

Exodus 19

God's Perfect Law

I. Israel at Mount Sinai: Preparing to Meet God

- Ch. 19-24 Exodus deal with the 10 Commandment and various other Laws
- **New Nation given new laws by God**
 1. Spiritual Laws regarding God's requirements for personal/national holiness
 2. Societal Laws regarding how to live with each other without killing each other
 3. Laws different than other pagan nations/Laws that reflect attributes of God

Today God is going to meet with His people...
Today the people must prepare to meet with God...

1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt

- Should be 11 Day journey!
- Should have arrived 2 ½ months earlier

Won't arrive at the Promised Land until 57 Chapters later in Numbers 10
11 Day Journey will take 40 Years

1b...on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. 2 For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

- **Wilderness of Sinai** lit. "Thorny": **Place of the burning bush**
 1. Left Rephidim after new ministry paradigm established: **Delegation**
 2. Millions set up camp at the foothills of Mount Sinai

If the traditional site of Mount Sinai looks like anything, it looks like a huge pulpit - a sudden, steep outcropping of mountain out in the wilderness. Here, God would preach the most dramatic sermon ever heard. [Guzic]

- Camped at the base of the mountain...

3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain

- Moses heads up toward God/God calls down to Moses

When we **truly seek** God and His presence with all our heart He promises to respond...

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

God desires **us** to **initiate** communion/conversation/connection with Him

- Jesus made disciples get in boat; go to other side sea...without Him

- Jesus goes up on a mountain to pray...

Mark 6:47 ...when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. 48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled. But **immediately He talked with them** and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

V 48 [Jesus] was about to pass by them [NIV]...until they cried out

God desires us to make the effort, to start up the mountain and He will be there

- Moses seeks God and God responds by calling to Moses...

3b... [God called Moses and said], "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

- **Moses on the Mountain:** Sign to Moses that God had truly sent him

I won't give you a sign I was with you until you're done delivering the people

Exodus 3:12 [God told Moses before the Exodus] "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you **shall serve God on this mountain.**"

Moses is now on that mountain: Validated/Vindicated by God.
Moses now knows beyond a doubt "**God is with him**"

- **God speaks to Moses:** Say to the Children of Israel
 1. You saw what I did to your enemies
 2. You saw how *I brought you out, took you in, and put you on my wings...*

I bore you on eagle's wings

It is said that an eagle does not carry her young in her claws like other birds; the young eagles attach themselves to the back of the mother eagle and are protected as they are carried. Any arrow from a hunter must pass through the mother eagle before it could touch the young eagle on her back. [Guzic]

- God will carry Israel on wings one more time as the escape the AC...

Revelation 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given **two wings of a great eagle**, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Remember what I did for you; The grace and mercy I have shown to you

5 ... if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

- **"If" --- "Then"**
- **IF** you obey My voice [Word] and keep My Covenant [agreement] **THEN...**
 1. You will be a **Special Treasure** to Me
 2. You will be a **Kingdom of Priests** and a **Holy Nation**
 3. I will show My favor to you above all other people of the earth
 - Individually you will be Kings and Priest
 - Nationally you will be a Holy Nation

Kingdom of Priests: Those that go to God **for the people/** represent God **to the people**

Israel was supposed to represent God's attributes to the dying pagan world

- Israel was disobedient in this. Only one tribe, Levi, was chosen as priestly tribe
- Church is now taking that role:

1 Peter 2:9 [Church] But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- In the Millennial Kingdom we the Church will continue to be Kings and Priests...

Revelation 1:5 ...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- **NOTE:** Not replacement theology that God is done with Israel
 1. Israel will embrace Jesus as Savior at His 2nd coming
 2. Jesus will reign in/over Israel who will be His people again

Anyone who believes that God is finished with Israel and that the Church has replaced Israel **...is Biblically Illiterate. Old Testament-ally Challenged. Period.**

Hosea 2:23 [2nd coming] Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

- **If** you obey My voice/ keep My Covenant
- **Then** you will be My Special Treasure/Kingdom of Priests

They will do neither

6b...These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

- Moses now acting as a Priest:
 1. Going to God for the Word
 2. Bringing Word to the people [Jethro: Stand before God]

Say this to the people:

"If you obey Me and keep the agreement I am going to give you...you will be my special treasure and a kingdom of priests"

7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before

them all these words which the Lord commanded him.

- Moses goes down the mountain from God to give message to elders...

8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

- We will do it? Do what? I don't know but we will do it
- They don't know what the "terms" of the agreement are!

**If you knew for sure what God wanted you to do...would you do it?
Could you do it? Not without the Spirit of God**

Romans 8:6 ...to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, **nor indeed can be.** 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Nothing makes a greater hypocrite out of a person than to say "I keep the law". [JV McGee]

8b...So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

- Again Moses acting as a Priest brings the peoples word back to God
- They said "they're in". The said bring it on!

