

## Exodus Chapter 24

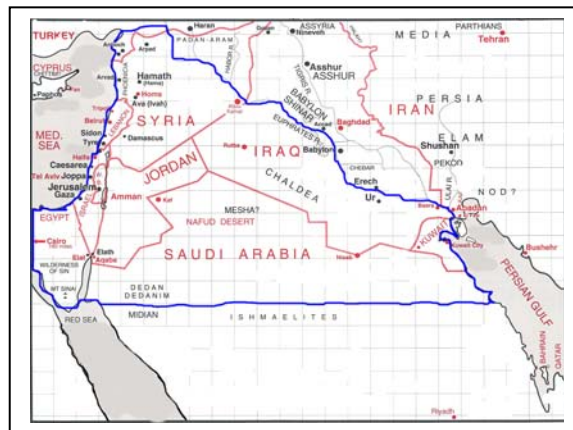
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Reviewing just a little:

1. God has delivered the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt.
2. He's brought them by a miracle through the Red Sea, and at the same time destroyed Pharaoh's army.
3. He's brought them through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai where He is in the process of establishing His covenant with them.
4. God has used Moses to remind the people of their deliverance from Egypt and of God's desire that they would be a special treasure to Him above all nations, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation unto the Lord – if they will obey God's commandments and keep His covenant.
5. The children of Israel have been given the 10 commandments, which have been elaborated upon in the previous 4 chapters – referred to as the Law.

We left off two weeks ago in chapter 23:

1. The children of Israel were admonished to obey the word of God:
2. God told them that if they were obedient He would drive out their enemies from before them.
3. They were told not to worship the gods of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
4. In fact they were to do the opposite and to overthrow them, break down their images and altars.
5. If they would do these things then God would go before them, He would even use hornets on their behalf.
6. God set the boundaries of their land from the Red Sea to the River Euphrates, from the Sea of the Philistines, meaning the Mediterranean to the middle of Saudi Arabia.



7. God said that they were not to make any covenant with these nations or with their gods.
8. They were not to allow the inhabitants to dwell with them, they were to be separate because they would become a snare, they would cause the children of Israel to sin.

V: 1 When Moses first encountered God on Mt. Sinai, it was a personal experience as Moses interacted with God.

- Now Moses is told to bring Aaron, Aaron's sons Nadab & Abihu, and 70 of the elders of Israel.

*“Come up unto the Lord...”*

- Once again, God is beckoning His servants to Himself.

That is what Jesus tells us:

**Matthew 11:28** “Come unto Me, all ye who that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

- With that privilege also comes a degree of responsibility.

**Luke 12:48** “... for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”

Later:

**Leviticus 10:1** Nadab & Abihu are slain by the Lord for offering strange fire unto the Lord.

- This opportunity, this revelation of God to each of them may have played a role in that judgment because they had received that revelation.
- Essentially they were held responsible, they should have known better, and they paid the price.
- The group that went up with Moses are those who would naturally come down and share their experiences and observations with others.
- The 70 elders were also appointed as judges in the midst of Israel. God wanted those who would sit in judgment to have a right understanding and a real fear of who God is – which would influence their judgment.

**Deuteronomy 1:16** “And I charged your judges at that time, saying, hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.”

*“... and worship ye afar off.”*

**James 4:8** “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you...”

- Oh what a difference our Savior makes! Because of Jesus we can draw near to Him, as His children.

V: 2 Aaron and his sons, along with the 70 elders are brought up to the mount, but not directly into the presence of the Lord, just to a place where they can see what God wants them to see.

- The rest of the people are still back at the set boundaries.
- Moses alone shall draw near to the Lord.

V: 3 All the things from the previous chapters about the law, Moses had told the people as God had instructed.

- The people responded declaring with one voice, saying that they would be obedient, that they would do all the things that God said to do.

Knowing:

**Romans 3:10** "There's none righteous, no not one"

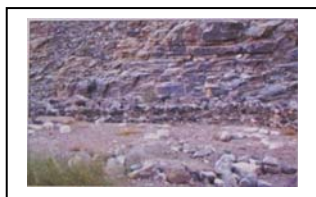
- I'd want to hedge my bet a little on that one.

