

Lesson 7 – Exodus 19-24

Text: Exodus 19-24

Main Characters: God, Moses, Israelites

Key Passages:

- Exodus 19:3-8 – God states His case for why Israel should obey Him; Israel agrees to serve God.
- Exodus 20:1-17 – This is the first recording of the Ten Commandments.
- Exodus 24:1-8 – The Old Law is ratified by Israel; God and Israel make a covenant with blood.

List:

The Ten Commandments

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| 1.) No other gods | 4.) Remember the Sabbath | 7.) You shall not commit adultery | 9.) You shall not lie |
| 2.) No graven images | 5.) Honor parents | 8.) You shall not steal | 10.) You shall not covet |
| 3.) No Lord's name in vain | 6.) You shall not murder | | |

Main Storyline:

The Israelites left the area of Rephidim and, three months after leaving Egypt, finally arrived at Mount Sinai. While Israel camped next to the mountain, Moses went closer, and God spoke to him. God told Moses to remind the people about how He had delivered them from Egypt “on eagles’ wings” and offered to make Israel His chosen people if they agreed to obey and serve Him. Moses called all of the elders of the people and told them what God had said. When all the people heard, they all decided that they would obey all that the Lord spoke. Moses then returned to God with their decision to obey.

God told Moses to have the people prepare themselves for Him to come down and give them the commandments. They were to consecrate themselves for two days and to wash their clothes, and on the third day, God would come to them. They were not to touch the mountain, but when the trumpet blast came, they were to approach it to meet the Lord. On the third day, there was thunder, lightning, a thick cloud around the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so all of the people gathered at the base of the mountain. Then God descended on the mountain in fire, and the whole mountain was filled with smoke and began to quake greatly. God, once again, warned Moses to tell the people and the priests not to come up the mountain, or they would die.

God then delivered the Ten Commandments to the people. However, the people became terrified by the appearance of the Lord, and they asked Moses to intercede for them instead of having God speak to them directly. Moses told them not to be afraid, because this encounter was testing them, so that they would fear God and not sin. The people backed away, but Moses drew closer. God then revealed many of the conditions of the covenant (laws) to Moses to relay to the people.

Moses later returned with these conditions and told them to the people. The people agreed to obey them and to serve the Lord. The covenant was then sealed with a sacrifice, blood, and a meal. Then Moses went back to the mountain to receive stone tablets with the law, and he was there 40 days.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) In order to receive the blessings that God promises, we must “truly” obey Him – we cannot be pleasing to Him without following His commandments (John 14:15).
- 2.) God calls His people to be a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. We are to be a special people, set apart to live by imitating the characteristics of God (Ephesians 5:1, 1 Peter 2:9ff).
- 3.) God sees sin as much worse than we see it. Note how many of the crimes listed in chapters 20-23 deserved death that we might overlook (Ezekiel 16, 23).