

The Book of Exodus

The LORD Appears on Mount Sinai

Text: Exodus 19:1-25

Introduction:

1. The first section of the Book of Exodus covered the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
 - a. The oppression in Egypt (1)
 - b. The birth, training, and call of Moses (2:1 – 7:7)
 - c. The plagues, Passover, and exodus (7:8 – 15:21)
 - d. The journey to Horeb (15:22 – 18:27) *-Charles Pledge*
2. The second section of the book deals with the covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai.
3. Primarily, this section will focus on the giving of the law to Israel.
 - a. Preparation (19)
 - b. The Ten Commandments (20)
 - c. Various judgments and laws (21 – 23)
 - d. Ratification of the covenant (24)
4. Yet, before God would give His law to Israel, they had to prepare themselves to receive it.

- I. The Arrival of Israel at Sinai (Exodus 19:1-2)
 - A. After travelling for 45 days, the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai.
 1. According to Jewish usage, the phrase “in the third month” seems to indicate the first day of the month.
 2. Jewish tradition states that on the next day Moses went up into the mountain and on the third day he gathered the elders of Israel (vs. 3, 7-8).
 3. Three days later (vs. 10-11), God spoke to Israel and delivered His law.
 4. Thus, the giving of the Law of Moses took place 50 days after Israel left Egypt.
 5. For this reason, the Feast of Pentecost was held 50 days after the Passover.
 - B. “The wilderness of Sinai” indicates the area around and before the mountain itself.
- II. God’s Purpose for Israel (Exodus 19:3-8)
 - A. As Moses went up into the mountain, God called to Him with a message for the children of Israel.
 - B. God reminded them of both His power and His love in delivering them from Egypt.
 1. In His power, He had defeated the dominant nation on earth.
 2. In His love, He had carried His people on the wings of eagles (cf. Deut. 32:9-12).
 3. In His love, He brought them unto Himself.
 - C. After proving Himself to Israel, God then stated the conditions of the covenant to be entered.
 1. Israel was to obey His voice.
 2. Israel was to keep His covenant.
 3. God would keep them as a peculiar treasure, above all others.
 4. God would make them a kingdom of priests.
 5. God would make them a holy nation.
 - D. Upon hearing what God had declared, the people of Israel agreed to it by stating, “All that Jehovah hath spoken we will do.”

The Book of Exodus

III. The Preparation of Israel

(Exodus 19:9-15)

- A. In order to deliver His law, God promised to appear on the mountain in a thick cloud and with an audible voice.
- B. Thus, for the people to appear in the presence of God, they needed to prepare and sanctify themselves.
 - 1. Remember that this is the same mountain where God had previously appeared to Moses in the burning bush (3:1-3).
 - 2. On that occasion, Moses had to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground (3:4-5).
 - 3. The presence of God made the place holy.
- C. The Israelites were to wash their clothes and remain abstinent.
- D. A border was established around the mountain which was not to be crossed by man or animal.
 - 1. Anyone who violated this boundary was to be put to death.
 - 2. However, he was to be stoned or “shot through” so that no one else would cross the boundary to get to the violator.
- E. Only Moses was allowed on the mountain until the trumpet sounded long; then, others could come up – Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders (24:1-2).

IV. The Appearance of God

(Exodus 19:16-25)

- A. “The descent of God was signalized by every object imagination can conceive connected with the ideas of grandeur and awe” (JFB).
- B. As the glory of God descended upon the mountain, God spoke with an audible voice and Moses was called up into the mountain.
- C. Compare this event with Hebrews 12:18-29 and notice the exceeding glory of the church of Christ.