

## Message One

### Brought into God's Presence to Know Who God Is

- I. After experiencing God's full salvation, God's saved people are brought into the presence of God and into the knowledge of God:**
- A. If we would have such fellowship with God, we first need to experience His full salvation:
    - 1. We need to be saved from the condemnation of sin, the world, and Satan—Exo. 1—14.
    - 2. Then we need to enjoy God's rich provision, conquer the flesh and be brought into the kingdom of God—Exo. 15—18.
  - B. After experiencing God's salvation we are brought into God's presence—Exo. 19:
    - 1. We are brought to the mountain of God, to the place of God's speaking with God's vision—vv. 9, 11; cf. Matt. 17:1; Rev. 21:10.
    - 2. We come to God's presence through sanctification, through being separated from the world unto God—Exo. 19:10.
    - 3. We are brought into His presence in resurrection meaning that everything of the old creation is terminated and new creation is germinated—v. 11.
  - C. Through God's presence and fellowship we are brought into the knowledge of God:
    - 1. In the fellowship with God we first come to know the grace of God signified by the "eagles' wings"—v. 4; Isa. 40:31; 1 Cor. 15:10.
    - 2. In the fellowship with God we come to know the holiness of God signified by the "limits" around the mountain—Exo. 19:10, 12; Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16.
    - 3. In the fellowship with God we become God's personal possession and peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests to God, and a holy nation—Exo. 19:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:9.
- II. The law as the testimony of God, the expression of God, is the revelation of who God is—Exo. 31:18; Psa. 19:7:**
- A. A law is always a revelation of what kind of person has enacted that law.
  - B. God regards the Ten Commandments as ten words (Exo. 34:28; 20:1), a further indication that the law is a revelation of God Himself, since the words a person speaks are a revelation of that person:
    - 1. Jealous—God is jealous, wanting us to love Him and Him alone so we should not allow anything else to be our God—20:4-6; cf. 2 Cor. 11:2.
    - 2. Holy—God is holy, as signified by the Sabbath, so we must have a mark of our separation from everything other than God Himself—Exo. 20:7-11; 1 Pet. 1:15-16.
    - 3. Loving—God is loving, showing mercy to thousands of generations of those who love Him, so we as His chosen people should be His lovers—Exo. 20:6; cf. Rom. 13:8-10.
    - 4. Righteous—God is righteous, visiting the iniquity of His haters upon them up to four generations, so we should practice righteousness as a spontaneous living that issues from the divine life within us—Exo. 20:5; 1 John 2:29.
    - 5. Truthful—God is truthful, for He is light, so we should come to Him for fellowship that we may participate in the divine light and practice the truth—Exo. 20:16; 1 John 1:5-6.
    - 6. Pure—Only God is pure, without covetousness or uncleanness so we must contact Him in faith that, by the Holy Spirit, He may purify our heart—Exo. 20:2-3; 17; 1 Tim. 1:5; Acts 15:9.
  - C. As the Word of God and the testimony, the expression of God, the law is a type of Christ as God's Word and God's testimony, God's expression—John 1:1, 18; Rev. 19:13; 1:5; Col. 1:15.

**III. Since the Ten Commandments are God's word, the very breathing out of God, those who seek God in love should receive these words into them as God's very breath which conveys His element into them—2 Tim. 3:16; John 20:22; Ezek. 37:5, 9:**

- A. By pray-reading the Word, we breathe God's element into us, being infused with what God is to cause us to live Christ and become the living expression of God, His living law—Eph. 6:17-18; Josh. 1:8; Col. 3:16; Phil. 1:21.
- B. By being infused with God's substance through His loving word, we become the true worshippers of God, those who are according to what God is, who correspond to what God is, and who reflect what God is for His glory—John 4:24; 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:18.

***Focus:* We must realize that God's desire is to bring us into His presence and fellowship that we may know Him and know what kind of God He is and that, in our fellowship with Him in His presence, He may impart Himself into us through His God-breathed word.**

## Message One Verses

### Exodus 19:3-6

- 3 And Moses went up to God, and Jehovah called to him out of the mountain, saying, 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.
- 5 Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from 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 children of Israel.

