



MOUNT SINAI

Exodus 19

Exodus 19:1

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

Study # 9 July 26, 2017
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MOUNT SINAI

1 About three months have passed since the Israelites left their bondage behind in Egypt.
2 They have crossed the Sinai (we do not know exactly where). God has given them the
3 directions through Moses, as shown by the pillar of cloud by day and the fire by night.
4 Each day they have been fed by manna (which fell during the night six days a week), by
5 the quail and by water from the rock. Moses' wife Zipporah and boys, Gershom and
6 Eliezer, as well as his father-in-law Jethro have joined the pilgrims (ch. 18). Little by
7 little, the people were organized into groups and their leaders, all under Moses. Finally
8 Jethro left (Exodus 18:27 **And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his**
9 **way into his own land.**) The next stop was one of the most spectacular in all recorded
10 human history.

11
12 Exodus 19:1-8

13 **In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of**
14 **Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. [2] For they were**
15 **departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in**
16 **the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. [3] And Moses went up**
17 **unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou**
18 **say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; [4] Ye have seen what I did**
19 **unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto**
20 **myself. [5] Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant,**
21 **then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is**
22 **mine: [6] And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These**
23 **are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. [7] And Moses**
24 **came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these**
25 **words which the Lord commanded him. [8] And all the people answered together,**
26 **and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words**
27 **of the people unto the Lord.**

28
29 How far the people have come in just ninety days or so! They have now arrived at
30 Mount Sinai. Although I have displayed a picture on the cover page of the mountain
31 many consider to be the actual Sinai, I do not claim that it is. Perhaps....but....perhaps
32 not.

33
34 The mountain shown on the cover page is in the southern end of the Sinai Peninsular (the
35 area between Israel and Egypt). It is considered holy by Jews, Christians and Muslims.
36 It is a moderately-high mountain, not quite reaching 8,000 feet. Many of the mountains
37 around it are actually higher. Bedouin tradition claims it is the mountain where God
38 gave humanity the Ten Commandments as well as the specifications for the remarkable

1 structure known as THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS.

2
3 While I don't totally discount this as the site, I lean more to the mountain being in either
4 the country of Jordan or Saudi Arabia. According to some scholars, the Mount is
5 "Mount Seir," which is in ancient Nabatea (modern Jordan and the location of Petra, *the*
6 *rose-red city half as old as time.*

7
8 GOD REVEALS HIS FEELINGS ABOUT THE JEWS

9
10 Exodus 19:5-6

11 **Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye**
12 **shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: [6]**
13 **And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the
14 **words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.**

15

There is a heinous teaching circulating in the Christian world today known as "replacement theology" - or "supersessionism." This rampant heresy claims that God is through with the Jews and, since Calvary, has turned His divine attention and blessings to the Christian Church. The heresy teaches that since Jews have rejected Christ, for the most part, the promises to Abraham, Moses, Isaac and others are all ended. Nothing could be farther afield theologically. Even the Book of Revelation, which tells of the final end time, teaches that God will use 144,000 special Jews to evangelize the world (after the Rapture - Revelation 8). Read again on lines 10-14 God's specific promises to the Jews. Those commitments are still in effect.

16 History is conclusive that any nation that has mistreated Jews has suffered terribly. Call
17 the roll from the early Hittites to the Third Reich of Hitler. Every world leader should
18 know God's commitment to Abraham: Genesis 12:2-3 **And I will make of thee a**
19 **great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a**
20 **blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:**
21 **and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

22
23 In our text chapter today, Exodus 19, verse 8, the Jews responded to God, "All that the
24 Lord hath spoken we will do." That has not been the case, however, which has spawned
25 all the "replacement theology." But God never reneged on His promises to Israel or the
26 Jews, even though there have been times such as the Babylonian exile (which started in
27 586 B.C.) in which God punished them primarily for idolatry.

28
29 A study of present-day Israel shows the amazing hand of God upon the people. In one

1 of the most fascinating books in my library is a volume written by members of the
2 Associated Press (who make no claims of being God-followers), *Lightning Out Of Israel*.
3 It tells the full military story of the Six Day War in June of 1967, from the earliest air
4 strike sweeping low over Egypt to the last shot fired in Syria. It is the compelling story
5 of a war that stunned Arabs everywhere and caused all Jews to stand taller. In a battle in
6 which the odds against the Jews were 400-1, Israel won that war that shook the world in
7 just days.

