gracechurch of Sahuarita

# Encountering God

November 1, 2026

## Key Verses

- Exodus 19:5-6
- Exodus 19:16-19
- Hebrews 12:28-29
- Revelation 1:17-18
- Revelation 3:19-20

## Questions

- The Israelites responded to God's invitation by saying, "All that the Lord has spoken, we will do!" What does it look like for a believer today to give that same kind of wholehearted response to God's Word?
- God told Moses He would appear in a thick cloud so the people could hear and believe Moses' words "forever." Why do you think God placed such a strong emphasis on the people trusting the authority of His messenger and His message?
- Pastor Fred described the theophany at Mount Sinai, with thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, and a trumpet blast, as a wake-up call for Israel to take God's words seriously. Do you think Christians today have a proper sense of awe and reverence for God's Word? Why or why not?
- God instructed the Israelites to consecrate themselves, wash their garments, and set boundaries around the mountain before He spoke. What are some practical ways we can

"consecrate" ourselves and prepare our hearts before reading or hearing God's Word?
- Pastor Fred pointed out that God's grace is unlimited, but so is His fearsome power, and that He can bring discipline on His people when they stray from His commands. How do you hold both of those truths, God's grace and His holiness, in balance in your own walk with God?
- The apostle John fell at Jesus' feet like a dead man when he saw Christ in His glory in Revelation 1. How does that image challenge or change the way you personally think about your relationship with Jesus?
- The sermon compared God's people to employees in the "Undercover Boss" illustration, where the CEO rewards faithfulness and corrects or removes those who undermine the company. How does that picture help you understand the accountability we have before Christ as King?
- Revelation 3:20 shows Jesus knocking at the door and promising close fellowship to those Christians who open it. What might it look like in your daily life to truly open that door and pursue a closer walk with Christ?

# Life Application

This week, choose one specific time each day to read a passage of Scripture, but before you begin, take two or three minutes to sit quietly and ask God to prepare your heart. Remind yourself that you are about to hear from the King of Kings, the same God who descended on Mount Sinai in fire and power. Write down one thing He speaks to you through His Word each day, and at the end of the week, reflect on whether approaching His Word with intentional reverence changed how you received it.

# Key Takeaways

- God has an incredible plan for His people, both for Israel as a kingdom of priests and for the Church today, but that plan requires approaching His commands with humility, readiness, and obedience.
- The theophany at Mount Sinai was not just a display of power for its own sake. It was God's way of confirming that His Word carries divine authority and must be taken seriously, a truth that extends to Scripture today.
- Jesus Christ is both the Lamb of Grace and the Lion of Judah. His love and grace are unlimited, but He is also the King of Kings whose commands carry real weight and whose

discipline falls on those who stray from His purposes.

- Consecration and readiness matter. Just as Israel was called to wash their garments and set themselves apart before God spoke, believers today are called to approach God's Word with intentional reverence rather than a casual or passive attitude.
- God's ultimate desire is close fellowship with His people. He disciplines those He loves not to push them away, but to draw them back into the kind of obedient, intimate relationship where they can rule and reign with Him forever.

# 3 Things

G — GLORIFY | God's Provision (Philippians 4:19)
Praise God for His faithfulness in providing for our needs and sustaining us through every circumstance.
A — ALIGN | Spiritual Maturity (2 Peter 3:18)
Ask God to help us grow in spiritual maturity, becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
P — PETITION | Government Leaders (1 Timothy 2:1–2)
Pray for our congressional and state representatives, asking God to give them wisdom, integrity, and discernment as they make decisions affecting our communities and nation.

# Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. You are the same God who shook Mount Sinai, who spoke through thunder and fire, and who revealed Your glory to John until He fell at Your feet. We confess that we too often approach You and Your Word casually, without the reverence and awe You deserve. Forgive us for those moments when we have picked and chosen what to obey, or when we have let comfort replace consecration. As we leave this time together, stir in each of our hearts a deeper hunger for Your Word and a greater respect for Your authority. Help us to be a people who are truly ready to hear from You, to obey what You say, and to walk closely with You each day. We want to be useful to You, set apart for Your purposes, and faithful to the calling You have placed on our lives. Thank You that Your grace covers us and that Your Spirit empowers us. We love You, Lord. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.