### Exodus 19:9-11

- 9 And Jehovah said to Moses, 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. Then Moses told the words of the people to Jehovah,
- 10 And Jehovah said to Moses, Go to the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow; and have them wash their garments,
- 11 And be ready for the third day; for on the third day Jehovah will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

### Exodus 20:1-17

- 1 And God spoke all these words, saying,
- 2 I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the slave house;
- 3 You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, nor the form of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water beneath the earth.
- 5 You shall not bow down to them, and you shall not serve them; for I, Jehovah your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,
- 6 Yet showing lovingkindness to thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- 7 You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain, for Jehovah will not hold guiltless him who takes His name in vain.
- 8 Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it.
- 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
- 10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Jehovah your God; you shall not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your male servant nor your female servant, nor your cattle nor the sojourner with you, who is within your gates.
- 11 For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.
- 12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
- 13 You shall not kill.
- 14 You shall not commit adultery.
- 15 You shall not steal.
- 16 You shall not testify with false testimony against your neighbor.
- 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Message One Reading

### **BROUGHT INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM**

If we read the book of Exodus in the spirit with much prayer and thereby enter into the spiritual significance of this book, we shall see that it portrays God's salvation from the beginning to its consummation. Exodus is composed of two main sections, chapters one through eighteen and chapters nineteen through forty. In the first section we see God's salvation, God's provision, the victory over the flesh, and, in chapter eighteen, a portrait of the kingdom of God. The main point in chapters nineteen through forty is that God's saved people are brought into the presence of God and into the knowledge of God. Using New Testament terms, the people are brought into fellowship with God.

There is no indication in the first eighteen chapters of Exodus that the children of Israel had been brought into fellowship with God. Although God's people had experienced God's salvation, had enjoyed God's provision, and had been brought into God's kingdom, they had not yet been brought into such fellowship. However, beginning in chapter nineteen, they are brought into fellowship with Him.

In Exodus 19 we have a very precious point—that God now brings His redeemed people into His presence. Prior to that time, they had heard about God. However, they had not heard God's voice directly. The same is true among many Christians today. Although they have heard about God, they have not experienced God's direct speaking. Before they came to the mountain of God, the children of Israel heard about God through Moses' preaching and teaching. But here God brought them directly into His presence. He came down upon the mountain, appeared to the people, and spoke to them. Thus, they heard the voice of God directly and personally, not indirectly through a mediator. In the presence of God they heard His direct speaking.

### **HAVING EXPERIENCED GOD'S FULL SALVATION**

If we would enter into fellowship with God, we need to experience His full salvation. We need to be saved from the condemnation of sin, the world, and Satan, as seen in chapters one through fourteen. Then we need to enjoy God's rich provision

(15:1-17:7), conquer the flesh (17:8-16), and be brought into the kingdom of God (18:1-27). If we do not have such an experience and enjoyment, we shall not be able to have fellowship with God.

### **BROUGHT INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

According to the record in the Bible, God often spoke from a mountain. The Lord Jesus delivered the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens while on a mountain with His disciples (Matt. 5:1-2). It was also on a mountain that He uttered the prophecy concerning the end of the age (Matt. 24:3). God the Father spoke to Peter and the other disciples while they were on the mount of transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-2, 5). John was carried away to a high mountain to see the vision of the new heaven and the new earth with the New Jerusalem. Thus, in our experience we need to come out of Egypt, cross the Red Sea, and journey through the wilderness until we arrive at the mountain of God. At this mountain we are brought into God's presence. Without His presence, what we say or do means nothing. His presence is everything to us. Many of us can testify that whenever we gather together into the Lord's name, we enjoy His presence. We hear His speaking, and we see His vision at the mountain of God.

### **BROUGHT INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

Whenever we are brought into the presence of God and enter into fellowship with God, we are spontaneously brought into the knowledge of God. When we come to chapter twenty, we shall see that the law is a revelation and description of God Himself. The law shows what kind of God He is. Before the children of Israel were brought into the presence of God, they did not have this knowledge of God, even though they had experienced His salvation, had enjoyed His provision, had defeated Amalek, and had been brought into the kingdom.