People that think they can please God on their own are in for more than they bargained for

9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the **thick cloud**, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.

- God would come near the people cloaked a "Dark Cloud" that...
- When God speaks to Moses the people would overhear the conversation

God would validate Moses authority by having the people observe Moses relationship w/God

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

v 9 ...that the people may hear when I speak with you, **and believe you forever**

- That is for the next 39 years

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day.

- Moses goes back up and the Lord gives instruction:

Tell the people to prepare to meet Me

- **Consecrate:** heb. *qadash*; to set apart, dedicate, to prepare
- Prepare the people to meet Me by **separating themselves to Me**

1. **Wash their clothes:** Symbolic of being clean unto God
2. Physical demonstration of what was to be done in the spiritual...

Prepare to meet/come close to God by setting yourself apart for Him

- **Confession:** Agreeing that we need to be cleansed
- **Repentance:** Turning away from sin

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

11b...For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

- The Lord will make Himself known in the sight of all

12 You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. 13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.'

- **Prepare to meet God**

1. Wash your clothes...
2. Set boundaries that the people should not cross
3. No one is to even touch the base of the mountain
4. Anyone who touches the mountain must die
 - Don't touch him
 - Stone them or shoot them w/arrow

Any man or animal that touches the mountain must die. Set boundaries to prepare Holy Ground as was that around the Burning Bush

13b...When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

- The trumpet will be the sign to stay away

14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives."

The rest of the Scriptures do not teach that there is any inherent uncleanness in sexual relations. In this situation, God wanted the people to demonstrate their desire for purity by putting on clean clothes and restraining the flesh. [Guzic]

- Ready to meet with God: Separated unto the Lord

16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were

thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud,

- **3rd Day:** People are still in the camp
 1. It was Morning: Daybreak
 2. Thundering's/Lightening's
 3. Thick Cloud came down the mountain
 4. Trumpet blast pierces the silence...

16b...so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

- All the people trembled? Lit. Shudder with fear...to fray away

Yet, not forty days from this, the whole nation will be practicing an orgy around a golden calf, praising it as the god that brought them out of Egypt. [Guzic]

- **Regarding the giving of the law...**

I do not see anything beautiful in it. It was a frightful and terrifying thing. [JV McGee]

17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

- Moses led the people from the camp to the mountain
- People stood shaking at the foot of the mountain...

18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

- **Earthquake:**
 1. **Quaked:** Heb. *Charad*; same word as what people were doing; i.e. trembling
 2. **Greatly:** Exceedingly w/ might, force and abundance
- **Smoke rose up like furnace:** 3x in Scripture and each judgment

Genesis 19:28 [Abraham] looked toward **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the **smoke of a furnace**.

Revelation 9:2 [Angel in Great Tribulation] opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a **great furnace**. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

- **Smoke rose like a furnace:** The Law would bring judgment
 1. **Understanding** of the law would make them accountable

2. **Acceptance** of Law as good would attest to God's goodness/their depravity

The Law would not bring Salvation as hoped but Accountability and Judgment

19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

- **Blast of the Trumpet?**

1. Louder and louder until... **"STOP!"**?
2. Moses finally spoke/God again answers

20 Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- Lord comes down/Moses goes up

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish."

- **Warning:**

1. Don't let the people break through; i.e. transgress
2. If they see Me they will die

Exodus 33:18 [Moses said to God] **"Please, show me Your glory."** 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." 20 But He said, **"You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."**

- No one can see God in all His glory and live.
- One day we will in the "twinkling of an eye" we will see Him as He is!

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

22 Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."

- Priests presumptuously go to the front of the line without being prepared
- God warns again to consecrate and be cleansed. **Many did not and died...**

Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth

23 But Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'" 24 Then the Lord said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you

and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them."

- **Away!**

1. Go down and do what I said
2. Come back up with Aaron
3. Let the priests stand in the front but not break through

25 So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

- Go down to the people and warn them again
- Come back up with only Aaron

There is NO access to God through the Law but only by Grace

Hebrews 12:18-24 [Read]

- **Mt Sinai represents the Old Covenant of the LAW**

Israel would never have said yes and agree that they would or even could keep the Law...
If they had truly know themselves [JVM]

Hebrews 12:18 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

I do not see anything beautiful in it. It was a frightful and terrifying thing. [JV McGee]

There is no access to God by Law: Don't come near!
Access only by the Blood of Christ and His grace

- **Mt Zion represents the New Covenant GRACE**

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

- The blood of Jesus speaks of the only One that could/did keep the Law

Jesus cried it is finished and the veil in the temple was torn from **top to bottom**

- **Demonstrating God...**

1. Hearing our cry for help
2. Reaching down to us
3. Giving us access to the Father by Grace

There is NO access to God through the Law but only by Grace

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Chapter 20: Ten Commandments and various Laws for the New Nation