5–6, 12, 24; 23:20–31; cf. Lev 26:3–14 [blessings]; 26:14–39 [curses]; 26:40–45 [restoration blessings]).

Stuart, D. K. (2006). Exodus (Vol. 2, pp. 439–440). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

MATTHEW 22:34-40: But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT



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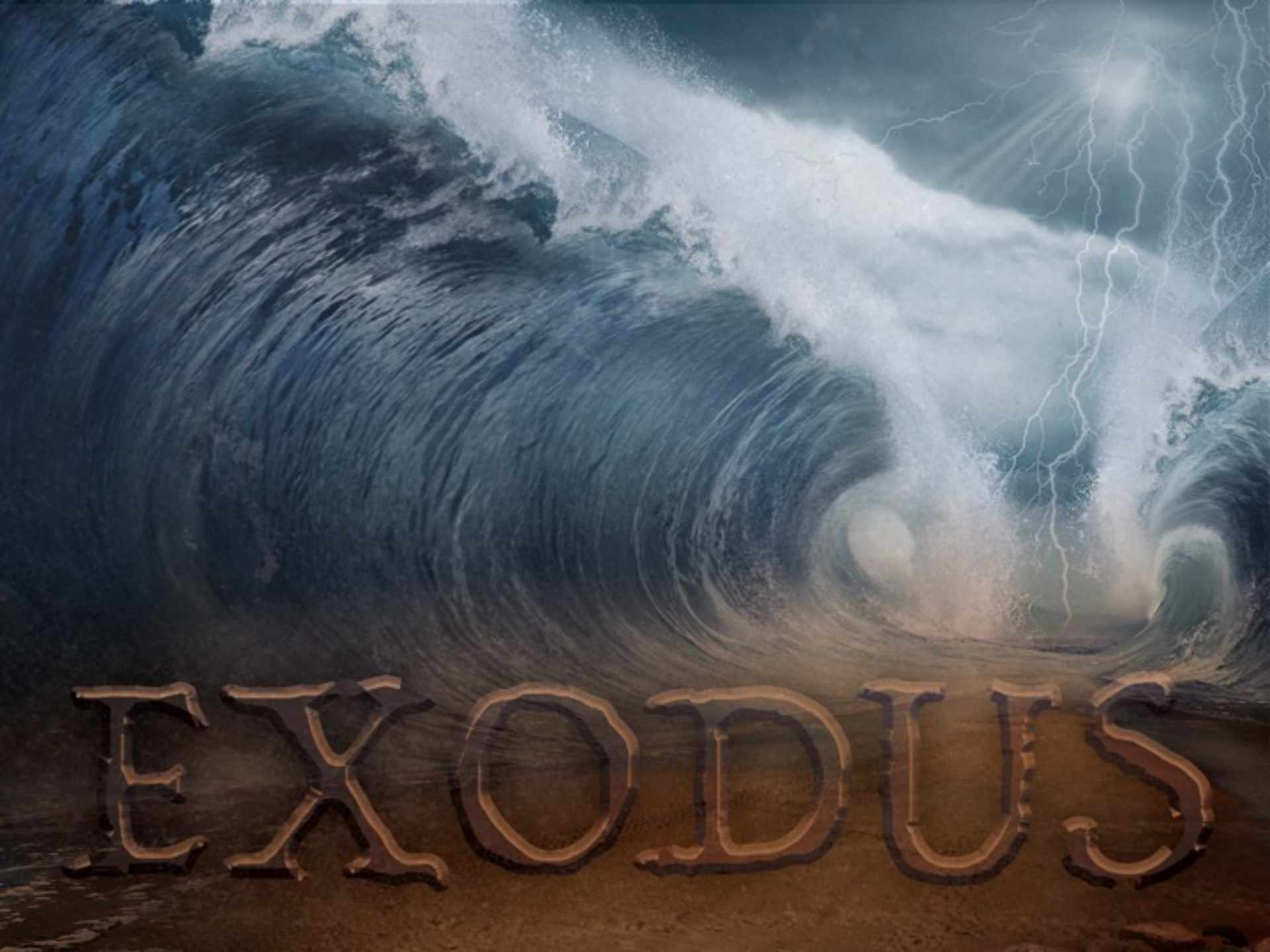
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- The structure of the covenant laws provides clarity so that people could know what was expected of them.
- The law intends to cover all matters.
- Laws may feel restrictive but God is caring for His people by providing them guidance.

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