### **THE TESTIMONY OF GOD REVEALING HIM TO HIS PEOPLE**

In chapter nineteen the children of Israel were brought into God's presence and began to have fellowship with Him at His mountain. In this fellowship with God His people came to know God's grace and holiness. During the course of this fellowship, the law was given (20:1-17).

## **THE LAW AS THE TESTIMONY OF GOD**

Exodus 20 has not been properly and adequately understood by many readers. It is commonly thought that this chapter tells us how the law was given. This is correct, but it is not the basic, primary concept. The basic concept in this chapter is that God reveals Himself to His people and thus enables them to know what kind of God He is. He wanted the children of Israel to know what kind of God they were approaching, what kind of God with whom they were having fellowship. It was important for the children of Israel not only to know such divine attributes as grace and holiness, but also to know God Himself.

Concerning the matter of law, there is an important principle: the kind of law a person makes expresses the kind of person that one is. For example, if criminals could make laws, they would legalize crime. Furthermore, a backward country would have rather barbaric laws, whereas a highly cultured society would have highly cultured laws. This principle applies also to God Himself. God is a Law-giver. In giving the law, He would never legalize crime or sin. He would not legalize theft or adultery, for He is not that kind of God. Only the god of witchcraft would legalize such things. A law is always a revelation of what kind of person has enacted that law.

The first function of the law is...to reveal God to us. I wish to emphasize the point that the primary function of the law is to reveal God to us. After God brought His people into His presence to have fellowship with Him, to serve Him, to contact Him, to worship Him, and even to feast with Him, He made Himself known to them. Prior to this time, God had not revealed to His people what kind of God He is. Only when we come to Exodus 20 do we have a revelation of what kind of God our God is.

### **A REVELATION OF WHAT GOD IS**

#### **Jealous**

God wants us to love Him and Him alone. If we love someone or something in place of Him, He will be jealous. Thus, the Ten Commandments first reveal God's jealousy, even His hatred (Rom. 9:13). Jealousy results in hatred. The Bible says not only that God is love, but also that He is jealous. In 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul refers to the jealousy of God. The ten words, the expression of God, reveal that God is unique. He is a jealous God, and He will not give place to any other god. Do not allow

anything else to be your god. Do not take education or wealth as your god. God alone must be your God.

#### **Holy**

The Ten Commandments also reveal that God is holy. The fourth commandment, which concerns keeping the Sabbath, is related to God's holiness, to His being separate from all things. According to Genesis 2, God sanctified the seventh day, or made it holy. Thus, the Sabbath as the seventh day is a sign of God's holiness, of His separation. As His people, we must have a mark, a sign, of our separation from everything other than God Himself. This reveals that our God is holy.

#### **Loving**

[In Exodus 20,] verses 12 through 14 reveal that God is a God of love. If we do not honor our parents, it means that we do not love them. Likewise, if we love others, we shall not steal from them. In Matthew 22:37-40 the Lord Jesus answered His opposers by implying that the whole law is fulfilled in loving God and man. We must not only love the Lord with our whole being, but we must also love others as we love ourselves. In Galatians 5:14 Paul says, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If we consider the Ten Commandments in depth, we shall see that God's love is revealed in them.

#### **Righteous**

The Ten Commandments also reveal that our God is righteous. Because He is righteous, He will visit those who hate Him for three or four generations. If He failed to do this, He would not be a righteous God. He must act in this way in order to indicate that He is righteous. If you hate Him, He will deal with you according to His righteousness. At the same time, however, He is merciful and loving.

#### **Truthful**

Exodus 20:16 says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." This commandment reveals that God is truthful. To refrain from bearing false witness means that we must speak the truth and not lie. As the truthful God, God is the God of light. We are even told that He Himself is light and that with Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). This means that with God there is no falsehood. With our God there is both faithfulness and truthfulness. Because He is light, He cannot lie. Light is the source of truth.

## Pure

The commandment about coveting reveals God's purity. Under the light of this commandment, we all need to see that inwardly we are not pure. We all have a certain amount of covetousness. But because God is pure, with Him there is no covetousness. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 579, 581-584, 591-593, 597-598, 599-601)