

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

June 28, 2015

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

☉ Summer Training

For additional details regarding the above prayer items, please refer to Detailed Prayer Burdens.

Truth Pursuit

2015 Summer Training on the
Crystallization-Study of Exodus (2)

Morning Revival

2015 Summer Training on the
Crystallization-Study of Exodus (2)

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Semi-Annual Summer Training in Anaheim—June 29-July 4

- ☉ Pray for the full release of the Lord's word to the churches that would minister to the current need of the churches for the advancement of the Lord's move in His recovery.
- ☉ Pray that the grace of Christ would supply and empower the speaking brothers to speak forth the word and that the power of Christ would tabernacle over them as their covering.

- ☉ Pray that the saints attending would be empty, open and seeking to receive a fresh speaking from the Lord.
- ☉ Pray that this training would be a real feast, full of the participation and enjoyment of the riches of Christ and that there would be a rich, life-imparting fellowship among all those participating in the training that would build up the Body.

SUMMER TRAINING 2015

One of the greatest blessings to the Lord's recovery has been the semi-annual trainings. This week we will enjoy the 2015 Summer Training to be held in Anaheim and by simulcast in Irvine (Hall 3 for English & Korean-speaking; Hall 1 for Chinese-speaking). As a reminder to all those who are registered, the afternoon and evening sessions start at 4:00pm and 7:30pm, respectively.

Due to the special nature of the trainings (as opposed to church conferences), specific regulations do apply. For instance, we are required to be in our seats 5 minutes early. If we are unable to participate in a training session, we must notify in advance the brothers designated as "attendance coordinators."

Saints participating in the training are also required to study the training messages in groups of 8-10. Where the situation permits,

these study times should take place in a nearby home, but those who are unable to study in the homes can study at Hall 1 throughout the week from 9am-12pm.

All college and high school students participating in the training must attend a study session held daily at the LSM campus in Anaheim from 9:00-11:30am.

May the Lord bless the upcoming training with His fresh and up-to-date speaking!

MINISTRY PORTION FROM EXODUS

The Law as the Testimony of God

Exodus 20 has not been properly and adequately understood by many readers. It is commonly thought that this chapter tells us how the law was given. This is correct, but it is not the basic, primary concept. The basic concept in this chapter is that God reveals Himself to His people and thus enables them to know what kind of God He is. He wanted the children of Israel to know what kind of God they were approaching, what kind of God with whom they were having fellowship. It was important for the children of Israel not only to know such divine attributes as grace and holiness, but also to know God Himself.

In 20:4 the words image and likeness are used. Genesis 1:26, a verse which speaks of the creation of man, also uses the words image and likeness. God created man in His image and according to His likeness. As used in Genesis 1:26, the words image and likeness refer to God's Person, to God Himself and to

what He is. Hence, man was made according to what God is. In 20:4, however, these words are used in a warning: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." In verse 3 the Lord says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The word "before" here actually means besides, in addition to. Thus, the Lord seemed to be saying, "I am the unique One. Before Me, in addition to Me, you should not have any other god. You should not have any other image or likeness. The only image and likeness you should have should be Mine. I am unique and jealous. Do not make for yourselves an image or a likeness of anything." These verses indicate that the Ten Commandments first speak of God's image and likeness. In other words, these commandments refer us to God Himself. This indicates that the law does not

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Upcoming Events

- ☉ Monday, June 29 - Saturday, July 4
Summer Training, Anaheim
- ☉ Lord's Day, July 12 - Saturday, July 18
National College Training, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- ☉ Monday, July 20 - Saturday, July 25
Summer Bible Camp, Irvine
- ☉ Monday, July 27 - Saturday, Aug 1
Summer School of Truth, Irvine

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org

Blog: members.churchinirvine.org

Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org

Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org

YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

Children: children.churchinirvine.org

This Week

28TH ☉ 9:30am-12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day table and prophesying
meetings by districts

29TH ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Monday Training Message 1
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 2

30TH ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Tuesday Training Message 3
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 4

1ST ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Wednesday Training Message 5
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 6

2ND ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Thursday Training Message 7
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 8

3RD ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Friday Training Message 9
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 10

4TH ☉ 4:00-6:00pm Summer
Saturday Training Message 11
☉ 7:30-9:30pm Summer
Training Message 12

5TH ☉ 9:30am-12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day table and prophesying
meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION FROM EXODUS (CONT'D)

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merely consist of commandments for us to keep. Primarily, the law is a testimony which reveals what kind of God the Lord is.

