

Exodus 20-29 reader's theater and choral readings

CHARACTERS: Narrators 1 and 2, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, News reporter 1 & 2,
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 20-29

The Ten Commandments choral reading

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, All, Moses, Aaron, Miriam

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes per page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 20

MIRIAM: God spoke all these words:

VOICE OF GOD: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

MOSES: out of the place of slavery.

VOICE OF GOD: Do not have other gods besides Me.

AARON: Do not make an idol for yourself,

MIRIAM: You must not bow down to them or worship them.

VOICE OF GOD: I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commands.

MOSES: Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

AARON: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy:

VOICE OF GOD: You are to labor six days and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

ALL: You must not do any work.

VOICE OF GOD: I made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days.

MOSES: Then God rested on the seventh day.

AARON: Honor your father and your mother

MIRIAM: so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

MOSES: Do not murder.

ALL: Do not commit adultery.

MOSES: Do not steal.

ALL: Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

AARON: Do not covet your neighbor's house, or wife.

MIRIAM: His slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

VOICE OF GOD: I will come to you and bless you in every place where I cause My name to be remembered.

Additional laws

CHARACTERS: News reporter 1 and 2, Miriam, Israelite 1 & 2

SETTING: News studio

NEWS 1: Moses came down from Mt. Sinai today with additional laws. We interviewed people to get their reactions.

NEWS 2: What do you think about the law regarding a Hebrew slave?

ISRAELITE 1: It seems fair that he is to serve for six years and go free on the 7th.

MIRIAM: And it is fair that if he became a slave with a wife, the wife is free on the seventh year as well.

NEWS 2: How about the personal injury laws?

ISRAELITE 2: If you scheme and willfully kill someone, you must die.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Which relates to the commandment against murder.

ISRAELITE 1: Unless it was unintentional; then you can flee to a city of refuge.

MIRIAM: Kidnapping is punishable by death as well.

NEWS REPORTER 1: As is cursing your father or his mother.

MIRIAM: Which relates to the 5th commandment to honor your parents.

NEWS REPORTER 2: When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or his fist, and the injured man does not die but is confined to bed, but later gets up and walks around outside leaning on his staff, then the one who struck him will be exempt from punishment.

ISRAELITE 1: But, he must pay for his lost work time and provide for his complete recovery.

ISRAELITE 2: Killing a slave is a punishable offense.

MIRIAM: If a pregnant woman is injured so that her children are born prematurely but there is no injury, the one who hit her must be fined.

NEWS REPORTER 1: But if the baby is injured, the law is the same for a person already born.

ALL: Life for life, eye for eye,

MIRIAM: tooth for tooth, hand for hand,

ISRAELITE 1: foot for foot, burn for burn,

LLL2: bruise for bruise, wound for wound.

NEWS REPORTER 1: What happens in a master injures a slave, say knocks out a tooth or one eye?

ISRAELITE 1: The slave goes free.

MIRIAM: And people are responsible for the actions of their animals.

ISRAELITE 2: If an ox was in the habit of goring,

NEWS REPORTER 2: What does that mean: goring?

NEWS REPORTER 1: pierce or stab with a horn or tusk.

ISRAELITE 2: If its owner has been warned yet does not restrain it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox and the owner are put to death.

MIRIAM If someone allows his animals to go and graze in someone else's field, he must repay what they ate with the best of his own field or vineyard.

ISRAELITE 1: When a fire gets out of control and consumes stacks of cut grain, standing grain, or a field, the one who started the fire must make full restitution for what was burned.

NEWS REPORTER 1: Any other public safety concerns?

MIRIAM: If a man digs or uncovers a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, the owner of the pit must give compensation.

NEWS REPORTER 2: What do you mean by compensation?

MIRIAM: He must pay money the owner.

ISRAELITE 1: When a man steals an ox or a sheep and butchers it or sells it, he must repay five cattle for the ox or four sheep for the sheep.

NEWS REPORTER 2: What if a thief can't make full restitution?

ISRAELITE 1: He is sold as a slave.

ISRAELITE 2: If what was stolen—whether ox, donkey, or sheep—is actually found alive in his possession, he must repay double.

ISRAELITE 2: If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in at night and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed.

