

Names of God from the Bible

61 – The One of Sinai

*Law-giver, Leader, Provider, Protector, Guide, Defender, Teacher and God.
All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still The One of Sinai for us today.*

Reading: Psalm 68:8

God's Law is good.

When the Lord gave the Law (10 Words / Commandments) at Sinai, He introduced a 'legal' system that was unique and mind-blowing. No other nation had such a legal basis for their communities. Basically, human anarchy reigned. Unbridled revenge took place – just as we see in most 'pagan' societies today. Or as some might remark – they operated the law of the survival of the fittest (or most treacherous).

What the Lord introduced bordered upon Paradise. Paradise – yet acknowledging the potential for sin.

Far from being a set of rules and regulations, the 10 Commandments represented attitudes and a lifestyle that if followed would guarantee peace, fruitfulness and joy.

Never forget that the Law was given [after] God rescued and delivered the people from Egypt. It was not given before The Passover deliverance as a recipe or a requirement in order to please God and thus 'gain' their suitability for their salvation. God saved them and then gave them the Law. In fact God didn't give them the Law as soon as they left Egypt. He didn't give them the Law as a requirement prior to crossing the Red Sea. No, God gave them the Law in preparation for their living in the Promised Land.

God's Law was not only in contrast to all the other nations' moral codes, it was in stark contrast to their heritage in Egypt and in direct contrast to the society they would discover in the Promised Land.

However, the Law's primary function was not to condemn the rest of the world but to demonstrate the best way to live. Not to condemn those who failed to carry it out, but as a guide book to show how to live in blessing within their new found freedom.

Ironically, as we contrast society today and compare it with the Law of Sinai, honesty would make us exclaim – please can we return to that Law? Society today would be enhanced a hundred fold, our neighbourhoods lived in peace and our taxes dramatically reduced, since the cost of abandoning the Law has been horrendous, financially as much as morally.

Through His giving of the Law at Sinai, we see 'the One of Sinai' as an amazing, gracious, pure, loving and righteous God.

Following on from the 10 Words, God expanded the regulations with advice on how to live ethically, wholesomely and healthily. When we read the rest of the handbook we find it strange in many parts as it was written for a people wandering in the desert and without the modern conveniences that we take for granted. Yes, a lot of what we read there is of no immediate relevance to us today, however, we should not dismiss it since it was relevant at the time and shows a God who is interested in the most intimate details of our lives. He constantly wants to bless us and see us live in peace and health. These were practical helps to prosper the people because God is a good God

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who has our best interests at heart.

Whilst God helpfully expanded the 10 Words for the people of Israel, as I have already mentioned, if we followed just the 10 Words today, our lives would be so much better. Nevertheless, we also need to remember that Jesus reduced the 10 to just 2. First, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind'* and second *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* Matthew 22:37-39.

How many thousands of laws do we have today (and hundreds added by successive governments annually) and yet they have not enhanced our lives nor created the freedom that we all long to experience?

We see a marked contrast even in our own lives between our laws and the Law of the One of Sinai.

But there is more, so much more.

The Law was not the only evidence of God's presence at Sinai. Please remember that Psalm 68 was accredited to David not Moses. David was familiar with the whole of the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Old Testament. The Law of Sinai (The 10 Commandments) was only part of the Hebrews' experience of God. God gave Moses the Law, prior to the golden calf debacle; prior to the spies scouting the Promised Land, their false report and subsequent rebellion; and prior to the 40-year wandering in the wilderness through faithless disobedience. They all happened later.

As we read the rest of the Sinai wilderness journey, we find that the One of Sinai was their leader and guide. Through the Presence of the Cloud by day and the Fire by night the Hebrews followed their Leader and Guide. However, that Presence was also their Protector, shielding them from their enemies.

Additionally, God constantly provided their needs; water, Manna and meat (quails) and that provision continued until they ate the produce of the Promised Land. (Joshua 5:12.) Over and above all that we read that their clothes did not wear out. (Deuteronomy 8:4.)

The One of Sinai not only introduced the Law but also worship for all. In the past we see instances of personal worship – Abel (Genesis 4:4); Noah (Genesis 8:20); Abraham (Genesis 14:20; 17:23; 18:8; 22:10); Isaac (Genesis 26:25); Jacob (Genesis 28:18; 32:30) In Sinai, God instructed Moses to both construct a Tabernacle for God's Presence and to institute a system of sacrifices that would enable all sinners to repent and be forgiven.

Prior to Sinai there was no formula for forgiveness. Guilt was permanent. The One of Sinai introduced a system for forgiveness. Yes, sin and failure were exposed and the inherent separation from a righteous God, however, equally salvation was instigated and forgiveness secured.

Righteousness didn't give way to unrighteousness nor sweep it under the carpet and pretend it didn't exist. No, on the contrary, unconscious sin and rebellion were openly exposed for two reasons – to reveal the truth and to set right the offender. Not to make the offender feel guilty but to enable them to be set free.

The Tabernacle and its furnishings may be complex, the sacrifices seem pedantic and yet they pointed to an extremely righteous God who could not countenance the least misdemeanour and yet longed for the separation to end and forgiveness to be granted.

There is always a cost to sin. Obviously to the one who is the recipient of the sin as well as to the sinner. However, there is ultimately a higher cost. A cost to the sacrifice and the highest cost to a

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righteous God who is hurt, spurned, mocked and cheated.

The sacrificial system introduced by the One of Sinai helped deal with these issues. Inadequately, of course. However, it pointed forward to the final solution. The Sacrifice of God, Himself. God taking our sin upon Himself to satisfy the demands of His Law.

Jesus died, the spotless perfect sacrifice to pay the ultimate price for our salvation and redemption, to reverse the effects of The Fall and to finally triumph over the enemy, Satan.

'God was reconciling the world through Christ.' (2 Corinthians 5:18.) God revealed at Sinai the introduction of His Eternal Plan to eradicate evil, wickedness, selfishness, sin, guilt, rebellion and arrogant independence forever. The lamb that was slain in the sacrifices pictured *'the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.'* (Revelation 13:8.)

Yes, the One of Sinai took that opportunity to reveal some of His Glory.

What does that name mean for us today?

God is always wanting what is best for our lives. No matter what society we live in we need to go back and revisit God's original intention and realise that it is still His intention. We need to personally embrace the best. The Law was fulfilled in Christ and reaches its final completion in Heaven.

Prayer

Father, thank you so much for reminding me how wonderful Your Law is. I worship You today as the One of Sinai – the righteous One, the Loving One, the gracious One – My Lord and Saviour. Thank you that today I can experience the One of Sinai as the Holy Spirit within me. Amen.

Additional readings

- Exodus 19:1-6.
- Exodus 20:1-17.
- Matthew 5:1-20.

Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the word – Sinai?
2. Why do you think God's Law is good?
3. How did Jesus fulfil that name – The One of Sinai?