

A desert landscape with sand dunes under a bright sun in a blue sky. The sun is positioned at the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The sand dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, with their ridges and valleys clearly visible. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is bathed in the warm light of the sun.

THE OLD COVENANT

EXODUS 19

¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Exodus 19

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸ All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ And 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, ¹⁰ the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹ 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. ¹³ No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.” ¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. ¹⁵ And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman.”

Exodus 19

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 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰ The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

**²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the LORD to look and many of them perish.
²² Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.” ²³ And Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.’” ²⁴ And the LORD said to him, “Go down, and come up bringing 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.” ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.**

Exodus 1-12 God's Power

- God's faithfulness to the Israelites
- God's purpose for the Israelites
- God's punishment of sin
- God's authority

Exodus 13-19 God's Plan

- How will God provide for us?
- How should we relate to other people?
- How will God protect us?
- God's presence

Exodus 20-40 God's Love

- God's self-revelation
- God's relationship with us
- God's love for all things
- God's holiness



Exodus 19
God's Plan: The Covenant

A photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a clear blue sky. The dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, with some small, dark shrubs visible in the distance. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

**Covenant: A relationship-
defining contract between two
or more parties that stipulates
promises, blessings, and curses.**

A Modern Covenant: Marriage

- Preamble: How these two parties came together (college, high school, bar, etc)
- Prologue: purpose for covenant (to become family)
- Stipulations: How we will be in relationship with each other (love, honor, and cherish)
- Sanctions: Blessings/Curses (happy home, financial stability, child-rearing / broken home, financial instability, hurt children)
- Witnesses: Who saw this covenant made? (guests at wedding)
- Documentation: Record of the covenant (marriage certificate)

Exodus 19 Breakdown

- vs. 1-4: After three months of travel, Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai.
- vs. 5-6: The Covenant's prologue is given.
- vs. 7-9a: The people agree to the prologue.
- vs. 9b-15: God gives instructions on how the people are to prepare themselves for meeting Him.
- vs. 16-20: God arrives on the mountain and the people go to meet God.
- vs. 21-25: God has Moses prepare himself and the people for hearing God speak to them.

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated by a bright sun, creating a strong lens flare effect in the upper center of the frame. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is serene and vast.

A Treasured Possession

Because the whole Earth is mine, I care for the whole Earth deeply.
I will use you to bless the Earth.

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated from the side, creating soft shadows and highlighting the fine texture of the sand. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall mood is serene and vast.

A Royal Priesthood

You will bless the Earth by being my representatives and intermediaries.
You will point people towards me that they may know me.

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated by a bright sun, creating a strong lens flare effect at the top center of the frame. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

A Holy Nation

You will point people towards me by living different than all the other nations on earth.
In this way they will come to know me.




Israel's Failure

A Treasured Possession: Isaiah 24:5-6 ⁵ The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶ Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

A Royal Priesthood: Malachi 2:8-9 ⁸ But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹ and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

A Holy Nation: Ezekiel 5:7-8 ⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in my statutes or obeyed my rules, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you, ⁸ therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.



John 3:16 For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes
in him should not perish but have eternal life.



Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.



Hebrews 8:6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

God's Plan: The Covenant

John 1:9-13 ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Hebrews 9:15 Therefore he is the **mediator of a new covenant**, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Under Christ's Covenant

- 1. Price: You are a treasured possession:** God has chosen you to be a blessing to the earth. *Therefore*, remember your value by spending meaningful time in God's Word.
- 2. Purpose: You are a royal priesthood:** God has chosen you to point others towards Him. *Therefore*, clearly communicate Christ's love to those whose lives God has placed you in by inviting them to church, sharing what God has done in you, and praying for them.
- 3. Protocol: You are a holy nation:** God has given you a new, better, and unique way to live. *Therefore*, live according to Christ's commands and examples that others may see God.