8 9 GOD'S HOLINESS REVEALED ON THE MOUNT

10
11 This 19th chapter of Exodus should be a warning light to churches today that God is holy
12 and we do not approach Him from a careless manner. These verses are serious and they
13 are breath catching:

14
15 Exodus 19:9-16

16 **And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the**
17 **people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told**
18 **the words of the people unto the Lord.**

19 **[10] And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day**
20 **and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, [11] And be ready against the third**
21 **day: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon**
22 **mount Sinai. [12] And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying,**
23 **Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it:**
24 **whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: [13] There shall not an**
25 **hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or**
26 **man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the**
27 **mount.**

28 **[14] And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the**
29 **people; and they washed their clothes. [15] And he said unto the people, Be ready**
30 **against the third day: come not at your wives.**

31 **[16] And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders**
32 **and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet**
33 **exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.**

34
35 I am appalled in these days of the way the clergy waters down the Gospel and cheapens
36 our whole concept of God. The Christian and Missionary Alliance has given us some of
37 the best thinkers and theologians in the past hundred years, among them the legendary A.
38 W. Tozer. In his challenging book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, he wrote: "What comes
39 into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The
40 history of mankind will probably show that no people have ever risen above their religion,

1 and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been
2 greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or
3 low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always
4 God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time
5 may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. Were we able to
6 extract from any man a complete answer to the question, 'What comes into your mind
7 when you think about God,' we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that
8 man. Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God,
9 and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God."

10 PAGES 10 AND 11 / CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

11
12 Here is a verse every believer should know and accept: Proverbs 9:10 **The fear of the**
13 **Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.**

14
15 There isn't much fear of God in Christianity today. Much of the alleged "worship" is
16 tailored to please people, to serve as some sort of magnet to get them into church;
17 whereas the Bible teaches that worship is for God and Him alone! We learn in Exodus
18 19 that while the Jews were blessed at Sinai, the mountain was made for God - not them.

19
20 Note the word "sanctify" in verse 10. That involves separation from those things that
21 are not worthy of God. Verse 12 demanded that the people "set bounds" around the
22 mountain, bounds that must not be exceeded on the pain of death. And for this short
23 time in which God would manifest Himself on the mountain, husbands and wives were
24 not even to enjoy the marriage bed ("come not at their wives" - verse 15). While the
25 marriage bed is undefiled according to Scripture, for this duration of time the people were
26 to know they had a much higher priority and that was the worship of God.

27
A "leading actress" from Hollywood stated this week, "Movies have to reflect society." Well....not the church! The church should reflect Almighty Creator God - and anything less than that is a sham. We are to reveal God!

28 And what a revelation of God there was: Exodus 19:16 **And it came to pass on the**
29 **third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud**
30 **upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people**
31 **that was in the camp trembled.**

32
33 God again warned Moses and the Israelites not to trifle with His presence: Exodus
34 19:19-25 **And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and**
35 **louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. [20] And the Lord came**

1 down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to
2 the top of the mount; and Moses went up. [21] And the Lord said unto Moses, Go
3 down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of
4 them perish. [22] And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify
5 themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them. [23] And Moses said unto the
6 Lord, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set
7 bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. [24] And the Lord said unto him, Away, get
8 thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the
9 priests and the people break through to come up unto the Lord, lest he break forth
10 upon them. [25] So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

11
12 This 19th chapter set up the 20th which is a watershed chapter. It is pivotal! It contains
13 the Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Sinai by God Himself. These
14 commandments are the spinal cord of civilization. Our U.S. Judicial system refuses to
15 proclaim these on public property even as our nation unravels day by day. Let's take
16 another look at them now:

17
18 Exodus 20:1-17

19 And God spake all these words, saying, [2] I am the Lord thy God, which have
20 brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. [3] Thou shalt
21 have no other gods before me. [4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,
22 or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,
23 or that is in the water under the earth: [5] Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them,
24 nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the
25 fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
26 [6] And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my
27 commandments. [7] Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for
28 the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [8] Remember the
29 sabbath day, to keep it holy. [9] Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: [10]
30 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any
31 work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant,
32 nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: [11] For in six days the Lord
33 made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:
34 wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

35 [12] Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land
36 which the Lord thy God giveth thee. [13] Thou shalt not kill. [14] Thou shalt not
37 commit adultery. [15] Thou shalt not steal. [16] Thou shalt not bear false witness
38 against thy neighbour. [17] Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt
39 not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox,
40 nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

1 Americans today, by and large, don't even make a pretense of obeying these commands
2 of God.

3
4 1. Have no other gods! A "god" is anything or anyone we prefer over God Himself.

5
6 2. Have no idols. An idol is anything or anyone we worship.

7
8 3. Honor God's name. This involves more than refraining from cursing. If we
9 profess Christ as our Savior, and react to life about the same as unbelievers, we have
10 profaned God's name.

