

**CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF GOD'S ECONOMY
PORTRAYED IN EXODUS (3)—REVELATION**

Message Four

**God Seeking Lovers in Giving His Law
to His People**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 20:1-12; 3:14-15; Jer. 31:3, 32; 2:2; Hosea 2:19-20; Isa. 54:5;
Ezek. 16:8; John 14:21, 23; Matt. 22:37-40

- I. God's desire is to express Himself through a people and make them His dwelling; this people must become God's expression corresponding to His law which is to correspond to God Himself.**
- II. The Bible reveals that in the Old Testament God sought His people as the Beloved seeking someone to be His love, His spouse; after wooing them, He became engaged to them at Mount Sinai:**
 - A. The Lord revealed Himself to His people as Jehovah their God, the great I Am, the One who was, who is, and who will be forever; the One who revealed Himself to the people was the One who was seeking lovers—Exo. 3:14-15.
 - B. The Lord told His people, “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”—Jer. 31:3.
 - C. Because God was the Beloved seeking His people to be His love, He dealt with them as His spouse—Jer. 2:2; Hos. 2:19-20; Isa. 54:5; Ezek. 16:8.
 - D. God's law was given in a courting way; by giving His people the law in such a way, God made known to them what kind of God He is—Exo. 20:2, 5; John 14:21, 23:
 1. By giving His people the law God made known to them what kind of God He is; in each of the first five commandments, He referred to Himself intimately as “Jehovah your God”—Exo. 20:2, 5.
 2. If we do not love God, we shall not be able to keep His commandments, and thus we shall not be able to express Him; the goal of engagement is to bring two people into oneness—John 14:21, 23.
 3. The primary function of the Bible is to bring us to God and make us one with Him; because we love God, we also love His word; as His words infuse Himself into us, we become one with Him in life, nature, and expression.
- III. God was seeking lovers when He gave His law to His people in the Old Testament; God's intention in giving the law to His chosen people was that they become those who love Him—Exo. 20:1-17:**
 - A. Four prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea—spoke of God as the Husband of the children of Israel and of God's people as His spouse, His wife; they all had the same concept concerning this matter—Isa. 54:5; Jer. 31:3, 32; 2:2; Ezek. 16:8; Hosea 2:19-20.
 - B. All believers know that God is the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Savior, but many do not realize that God is also a Husband and that His people are His wife; God and His people are a wonderful, universal couple—2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 21:10.
 - C. We need to see when, where, and how God betrothed Israel unto Himself:
 1. In Jeremiah 2:2 the Lord specifically mentions “the love of thy betrothals”; this expression denotes the love of Israel at the time of her engagement to the Lord—Jer. 2:2; Isa. 54:5.

2. Here the Lord speaks of four things He remembers: His people, the kindness of their youth, the love of their betrothals, and how they followed after Him in the wilderness.
- D. The law was an engagement paper, an engagement covenant; when God gave the law, He betrothed Israel unto Himself, and Israel became engaged to Him—Ezek. 16:8; Jer. 31:32.
- E. The law gave the terms for the engagement between God and His people; the conditions for God's engagement with Israel were the Ten Commandments:
 1. The first nineteen chapters of Exodus are chapters in which God was courting, wooing, even "dating" His people; He wanted to be their unique Beloved; His desire was that the people would love Him and Him alone.
 2. From the creation of the world until the time of Exodus 20, God was alone; in a sense, He was lonely, a "bachelor."

IV. The highest function of the law is to bring God's chosen people into oneness with Him; this understanding of the law as God's living word and of the Bible shows forth the intrinsic function of the law and of the Bible, the Word of God—Mark 12:30; Matt. 22:37-40; Gal. 5:14.

Focus:

In this message we want to bring the young people into the very heart of God in His relationship with His people. More than anything God desires His people to love Him. This is far from the religious thought and understanding of God wanting good people who obey the law. But here we see that even in giving the law to His people, He was a lonely "bachelor" seeking lovers.