NEWS REPORTER 1: But if this happens after sunrise, there is guilt of bloodshed.

NEWS REPORTER 2: How about personal property laws?

MIRIAM: If you agree to watch someone's goods or money, then claim they were stolen from you, the case goes to court.

ISRAELITE 1: Whoever the judges condemn must repay double to his neighbor.

ISRAELITE 2: If your neighbor watches a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any other animal, but it dies, is injured, or is stolen, while no one is watching ...

MIRIAM: the watcher takes an oath before God.

ISRAELITE 1: But if the animal was stolen from his custody, he must make restitution to its owner.

ISRAELITE 2: If it was actually torn apart by a wild animal, he is to bring the body as evidence;

ISRAELITE 1: But he does not have to make restitution for the torn carcass.

MIRIAM: When a man borrows an animal from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not there with it, the man must make full restitution.

ISRAELITE 1: If its owner is there with it, the man does not have to make restitution.

ISRAELITE 2: If it was rented, the loss is covered by its rental price.

Laws Protecting the Vulnerable, Respecting God and about Honesty and Justice

CHARACTERS: News reporter 1 and 2, Miriam, Israelite 1 & 2, Moses, Aaron

NEWS REPORTER 1: How are people who could be taken advantage of protected under God's law?

MOSES: You must not exploit a foreign resident or oppress him.

MIRIAM: You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.

AARON: If you lend money to the poor, you must not be like a moneylender that charges him interest.

MOSES: If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, return it to him before sunset.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Explain what collateral is, please.

MOSES: Collateral is something pledged as security for repayment of a loan.

AARON: If you fail to pay back the loan, the lender keeps your collateral.

MIRIAM: But if the person puts up a cloak as collateral, you need to give it back if it is his only covering.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Otherwise he'd freeze while sleeping.

MOSES: You must not blaspheme God or curse a leader among your people.

AARON: Nor should you hold back offerings from your harvest or your vats.

MIRIAM: The firstborn of your children or animals belong to God.

NEWS REPORTER 1: What about a person who spreads a false report?

MOSES: God detests liars and those who are malicious witnesses.

AARON: You must not follow a crowd in wrongdoing.

ISRAELITE 1: Do not testify in a lawsuit and go along with a crowd to pervert justice.

MIRIAM: Do not make a false accusation.

MOSES: Do not kill the innocent and the just, because God will not justify the guilty.

AARON: You must not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and corrupts the words of the righteous

ISRAELITE 2: Do not show favoritism to a poor person in his lawsuit.

MOSES: But neither should you deny justice to a poor person in his lawsuit.

MIRIAM: If you come across your enemy's stray ox or donkey, you must return it to him.

ISRAELITE 1: What if you see the donkey of someone who hates you lying helpless under its load?

MIRIAM: You must help with it, even if you'd rather not.

Sabbaths and Festivals

CHARACTERS: News reporter 1 and 2, Miriam, Israelite 1 & 2, Moses, Aaron

MOSES: Sow your land for six years and gather its produce.

AARON: But during the seventh year you are to let it rest and leave it uncultivated.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Why?

MIRIAM: So that the poor among your people may eat from it and the wild animals may consume what they leave.

MOSES: Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

AARON: Do your work for six days but rest on the seventh day.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Why?

AARON: So that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave as well as the foreign resident may be refreshed.

MOSES: Do not invoke the names of other gods; they must not be heard on your lips.

NEWS REPORTER 2: How often do we celebrate?

MOSES: Three times a year we celebrate to God from whom all our blessings flow.

AARON: When you observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread, you are to eat unleavened bread for seven days.

MIRIAM: Bring a gift when you come.

MOSES: Observe the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of your produce from what you sow in the field.

AARON: Bring the best of the first fruits of your land to the house of the Lord your God.

MIRIAM: Observe the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have finished harvesting.

Promises and Warnings

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Moses, Aaron, Miriam

VOICE OF GOD: I am going to send an angel before you to protect you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared.

MOSES: Pay attention and listen to his voice.

AARON: Do not defy him, because he will not forgive your acts of rebellion, for God's name is in him.

VOICE OF GOD: If you will carefully obey him and do everything I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

MIRIAM: We must not bow down to their gods or worship them.

