

February 4th – Fire On the Mountain

*“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.”
(Exo. 19:18)*

Most everyone is familiar with the Ten Commandments. While most Christians probably couldn't name each of the commandments, even lost people have a general idea of what they represent – no stealing, no lying, no adultery, etc. What most people probably don't recall are the circumstances surrounding the giving of the commands. The commands didn't just fall down from heaven into the hands of Moses. There was a much more awesome demonstration of God's glory.

When the children of Israel reached Mount Sinai, God instructed Moses to come up on the mountain to receive the Law. Prior to his ascension, Moses saw to it that a boundary was set around the base of Mt. Sinai so that no one could approach the mountain or attempt to climb up. God strictly warned Moses and the Israelites that anyone seeking to ascend the mountain would be struck down by God Himself. For that reason, no one dared approach the mountain as God dealt with Moses.

The scene was extraordinary as “Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire.” The thick smoke was actually a protective barrier between the people and the Lord, so that they could not gaze on his glory. The presence of God shook the mountain. What are we to take from this awesome scene? We should understand that our God is holy and awesome and that there is none other like Him. He is worthy of our best worship and our unconditional obedience!