

I. Intro

A. Text: **Ex. 19:9-11**

⁹And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.” When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, ¹⁰the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (Ex. 12:12-13)

B. Recap

1. Israel is My Firstborn Son (Let Him Go).

²²Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, ²³and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’” (Ex. 4:22-23)

a. God previews His jealousy as a Father who has witnessed the mistreatment/abuse of His son.

i. Vengeance is mine... (**Deut. 32:35, Rom. 12:9**)

2. **Deliverance was Inseparable From Vengeance**

a. Outcome: Only at the sight of blood, His vengeance is appeased.

b. The judgment of Egypt was knit to the deliverance of Israel.

3. **Deliverance ≠ Removal of Adversity and Trials**

a. God’s Way of Deliverance Can Be Offensive To Our Evil Hearts

i. Quail and Manna (**Ex. 16:3-13**)

³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread

always.”³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (Jn. 6:31-35)

ii. Water (**Ex. 17:1-2, 6-7, Num. 20:1-3**)

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4)

II. The Wilderness Way

A. God Called the Entire Nation To Meet w/ Him (**19:10-11**)

1. Moses went to meet with God. (**v. 3**)
 - a. You saw what I did to the Egyptians
 - b. You saw how I bore you on Eagles’ wings and brought you out to Myself. (**19:4**)
2. Get ready! (**Ex. 19:10-11**)

¹⁰ the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. (Ex. 19:10-11)

- a. Consecrate yourselves.
- b. Recognize the limits imposed by His holiness and our unholiness.
 - i. Reminder that we can’t enter into nearness to God haphazardly.

B. God Proved to Be Great and Terrible (**19:16-18**)

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was

wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.
(19:16-18)

1. Organized chaos
 - a. Thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, earthquake, loud trumpet blasts.
2. Moses and God began to have a conversation.
 - a. Moses spoke → God answered by voice (**v. 19**)
 - b. God came down → Moses went up (**v. 20**)
3. “God spoke all these words” (**20:1**)
 - a. I am the Lord your God.
 - b. I am the Lord who visits the iniquity of the fathers on the sons.
 - i. Yet showing mercy to thousands

C. God Provokes Fear (Of One Kind or Another)

1. Fear that Draws Back

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” (**Ex. 20:18-19**)

- a. Israel, showed that man is prone to settle for information without relationship.
- b. Drawing into the Presence of God is downright dangerous.
- c. Fear in the Presence of God is natural
 - i. Even the mountains will flee from His Presence (**Rev. 16:20**)
 - ii. **1 Tim. 6:15b-16a**: *...He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,...*

2. Fear That Draws Near

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” (Ex. 20:20)

- a. Do not fear. God has come to test... to produce a fear that honors/reveres God.
- b. Moses no doubt feared God in a way that pressed him into the Presence of God.

²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. (Ex. 20:21)

- c. Moses served as the classic intercessor.
 - i. Representation of God to the people (vice versa)
 - ii. The people saw it modeled that God had made a way for man to cross beyond the natural boundaries that separated us from him.
3. Another Prophetic Glimpse that Christ shed His own blood that we may have (bold/confident) access directly to the Father (**Eph. 3:12**)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (Heb. 10:19-22)