

## Exodus Chapter 19

---

V: 1 Time stamp - the 3<sup>rd</sup> month: the 1<sup>st</sup> month was the Passover, the third month puts it at about June, right around the time of what would later be known as the Feast of Pentecost.

- Mt. Sinai (Thorny), Jabal Al Lawz, is a granite mountain sticking up out of the desert floor.

**Exodus 3:12** “And He said, certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”

V: 2 They moved from Rephidim to the foot of Mt. Sinai, in the Sinai wilderness.

**Numbers 10:11** “<sup>11</sup>And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. <sup>12</sup>And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai...”

- They remain there at Mt. Sinai for just under a year.
- They’ll receive the 10 commandments and instruction, then to manufacture the Tabernacle and all the implements related to God’s prescribed manner of worship.

V: 3 The Lord once again speaks to Moses, giving Moses a message for the people:

- God “called” out to Moses, as opposed to “spoke” with Moses, Just like the first time. Exodus 3.

Tell them what I say, declare the word of God to them.

**Exodus 18:20** “And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.”

V: 4 God communicates 3 things to the children of Israel:

1. God reminds the children of Israel what He did for them, delivering them from the Egyptians.
- God destroyed those that had enslaved them – they were set free.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; <sup>15</sup>And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

- They were set free.
2. He reminds them of how He sustained them, bearing them on His wings.

**Deuteronomy 32:11** “<sup>11</sup>As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: <sup>12</sup>So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.”

- Eagles build their nests in very high places.
  - They will stir up their young, and essentially push their eaglets over the edge of the nest.
  - The eaglet will then plummet towards the ground, flapping it's wings, and screaming all the way.
  - Then just before the eaglet hits the ground, the eagle will swoop down under the eaglet catching it upon it's back, bearing it upon their wings and carry it back to the nest.
  - Then the process is repeated.
  - Eventually the eaglet learns how to flap it's wings properly, how to stretch out and soar, how to adjust it's tail feathers – eventually soaring with the eagles so to speak.
  - At each step of the journey thus far, God has drawn Israel on, out of the nest, out of their comfort zone, seemingly plummeting to certain death, each time caught up on the wings of the Lord and brought to safety.
  - Learning about God's faithfulness, His love, and His power, drawing us to Himself.
  - Faith isn't developed in the nest, the comfortable place – faith grows on the wings of eagles.
  - God's purpose in our trials is always to draw us to Himself.
3. He reminds them of how He's drawn them to Himself – because He wants to be with them – just like He wants to be with us.

*“... and brought you unto Myself...”*

This is consistent with what Jesus spoke and taught.

**Matthew 11:28-30** <sup>28</sup>“Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

**John 14:2-3** <sup>2</sup>“In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know that thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you / bring you to an expected end.”

- He is that expected end.

V: 5-6 Now therefore... because of these things. They like us, owe God our lives, He saved them from certain death several times.

Paul makes the same case:

**Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Reasonable only because of what He has already done for us.
- God is offering them a covenant relationship, if they do this then He’ll do that.
- This is a definite turning point in the Bible – a new dispensation, God hasn’t changed, but the way in which He will relate to His people is being altered.

**John 1:17** “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus.”

- Up to this point there had been no pre-conditions in their relationship. God spoke sovereignly and graciously – there was no precondition upon their deliverance from Egypt, He saved them from Pharaoh’s army without any thing required on their part. God graciously gave them bread from Heaven, and water from the flinty rock – because He loves them.
- Why would God change this relationship with His children? Because He is going to use it to teach them something.

Paul give us the clue that we need:

**Galatians 3:24** “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- If you’ll obey My voice, obey My word – and keep the covenant.
- Then you’ll be my peculiar treasure, above all people – you’ll be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- This speaks of sanctification, and it speaks of communion.

We are called to be His treasure, and He is ours:

**Ephesians 1:18** “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

1. God values us, he treasures us – to the point that He sent His only begotten son to die on a cross for us – that is how much God desires to have fellowship with us.
2. God longs to have fellowship with His people. The word fellowship means, “oneness”, or “communion”, “in full accord” – this is what He is offering His people, and it is what He offers to each of us.
3. If we think it through: God is holy, so for me to be one with God, I too must be holy.
4. God is love, for me to be one with God, or in full accord, I too must be love, or loving.
5. In the same way, God is righteous, God is merciful, and God is forgiving; to be one with Him, I must be those things.

*“<sup>5</sup>If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is mine: <sup>6</sup>And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an Holy nation.”*

6. If we obey His voice, keep His covenant, we’ll be conformed into His image, we’ll be one with Him.
- This is what I want you to tell them.

V: 7-8 Moses returns to the people and through the elders, speaks to the people.

- He laid it before their faces, spoke to them face to face.
- The people answered that they would do all the things that the Lord required.