MOSES: Worship the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water.

VOICE OF GOD: I will remove illnesses from you.

MIRIAM: No woman will miscarry or be childless in your land.

VOICE OF GOD: I will give you the full number of your days and drive out your enemies.

AARON: Will you do that in a single year?

VOICE OF GOD: No; otherwise, the land would become desolate, and wild animals would multiply against you. I will drive them out little by little ahead of you until you have become numerous and take possession of the land.

AARON: What will our borders be?

VOICE OF GOD: From the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates River.

MIRIAM: We must not make a covenant with the people who live there now or their gods.

VOICE OF GOD: They must not remain in your land, or else they will make you sin against Me.

MOSES: If you worship their gods, it will be a snare for you.

The Covenant Ceremony

CHARACTERS: News reporter 1 and 2, All, Miriam, Israelite 1 & 2, Moses, Aaron, Voice of God

NEWS REPORTER 1: We gathered here today for Moses to tell us all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances.

NEWS REPORTER 2: All the people responded with a single voice,

ALL: We will do everything that the Lord has commanded.

NEWS REPORTER 1: Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Why are you carrying those rocks?

ISRAELITE 1: Moses is setting up an altar and 12 pillars for the 12 tribes of Israel at the base of Mt. Sinai.

ISRAELITE 2: I'm bringing burnt offerings and others are bringing bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord.

NEWS REPORTER 2: Miriam, what is Moses doing with that blood?

MIRIAM: Half the blood is set in basins; the other half he sprinkled on the altar.

AARON: Next he is reading the covenant scroll aloud to the people.

ALL: We will do and obey everything that the Lord has commanded.

MOSES: (*sprinkling the blood on the people*) This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you concerning all these words.

NEWS REPORTER 1: Moses went up the mountain with Aaron, his sons Nadab, and Abihu, and 70 of Israel's elders.

NEWS REPORTER 2: What did they see there?

MIRIAM: They saw the God of Israel. Beneath His feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire stone, as clear as the sky itself.

NEWS REPORTER 2: (*astonished*) They saw God and did not die?

MIRIAM: That's right. God did not harm the Israelite nobles; they saw Him, and they ate and drank.

VOICE OF GOD: Moses, come up to Me on the mountain and stay there so that I may give you the stone tablets with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.

MOSES: My assistant Joshua and I are going up the mountain of God.

ISRAELITE 1: What should we do in the meantime?

MOSES: Wait here for us until we return to you.

ISRAELITE 2: What if someone has a dispute?

MOSES: Aaron and Hur are here with you. Whoever has a dispute should go to them.

NEWS REPORTER 1: When Moses went up the mountain, the cloud covered it.

NEWS REPORTER 2: The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days.

NEWS REPORTER 1: The appearance of the Lord's glory to the Israelites was like a consuming fire on the mountaintop.

NEWS REPORTER 2: On the seventh day God called to Moses from the cloud.

NEWS REPORTER 1: Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain, and stayed there 40 days and 40 nights.

Tour of the Tabernacle

CHARACTERS: Tour guide, MOSES, AARON, Bezalel, Hur, Oholiab

SETTING: Tabernacle

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 25-31, 35-40

TOUR GUIDE: We are here with Moses, Aaron and Miriam to take a tour of the tabernacle. Where are we standing?

MOSES: In the courtyard.

TOUR GUIDE: How large is it?

AARON: 150 feet by 75 feet and 7.5 feet high.

TOUR GUIDE: How does that compare to a football field or basketball court?

AARON: It is half as long as a football field.

MOSES: It is as wide and a middle school basketball court is long.

MIRIAM: The ceiling is about three-fourths of the way up to a basketball goal.

TOUR GUIDE: The posts holding the linen curtains sparkle and shine.

MIRIAM: That's because the posts holding the linen are silver put into bronze bases.

TOUR GUIDE: When was the tabernacle set up?

AARON: The first month of the second year we left Egypt, on the first day of the month

TOUR GUIDE: Before we tour the actual tabernacle, tell us how you came up with the plans for it.

MOSES: God showed me a pattern, a model.

TOUR GUIDE: How was the construction funded?