"Lord if you'll help me, I'll do your will" – "Lord we want to be obedient"

**1 Corinthians 15:10** "But by the grace of God I am what I am..."

V: 4-5 Moses begins to act on the instruction from the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 verses:

1. Moses writes down everything that God has told him thus far.
  - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of Moses writing down God's words. This ultimately leads us to the Pentateuch or the 5 books of the law, which make up the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of our Bibles which Moses records for us. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
2. Revelation leads to worship: Moses builds an altar – preparing to worship God, the natural response to God's revelation in his life.
3. Moses builds or has built 12 pillars of stone representing the 12 tribes.



4. Moses commissions young men to begin the sacrifices unto God, burnt offerings and peace offerings.

- They didn't yet have a Levitical priesthood, so Moses simply grabs some young men; (Moses is 80+ years old, so "young" could be a relative term) and has them make sacrifices unto the Lord.

**Burnt offering:** An offering of consecration, and offering of dedication of my life to God. "Lord I consecrate my life to you" – a person would do that with a burnt offering.

- It's the idea of just being consumed for God, and being given over wholly unto Him.

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

**Peace Offering:** The offering of communion or fellowship. With the peace offering, the meat was roasted, and you got a portion of it and God got a portion of it.

- The idea was that as you would take your portion and sit down and eat it, it was like having a meal with God. As you ate your meal you were having fellowship with God because you were both eating from the same piece of meat, you were becoming one through the eating of a common meal together.

V: 6 ½ of the blood from the sacrifice is put in basins, the other ½ is sprinkled on the altar.

V: 7 Moses takes the book in which he had recorded the covenant of the Lord and he reads it to the people – and once again they affirm that they will do what the Lord requires.

**1 John 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."

V: 8 ½ of the blood was sprinkled on the altar which represents God, now the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is sprinkled upon the people.

- The blood was probably sprinkled upon the people in a representative way, through the elders / leaders, as opposed to all 3 million people getting physically sprinkled.
- This is a blood covenant between God and His people.
- This is very much like Genesis Ch. 15, when God made a covenant with Abraham. God had Abraham kill animals, splitting them in half and lay them out on the ground – the idea being that both parties of the covenant would pass between the parts – taking a blood oath.

- Interesting that this is also a reference to when God explained to Abraham that He would make him a great nation, that they would go into slavery and later be delivered, that God would give them the promise land which he described as being from the Nile River to the Euphrates.
- A blood covenant was thought to be the most sacred and binding covenant that you could make.
- So now the people have entered into a blood covenant with God.

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Perspective / backing out to see the bigger picture:

- Moses and the people are preparing to approach God.
- Even though the people are told to stay behind, and at a distance, they are represented by Moses and the 70 elders.
- Before anyone can approach God, they must be cleansed.

The last time God met with the children of Israel:

**Exodus 19:14-18** <sup>14</sup>“And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup>And he said unto the people, be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. <sup>16</sup>And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup>And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. <sup>18</sup>And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”

- In Chapter 24:7-8 We see that the people are cleansed before they approach unto God.
- They are washed in the Word:

*“<sup>7</sup>And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people...”*

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

Speaking of the bride of Christ, the church, us:

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

Next we read:

*“<sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people...”*

- Then they are covered in and by the blood:

**Hebrews 9:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? <sup>15</sup>And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”

**Hebrews 9:22** “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

1. Old Testament / Covenant was of the Law.
2. The New Testament / Covenant is of Blood...

**Luke 22:20** “... this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”

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V: 9 Moses & company all head up the hill – up to Mt. Sinai by invitation of God.

V: 10 They have this revelation, this appearance of God did not include all that He is.

- And they saw the God of Israel:

**Exodus 33:20** “... thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live.”

John wrote:

**John 1:18** “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.”

Jesus said:

**John 6:46** “Not that any man hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, He hath seen the Father.”

- No man can see God the Father, so this is seemingly another Theophony – a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.
- They may not have seen His face, because that is not specifically described here, perhaps a general form.
- Isaiah was miraculously transported into the presence of God.

**Isaiah 6:1** “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.”

- The Apostle John comments on this occurrence as it relates to Jesus in **John 12:41**

**John 12:41** “These things said Isaiah, when he saw His glory, and spake of Him.”

- The Apostle John identifies the One who Isaiah saw as being Jesus.
- Ezekiel had a vision of God, the throne of God, and so did the Apostle John; which is recorded in Revelation chapters 1 & 4.
- A “paved work” – something constructed of a sapphire stone, which we know to be a semi clear gemstone.
- This paved work was like looking up into a crystal clear sky, it was so clear.

V: 11 In other words, God didn’t destroy them. God didn’t touch them, they went on to eat and drink, they saw God and lived.