- Like us at times, in our zeal, our emotion, and immaturity they say that they will do what God says.
- Just like Peter who said he would never forsake the Lord...
- Soon will come the golden calf, the broken tablets, the desecrated Sabbath, the despised and neglected ordinances, the stoned messengers, the rejected and crucified Christ, the resisted Spirit – reality – and a more apparent need for a Savior.
- Moses reported back to the Lord.
- Moses is a good priest: he represents God to the people, and the people to God.

V: 9 God shrouds Himself to protect the people.

**Exodus 33:20** "... no man can see me and live."

**Exodus 18:20** "Thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and show them the way..."

- God wants His people to hear Him, so that they might believe.

**Romans 10:17** "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

---

Now we come to one of the most important points in this chapter: sanctification, the sanctification of God's people.

V: 10 Sanctify (H6942) Qadash, Holy, dedicate, consecrate, separate, to be treated as sacred to set them apart for God's use.

**Leviticus 20:7** "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God."

- This all by itself will make us different.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** <sup>15</sup>But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy."

- Part of sanctification is the separation of the believer from evil things and ways.

**1 Corinthians 6:11** "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Hence we have kind of a church motto or guiding scripture:

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy word is truth.”

**CONSECRATION** — the devoting or setting apart of anything to the worship or service of God.

- In the New Testament, Christians are regarded as consecrated to the Lord.

**1 Peter 2:9** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

*“Let them wash their clothes...”* This is to be an outward expression of an inward reality, similar in a way to baptism.

**Psalm 119:9** “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

Speaking of the church as the bride of Christ:

**Ephesians 5:26** “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

**John 15:3** “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

V: 12 Set bounds for the people, markers - limits

**Ephesians 5:15** “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,”

- Be careful where you go... consider carefully.

V: 13 No one is to even touch the mountain; those that do are to be killed.

- They were not to touch the ones who violated this mandate, they were to be stoned or shot through with arrows – not to be touched.
- It was dealt with violently and decisively.

**Matthew 18:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. <sup>9</sup>And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”

- Be careful where you go, be careful what you touch, be careful what you look upon.
- They were not to approach the mount unless they were called with the trumpet, and then they could only go so far.

V: 14-15 Moses follows the instructions and sanctifies the people, has them wash their clothes.

- What did he do?
- We're not told specifically, and it is speculative on my part; but I assume from other portions of scripture that he probably had them repent of their sins, confess their sins, and get rid of their pagan idols or anything associated with pagan worship.
- They were told to be ready for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day – for the coming of the Lord.
- We're told to be ready as well, we just don't know the day.

**Matthew 24:42** “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

- They were to be celibate – no physical relations with their wives.
  - No distractions, no other passion – just the Lord.
  - God ordained intimate relations within the confines of marriage, it is good.
  - Sanctification is not just the setting aside of evil things.
  - There are times when it would or might be appropriate to give up acceptable things in our lives, not just sinful things – to make more room for God in our lives.
  - That our lives would be even more set apart for Him.
- 

**James 4:8** “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.”

- Sounds like sanctification.
- Examining “cause & effect”: we see that the people are sanctified, their garments are cleansed, they gave up that which was good and acceptable as part of that sanctification:
- What happens next? V: 16-19

V: 16-18 The presence of the Lord is manifest, the voice of the Lord is heard:

- As God had said; on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, thunders, lightnings, a thick cloud, the voice of a trumpet – very loud.
- A fearsome thing, everybody trembled.
- Moses brought the people out to the boundary to meet with God.
- The Lord descends upon Mt. Sinai in fire, there is intense fire and smoke like a furnace.
- The mountain ends up being scorched.

**Hebrews 12:29** “For our God is a consuming fire.”

- It was God’s grace and restraint that kept the mountain and all the people from being consumed.

As described in verse 1, this is about the time that Pentecost would later be celebrated; and we have God descending like fire.

**Acts 2:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

V: 19 The trumpet got progressively louder – then Moses spoke.

- God answered in an audible voice – the people got to hear the voice of God.

**John 1:14** “And the word became flesh and dwelt amongst us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**1 John 1:1** “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life.”

V: 20 As God descends upon the mountain, He calls Moses up to the mountain.

- Loud trumpet, God comes down, the servants of God go up... sounds familiar!



**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

V: 21-25      The Lord sends Moses back down the mountain to warn the people not to come onto the mountain.

- There must have been those that were emboldened to come forth – possibly an emotional response that would have overridden the word that they had already received – which would have led to their death.
- Moses replies to God that the people already know – he doesn't understand what is going on.
- God patiently repeats the command, and directs him to bring Aaron back up with him.
- And Moses did so.
- The stage has now been set for the receiving of the 10 commandments.