MOSES: The Israelites freely gave 2,193 pounds of gold,

AARON: 7,544 pounds of silver, and 5,310 pounds of bronze

MOSES: acacia wood; oil spices, onyx and other gemstones.

AARON: My son Ithamar and his Levites did the inventory.

MOSES: Everyone whose heart was moved and whose spirit prompted him brought an offering.

AARON: These were given to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its services, and for the holy garments.

MIRIAM: Both men and women came; all who had willing hearts.

AARON: They brought brooches, earrings, rings, necklaces, and all kinds of gold jewelry.

MIRIAM: Some brought blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or manatee skins.

MOSES: Others offered silver or bronze or acacia wood.

MIRIAM: All of the talented women whose hearts were moved spun yarn.

TOUR GUIDE: So all the men and women whose hearts prompted them brought something for all the work that the Lord, through Moses, had commanded to be done?

AARON: The people brought more than was needed for the construction

MOSES: They were so generous, I had to tell them to stop giving.

TOUR GUIDE: Amazing! Absolutely marvelous.

MOSES: Yes. In addition, when the people register, they will pay a ransom for themselves to the Lord.

MIRIAM: Everyone who registers pays half a shekel.

AARON: The wealthy did not give more

MOSES: and the poor did not give less.

TOUR GUIDE: How many men total?

MOSES: 603,550 that were 20 years old and up.

AARON: This atonement money from the Israelites will be used for the service of the tent of meeting.

MIRIAM: It will serve as a reminder that the Lord saved our lives during the Passover.

TOUR GUIDE: Why did you build this tabernacle?

MOSES: So that God might live with us.

TOUR GUIDE: Here we are at the outside of the tabernacle. What is this inner covering?

AARON: Fine linen with blue, purple, and scarlet yarns.

MIRIAM: We used 10 curtains, each 42 by 6 feet.

MOSES: The curtains join together here at these 50 blue loops.

TOUR GUIDE: I see. Each pair of loops is held together with a gold ring.

MIRIAM: Over the linen are goat hair curtains.

TOUR GUIDE: 10 of them?

AARON: Eleven slightly bigger curtains.

MOSES: Each goat hair curtain is 45 by 6.

MIRIAM: These also have 50 loops on each side so they can be joined to the next curtain by bronze clasps.

AARON: The 11th curtain forms a flap or doorway in.

TOUR GUIDE: And what about this third outer layer of coverings?

AARON: Those curtains are ram skins dyed red covered by manatee skins on top of that.

MOSES: The frames to hold the curtains are made from acacia wood overlaid with gold.

MIRIAM: At the entrance, we have a screen embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen.

TOUR GUIDE: Let's go inside and meet the men who were the general contractors for this building project.

MIRIAM: This is my grandson, BB. Bezalel and Oholiab

BEZALEL: This is OHOLIAB, from the tribe of Dan

OHOLIAB: God especially chose us and filled us with God's Spirit.

BEZALEL: He gave us wisdom, understanding, and ability to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze.

OHOLIAB: We can cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every craft.

BEZALEL: Plus, God gave us the ability to teach others.

TOUR GUIDE: What is this gold square 7.5 feet by 7.5 feet and 4.5 feet high on the north side of the tabernacle?

AARON: The altar of burnt offering.

MIRIAM: Underneath all that bronze is acacia wood.

TOUR GUIDE: Why does it have poles attached to it?

MOSES: So it can be carried as we move about the wilderness.

BEZALEL: We constructed this table of acacia wood and overlaid it with gold.

TOUR GUIDE: I bet the rings in the side are so you can carry it.

BEZALEL: Correct.

OHOLIAB: All the plates, cups, pitchers and bowls for pouring drink offerings are pure gold.

AARON: We put the bread of the Presence on the table before God at all times.

BEZALEL: I used bronze mirrors the women contributed to make this bronze basin.

TOUR GUIDE: What do you do with the bronze basin?

AARON: My sons and I wash our hands and feet whenever we enter the tent of meeting or minister before God.

TOUR GUIDE: Tell me about the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle

MOSES: It is made of a single hammered piece of pure gold.

BEZALEL: I used 75 pounds for the lamp and utensils.

TOUR GUIDE: What do you use the oil for?