- That’s the idea of the peace offering. Sitting down and having fellowship with God; you just become one in fellowship and in communion with God, eating together with Him.

V: 12 The Lord speaks specifically to Moses – come on up.

*“I will give thee tables of stone, and a Law, and Commandments which I have written;”*

**Exodus 31:18** “And He gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

**Exodus 32:16** “And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.”

- The purpose of the Law is that the people might be instructed.  
**Proverbs 1:7** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

V: 13 Moses takes Joshua (Yeshua / Jesus) with him.

- Minister = servant
- Joshua being prepared, later used greatly of God.

We don’t understand the reason for this until Jesus explains it:

**John 14:6** “And Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”

V: 14 Aaron & Hur are told to wait with the elders; **to occupy till I come...**

- We see organization here, Aaron & Hur are left in charge; and if the people have any needs they are to go to them during Moses' absence.
- Aaron is Moses' older brother, we don't know anything about Hur except that he held up Moses' hands during the battle with the Amalekites in Exodus Ch. 17.

V: 15 As Moses and Joshua ascend the mount, a cloud covers it over.

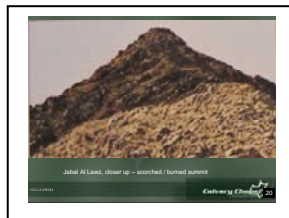
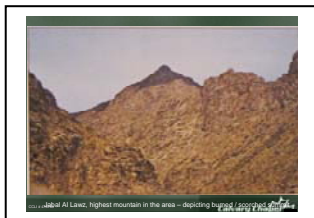
**Matthew 17:5** “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.”

- Jesus separated certain of His disciples, and brought them up to the mount of transfiguration, they received a special revelation that the others didn't, here God does pretty much the same thing – and they are enveloped in the cloud.

V: 16 The glory of the Lord abode / rested upon Mt. Sinai, and the cloud covered it for 6 days.

- Moses and Joshua ascend up the mountain to a plateau or to some specific point and wait for 6 days.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> day Moses is called to come forward.

V: 17 A devouring fire on top of the mountain.



- Moses describes the glory of the Lord as a devouring fire – which is all that the children of Israel down below got to see.

The New Testament writer of Hebrews:

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

**Malachi 3:2** “But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like the fullers' soap.”



- So we have God as both a consuming fire, and as a refining fire – so whether He is a consuming fire or a refining fire is relative to the material.
- In 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Isaiah 36 & 37 we have the record of Judah during the reign of King Hezekiah. Sennacherib, the king of Assyria had taken Israel, the Northern kingdom captive, and now he was laying siege to Jerusalem, he'd come up against it with 185,000 soldiers.
- The prophet Isaiah was counseling Hezekiah not to worry about it, that God would protect them.
- Sennacherib had sent his emissaries threatening the inhabitants of Jerusalem, telling them not to trust in their God, none of the other gods from the other cities / nations had been able to stop them.
- King Hezekiah takes the threats of the Assyrians and lays them before the Lord.

And the Lord responds:

**Isaiah 37:35-36** “<sup>35</sup>For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. <sup>36</sup>Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: when they arose early in the morning, behold they were all dead corpses.”

- After the people saw this awesome display of power, the strong arm of the Lord in the slaughter of the 185,000 strong Assyrian army – the people's hearts were gripped with fear.

**Isaiah 33:14** “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Whom among us shall swell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”

- They suddenly become aware and conscious of what it is to dwell in the presence of God.
- That realization that God is real, that His word is true – and that we're sinners ripe for judgment.

**Hebrews 10:31** “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- Great fear gripped the hearts of the sinners.
  1. God is a fire. The fire of God is either going to destroy us, or refine us – transforming us into His image.
  2. The question is – what is the fire doing to me? We dwell in the presence of God, there is no escaping that. It all depends on what we're made of.

3. Am I a child of God? Then that fire is purging out the dross, refining me, like gold tried in the fire, bringing me into the eternal.
4. Or it is destroying me, consuming me if my relationship with God is out of order.

V: 18 40 is the number of trial, or testing, probation.

- Moses wasn't the one being tested, it was the children of Israel down in the camp.
- When Moses goes back down the mountain we'll see how they do.

[Moses give us commentary on this passage:](#)

**Deuteronomy 5:22-29** Turn to:

- The heart of God is evident here.
- God wants us to succeed.
- That is why He sent His only begotten Son!