

The Book of Exodus

The Covenant Ratified With Blood

Text: Exodus 24

Introduction:

1. Chapter 18 revealed the need for a covenant and written law for the new nation of Israel.
2. Chapter 19 showed the preparation and sanctification needed to receive the covenant.
3. Chapter 20 recorded the revealing of the covenant – the foundation of the 10 commandments.
4. Chapters 21 – 23 detailed numerous other commandments given to the nation of Israel.
5. Chapter 24 relates the ratifying of this covenant with blood.

I. Moses Called Up Into the Mountain (Exodus 24:1-2)

- A. After relating various laws to the people, God instructed Moses to come up unto Him in the mountain.
- B. God also instructed that others were to come part of the way with him.
 1. Aaron and his two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu – representing the soon-to-be-formed priesthood.
 2. Seventy of the elders of Israel – representing the 12 tribes.
 3. These would not be allowed to follow Moses into the heights of the mountain.
- C. The rest of the people were excluded from the mountain.

II. The Covenant Ratified with Blood (Exodus 24:3-8)

- A. The conditions of the covenant were plainly declared.
 1. The people had heard God deliver the 10 Commandments.
 2. Now, Moses told them the other instructions God had given.
 3. This included the promises of blessing and warnings of punishment.
- B. The covenant was agreed to by the nation; thus, they pledged their obedience.
- C. The words of the covenant were recorded – written down for a permanent record.
- D. The covenant was ratified or sealed with blood.
 1. An altar was built – symbolizing God's part in the covenant – on which sacrifices would be offered.
 2. Twelve pillars were constructed – symbolizing Israel's part in the covenant.
 3. Moses served as the mediator of this covenant between God and Israel.
 4. The chosen young men served as priests and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings unto God.
 5. From those sacrifices, blood was collected.
 - a. Half of it was cast upon the altar – representing God.
 - b. The terms of the covenant were read again.
 - c. The people assented to the terms.
 - d. Then, the other half of the blood was cast upon the people.
 6. After sprinkling the blood, Moses solemnly declared the covenant ratified.
- E. It should have impressed deeply the children of Israel that their covenant with God – and their founding as a nation – required the shedding of blood.
- F. This act served as a type, foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus to establish the New Covenant (Heb. 9:18-28; 10:22; 12:24; cf. Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25; 1 Pet. 1:2).

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III. The Vision of God

(Exodus 24:9-11)

- A. As God had commanded (vs. 1-2), Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel went up into the mountain.
 - 1. Only Moses was allowed to “come near” to the Lord, apparently at the summit of Mount Sinai.
 - 2. The others were to worship “afar off” – on the mountain but not in its heights.
- B. The offering of a sacrifice to God was usually to be followed with a meal.
 - 1. This had taken place at the Passover (12:7-8).
 - 2. This would be done by the priests (Lev. 6:24-29; 7:1-6; Deut. 18:1ff).
- C. After the sacrifice that ratified the covenant with God, these nobles were allowed to commune with him in a solemn meal.
 - 1. They went into the mountain to eat and drink.
 - 2. Yet, while there, they were allowed to see a vision of God.
 - 3. God did not punish them nor strike them down.
 - 4. Instead, He manifested His presence to enjoy fellowship in their meal.
 - 5. This foreshadows the Lord’s Supper (Mark 14:25; 1 Cor. 10:16-18) and the marriage supper of the Lamb in Heaven (Rev. 19:7-9).
- D. God revealed Himself to those in the mountain in a form that resembled a man.
 - 1. They were able to see that He had feet.
 - 2. Beneath His feet was something with the appearance of sapphire – blue, yet clear.
 - 3. It looked as though God was standing upon the sky!
 - 4. This symbolized the majesty and the power of Almighty God.
- E. What a beautiful experience of fellowship – demonstrating the relationship that now existed between the new nation of Israel and her King Jehovah.

IV. Moses in the Mount

(Exodus 24:12-18)

- A. After this event, Moses was called to come up into the top of the mountain.
- B. There, he would receive the tables of stone and the law of God.
 - 1. This would include the Ten Commandments.
 - 2. However, it would also include the instructions for the Tabernacle.
- C. Before going, Moses instructed the elders to remain in the same location and to submit to the authority of Aaron and Hur.
- D. Then, Moses and Joshua went up into the mountain.
- E. After six days, Moses was called to come into the presence of God, where He would remain for 40 days and nights (without food or drink [Deut. 9:9, 18]).
- F. Upon returning, he would have instructions that would allow Israel to continue the journey to the Promised Land of Canaan.