

*RCF Academy—Old Testament*  
**Class 5: “God Dwells Among His People”**  
**Exodus 20-40**



**REFORMATION**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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**Context**

- Historical Context  
mid 15<sup>th</sup> century BC, at the foot of Mount Sinai
- Redemptive-Historical Context  
Promises are being fulfilled!  
Israel now directed how to be Yahweh’s people

**Theme**

*God is establishing the covenant terms to direct His people in how to live in fellowship with Him since He will now dwell with them.*

**Structure** (look at “chiasm” at the end of your handout)

**Covenant Obligations (Chapters 20-23)**

*The Ten Commandments (Chapter 20)*

*Where do commandments fit into a covenant of grace?*

- The law teaches God’s people *how* to image him
- Galatians 3:17-19: the law leads us to Christ
- Israel is *already* saved

## **Covenant Disobedience and Covenant Grace – Exodus 32-34**

*The Glory of God – Exodus 33:12-23*

### **The Tabernacle – Exodus 25-31, 35-40:1-33**

1. Where atonement for sins is made  
Hebrews 9:26
2. Only through an atonement for sins does anyone have fellowship with God  
John 14:6
3. Where God reveals Himself  
Hebrews 1:2
4. Where God is reconciled with His people  
Romans 5:11
5. Where God's glory dwells  
John 1:14
6. A physical place for the invisible God to manifest Himself  
Colossians 2:9
7. Where God can be known  
John 14:7

### **Covenant Presence**

Promised: Chapter 24

Realized: Exodus 40\_34-38

The Climax of Redemptive-History So Far

## A Study Outline for Exodus 20-40

- I. Ex. 20-23: Covenant Obligations
  - Ch. 20 Decalogue as standard for all of life
  - 21:1-22:15 Social life
  - 22:16-23:9 Moral life
  - 23:10-23:33 Religious calendar
- II. Ex. 24: Covenant Ceremony (the promise to be with them)
- III. Ex. 25-31: Covenant Mtg. Place (tabernacle described)
- IV. Ex. 32-34: Covenant Disobedience and Grace
  - Ch. 32- People break covenant; Moses intercedes
  - Ch. 33- Moses “sees” the glory of the LORD
  - Ch. 34- Covenant is renewed
- V. Ex. 35-40: Covenant Meeting Place Built
- VI. Ex. 40:34-38\*: Covenant Presence of the Lord

\*Notice the mirroring effect (a “chiasm”). Sections II and VI are related in terms of promise and fulfillment, and sections III and V are related in terms of directions and obedience. That puts section IV in the middle of this chiasm, making it a central and crucial part of the book. And inside Section IV there is another chiasm. Chapters 32 and 34 are related in terms of covenant broken and covenant restored, with chapter 33 being highlighted in the middle. What is interesting about chapter 33 is that that is where we most clearly see the gospel in this second half of Exodus: Moses intercedes for the sinners, and Moses himself is hidden in the cleft of the rock so that he won’t be destroyed by the glory of the LORD.

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