

**When Heaven Shapes Society**  
**Exodus Series Part 26**  
**Text: Exodus 21**

**Big Idea:** The covenant is not an abstract ideal for Sinai and Israel alone. God's commandments order everyday life and still apply to life today. He does not call us to serve Him once a week. He calls us to serve Him every minute of every day in all things. And to serve in such a way that our personal and community life are a reflection of Heaven itself.

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

**Exodus 19:16<sup>1</sup> (ESV)**

### **1. THE COVENANT DIGNIFIES SERVANTHOOD (EXODUS 21:1–11)**

But if the slave [servant] plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free...' his master shall bring him to... the doorpost... And bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave [servant] forever. **Exodus 21:5–6 (ESV)**

### **2. THE COVENANT SAFEGUARDS EVERY LIFE (EXODUS 21:12–27)**

Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death... Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death... Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death... When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out... if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

**Exodus 21: 12, 15, 17, 23-25 (ESV)**

#### **A. Life Is Sacred, Justice Must Be Proportional**

#### **B. The Covenant's Roots are Holy and Sacred**

#### **C. The Unborn Are Protected**

### **3. THE COVENANT REQUIRES ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE LOVE (EXODUS 21:28–36)**

If the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, ... the owner must also be put to death.

**Exodus 21:29 (NIV)**

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is ESV unless otherwise noted.