Concerning the matter of law, there is an important principle: the kind of law a person makes expresses the kind of person that one is. For example, if criminals could make laws, they would legalize crime. Furthermore, a backward country would have rather barbaric laws, whereas a highly cultured society would have highly cultured laws. This principle applies also to God Himself. God is a Law-giver. In giving the law, He would never legalize crime or sin. He would not legalize theft or adultery, for He is not that kind of God. Only the god of witchcraft would legalize such things. A law is always a revelation of what kind of person has enacted that law.

The first function of the law is not to expose us; it is to reveal God to us. Years ago, I emphasized the fact that the law's function was to expose us. In this message, however, I wish to emphasize the point that the primary function of the law is to reveal God to us. After God brought His people into His presence to have fellowship with Him, to serve Him, to contact Him, to worship Him, and even to feast with Him, He made Himself known to them. Prior to this time, God had not revealed to His people what kind of God He is. Yes, in Genesis 17 God did tell Abraham that He was perfect, almighty, and all-sufficient. However, that was not an adequate revelation of God Himself. Only when we come to Exodus 20 do we have a revelation of what kind of God our God is.

This revelation, however, is not given directly. Rather, it is given indirectly through the giving of the law. Apparently Exodus 20 is concerned with the giving of the law. Actually this chapter is concerned with the unveiling of God Himself. In decreeing the law, God made Himself known to His people. Through the law, they were able to understand what kind of God He is. The divine legislation is a revelation of God Himself. If we would understand this portion of the Word adequately, we must keep this concept firmly in mind.

Deuteronomy 4:13 speaks of "ten commandments," whereas Exodus 34:28 speaks of "ten words" (Heb.). The expression "ten words" is significant. God regards the Ten

Commandments, the ten laws, as ten words. This expression is a further indication that the law is God's revelation of Himself, since the words a person speaks are a revelation of that person.

Exodus 20 does not clearly say which commandment is the first, which is the second, and so on. Although the fourth through the tenth commandments are clearly identified, it is difficult to determine which are the first, second, and third. The Jews understand this in one way, the Catholics in another way, and the Protestants in still another way. In order to have the proper understanding of the Ten Commandments, we should see that they actually begin with verse 2. Verse 1 is the introduction, and then verses 2 and 3 continue, "I am Jehovah thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Heb.). Verses 2 and 3 comprise the first commandment. Notice that in the first commandment the title "Jehovah thy God" is used. The same is true in each of the next four commandments. However, although the expression "Jehovah thy God" is used in each of the first five commandments, it is not used in any of the last five. The use of the title Jehovah in verses 2 through 11 gives us reason to join verse 3 with verse 2 and thus consider verse 2 as part of the first commandment. The second commandment is found in verses 4 through 6. Here we are commanded not to make a graven image or likeness of anything in heaven, on earth, or under the earth, nor to bow down to them, for the Lord is a jealous God. The third commandment, concerning not taking the Lord's name in vain, is found in verse 7; and the fourth, regarding the Sabbath day, is recorded in verses 8 through 11. The fifth commandment (v. 12) is about honoring our father and mother. The remaining five commandments are found in verses 13 through 17.

—Message 51, *Life-Study of Exodus*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ 2015 Summer School of Truth

We are pleased to announce the 2015 Summer School of Truth. The dates of the SSOT this year will be from July 27 to Aug 1. The young people as well as any burdened parents or saints may register for the SSOT on our website at www.irvineyp.com.

The purpose of the Summer School of Truth is in accord with our Savior God's desire

that all men would not only be saved but also come to the full knowledge of the truth. Please plan your summer accordingly for this important time. May all our young people be prepared by the Lord to be His useful vessels fully equipped unto every good work.