11
12 4. Honor the Sabbath Day. Since the resurrection of Jesus, believers have worshiped
13 on Sunday (for that was the day of His resurrection - the first day of the week). One of
14 the reasons I love Israel is that Jews just simply shut down on Saturday - their Sabbath.
15 How much more should followers of Jesus have this day to be holy and reserved for Him?

16
17 5. Honor your parents.

18
19 6. Do not murder. Hardly a week goes by in our town when someone is not murdered.

20
21 7. Do not commit adultery. That means having sex with anyone other than your legally
22 married mate.

23
24 8. Do not steal.

25
26 9. Do not bear false witness (don't perjure yourself).

27
28 10. Do not covet.

29
30 It will seem redundant; however, the Ten Commandments are not suggestions. They are
31 requirements of God. But note this: keeping those Commandments will not save you.
32 But if you are saved, you will keep the Commandments. So, what happens if we break
33 one of them, or more than one? 1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and**
34 **just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

35
36 A wonderful old hymn reminds us: *Calvary covers it all / My sin with its guilt and its*
37 *stain / All my sin and despair Jesus took on Him there / And Calvary covers it all!*

38
39 God put His stamp on the Commandments with an amazing display: Exodus 20:18-21
40 **And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the**

1 trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and
2 stood afar off. [19] And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear:
3 but let not God speak with us, lest we die. [20] And Moses said unto the people, Fear
4 not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that
5 ye sin not. [21] And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick
6 darkness where God was.

7
8

The power of God, manifested in so many ways, was made very clear in October of 1989 during the World Series, being played in Oakland between the A's and the San Francisco Giants. As the game progressed, watched by millions around the world, a 7.1 earthquake hit the west coast. The damage was in the hundreds of millions and some even lost their lives. That night on the *TONIGHT!* show, with Johnny Carson, the host opened with this classic line: "The God-Is-Dead rally scheduled for tonight has been cancelled." No one could have said it better. I thought of that when I read the previous scriptures. When God manifested Himself so powerfully, the people cried out, "We're going to die!"

9
10 As He got the attention of the people, God made it clear to them that He demanded
11 exclusive worship. Exodus 20:22-26 **And the Lord said unto Moses, Thus thou
12 shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from
13 heaven. [23] Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto
14 you gods of gold.**

15 **[24] An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy
16 burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places
17 where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. [25] And if thou
18 wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift
19 up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. [26] Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto
20 mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.**

21
22 That last verse is fascinating. "Nakedness?" Well, in those days the priests wore robes
23 of manly skirts. The steps mentioned in verse 26 required the priests to lift their robes to
24 negotiate them, thus exposing the backs of their legs. God wanted everyone's attention
25 on Him, not the priests, not the ceremonies, not even the altar (which was to be made of
26 dirt, not gold - see verse 24).

27
28 CHAPTER 21 - 23

29
30 There was much more than the Ten Commandments, laws of God which He meant for the
31 people to keep. There were laws to be kept in the market place, dealing with personal

1 injuries, property rights, law and order, observing national feasts, peace agreements or
2 covenants with other nations, etc.

3 4 CHAPTER 24

5
6 At this point in the sacred narrative, the drama reaches a crescendo.

7
8 Exodus 24:10-13

9 **And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved**
10 **work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. [11]**
11 **And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw**
12 **God, and did eat and drink.**

13 **[12] And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there:**
14 **and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have**
15 **written; that thou mayest teach them. [13] And Moses rose up, and his minister**
16 **Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.**

17
18 Verse 10 needs to be understood in the light of the entire Word of God: “...they saw the
19 God of Israel.” God is Spirit. John 1:18 **No man hath seen God at any time; the**
20 **only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.**
21 What they saw was “a representation of God.”

22
23 It brings up the interesting question, “Will we actually see God in eternity?” Bible
24 commentators are mixed in their responses to that query. I personally believe we will
25 (see Revelation 4). But one thing is sure: You are not going to go leaping up into
26 God’s lap to smother Him with your kisses - as some would lead you to believe. And
27 also - only Jesus will make any kind of presentation with the Father possible: John
28 14:8-9 **Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. [9] Jesus**
29 **saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me,**
30 **Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew**
31 **us the Father?**

32
33 We leave Moses climbing the mount, which is covered by not only “the cloud” but what
34 appeared to be “devouring fire.” Exodus 24:17 **And the sight of the glory of the**
35 **Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of**
36 **Israel.** Moses will spend nearly 7 weeks alone with God atop Sinai where he will be
37 given the plans for a remarkable structure that has bearing on your life: **THE**
38 **TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS.** It is a magnificent study which we pick
39 up....next week, Lord willing.