MIRIAM: To keep the lamp burning continually.

AARON: My sons and I make sure it never goes out.

TOUR GUIDE: Is that another, smaller gold altar by that veil?

MOSES: Yes, it is an altar for the burning of incense.

AARON: Every morning and twilight when I tend the lamps, I burn fragrant incense on it.

TOUR GUIDE: It smells lovely. What's in it?

AARON: Fragrant spices including pure frankincense.

BEZALEL: This incense is especially holy.

OHOLIAB: This formula is restricted to this one purpose.

BEZALEL: It is to be regarded as sacred to the Lord.

MIRIAM: Once a year Aaron performs the purification rite on this altar because it is especially holy to the Lord.

TOUR GUIDE: What is behind the veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen?

MOSES: The ark.

MIRIAM: That veil marks the separation between the holy place and the most holy place.

BEZALEL: The ark is made from of acacia wood plated with pure gold.

OHOLIAB: It is 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

AARON: The rings in the side allow us to carry it.

TOUR GUIDE: What is inside the ark?

MOSES: The stone tablets of the testimony God gave us.

TOUR GUIDE: What is on top surrounded by the wings of those cherubim?

MOSES: The mercy seat of pure gold.

AARON: God speaks with us from the mercy seat.

TOUR GUIDE: Did the Israelites do all the work according to everything the Lord had commanded you, Moses?

MOSES: They did. I inspected all the work they had accomplished.

MIRIAM: They had done just as the Lord commanded.

MOSES: I blessed the people and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it

The Priests

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, MOSES, AARON, Miriam, Eleazar and Ithamar

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 30

VOICE OF GOD: Have your brother Aaron, with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar serve me as priests.

MOSES: Yes, Lord. What shall they wear?

VOICE OF GOD: A breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a specially woven tunic, a turban, and a sash.

MOSES: Aaron, you and your sons are to wear these holy garments for glory and beauty.

AARON: Who made these?

MIRIAM: Skilled craftsmen, whom God filled with a spirit of wisdom.

ITHAMAR: What is engraved on the two onyx stones set in the ephod?

MOSES: The names of Jacob's twelve sons.

ITHAMAR: I get it. They are memorial stones that Aaron will carry on his two shoulders as a reminder.

AARON: The breast piece has four rows of gemstones too.

MIRIAM: Each is engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes.

AARON: I carry the names of Israel's sons over my heart.

ELEAZAR: The blue robe has gold bells hanging from the hem.

ITHAMAR: The turban has a pure gold medallion with HOLY TO THE LORD engraved on it.

MOSES: These special clothes must be worn by Aaron and his sons whenever they enter the tabernacle or minister in the sanctuary area.

AARON: How will we be ordained as priests?

MOSES: We'll need a young bull and two unblemished rams plus unleavened wheat bread.

MIRIAM: You must be washed with water and wear these clothes.

MOSES: I will anoint you with special oil made from the finest spices.

ITHAMAR: I can smell myrrh and cinnamon.

ELEAZAR: Fragrant cane and cassia.

MIRIAM: Correct. Those spices were mixed into a gallon of olive oil.

VOICE OF GOD: This will be My holy anointing oil throughout your generations.

MIRIAM: We will not use it for ordinary anointing.

VOICE OF GOD: You must not make anything like it using its formula. It is holy, and it must be holy to you.

ELEAZAR: What will you do with the ram's blood?

MOSES: Put some on your right earlobes, thumbs and big toes.

AARON: Sprinkle some on your clothes.

MIRIAM: Thus you and your priest clothing will become holy.

ELEAZAR: What about the meat from the sacrificed ram?

MOSES: The thigh and the breast belong to the priests.

MIRIAM: Not just at the ordination but also whenever an Israelite brings a fellowship offering.

MOSES: Every day offer one lamb in the morning and one at twilight.

VOICE OF GOD: I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God.

ALL: We will know that you are Yahweh their God, who brought us out of Egypt.

VOICE OF GOD: I am Yahweh your God.

Online free review games

Exodus laws (Exo. 20-25)

<http://www.quia.com/jg/2476878.html>

The Tabernacle matching (Exo 25-31)

<http://www.quia.com/jg/2476990.html>