

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures,**

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Tonight, we will observe that the children of Israel traveled to Mount Sinai. God prepared Israel to receive the Mosaic Covenant as well as the Ten Commandments.

The Exodus From Egypt

Nuweiba Beach Crossing -- Sinai at Jabal al-Lawz



❖ After three months of wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel came to Sinai.

I. THE CONTINUANCE OF ISRAEL, 19:1-2

Ex. 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.

2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come *to* the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

❖ Mt. Sinai became a landmark for Israel, especially representing “the Law of Moses.”

Neh. 9:13 Thou camest down also upon **mount Sinai**, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them **right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:**

Psa. 68:8 The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: *even* **Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God**, the God of Israel. ...

17 The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand, *even* thousands of angels: the Lord *is* among them, *as* **in Sinai, in the holy place.**

Gal. 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for **these are the two covenants**; the one from the **mount Sinai**, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

25 For this Agar is **mount Sinai in Arabia**, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

❖ The Jews celebrate the feast of Pentecost *fifty* days after the *passover*: from the departure out of Egypt to the coming to Sinai were *forty-five* days for they came out the *fifteenth* day of the first month, from which day to the *first* of the third month *forty-five* days are numbered. On the 2d day of this third month Moses went up into the mountain, when *three* days were given to the people to purify themselves; this gives the *fourth* day of the *third* month, or the *forty-ninth* from the departure out of Egypt. On the *next day*, which was the *fiftieth* from the celebration of the passover, the glory of God appeared on the mount; in commemoration of which the Jews celebrate the feast of *Pentecost*.

II. THE CARE FOR ISRAEL, 19:3-4

Ex. 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 **Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**

❖ The LORD reminded Israel of His watch-care over them.

Deut. 32:11 **As an eagle stirreth up her nest,**
fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her
wings, taketh them, **beareth them on her wings:**

Isa. 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall
renew *their* strength; **they shall mount up with**
wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.

III. THE COVENANT WITH ISRAEL, 19:5-6

Ex. 19:5 Now therefore, **if** ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, **then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:**

6 And ye shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- ❖ The blessings of this covenant meant that the people of Israel were to belong to God and, as priests, worship and serve him. As God's chosen people, Israel was to represent him to the nations of the world.
- ❖ A priest was a man who stood before God representing the people, but he also stood before the people representing God.

IV. THE COMMITMENT BY ISRAEL, 19:7-9

Ex. 19:7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, **All that the LORD hath spoken we will do**. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, **that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever**.

And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

- ❖ The children of Israel answered God with a commitment to obedience – “...All that the LORD hath spoken we will do (v. 8.)
- ❖ The children of Israel were to hear and believe (Rom. 10:17.)
- ❖ Now at this point Moses was a priest; that is, he was going before God speaking for the people, and then he was coming to the people and speaking for God.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ has become our great High Priest. He represents us to the Father, and He represents the Father to us. Moses is a wonderful type of Christ as a mediator.

1 Tim. 2:5 For *there is* one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

V. THE CONSTRAINTS FOR ISRAEL, 19:10-23

Ex. 19:10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

12 And thou shalt **set bounds** unto the people round about, saying, **Take heed to yourselves**, *that ye go not* up into the mount, or touch the border of it: **whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:**

13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether *it be* beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

- ❖ The washing of their clothes was a symbolic action.
- ❖ Before receiving the detailed requirements of the covenant, the people were reminded of the holiness of the God who initiated the covenant. So holy was he that the people had to carry out symbolic acts of cleansing over the next two days before they were allowed even to look on the mountain while God was speaking there with Moses.
- ❖ Moses “set bounds” around the mountain to emphasize the distance between this holy God and his sinful people.

Ex. 19:14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at *your* wives.

❖ The “meet with God” was a dramatic display of God’s presence and power:

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

17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp **to meet with God**; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

❖ Moses' encounter with God was also powerful and dramatic.

Ex. 19:18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and **God answered him by a voice.**

20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses *up* to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

- ❖ Moses, the mediator, presented God's message of the seriousness of His holiness and warned of possible death if unheeded to both the common people and the priests.

Ex. 19:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, **and many of them perish**.

22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

- ❖ Moses “set bounds” emphasizing holiness and sanctification when approaching God.

Ex. 19:23 And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, **Set bounds** about the mount, and sanctify it.

VI. THE CHARGE TO ISRAEL, 19:24-25

EX. 19:24 And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

25 So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

Summary

- ❖ The people were then given a brief view of the awesome power of the one to whom they had submitted themselves. He was not to be treated lightly. Any, except those specially invited, who crossed the boundary around the mountain, whether out of idle curiosity or misguided zeal, would be struck with certain death.
- ❖ Moses was a type of Christ in his role of mediator between God and the Israelites.

Conclusion

Heb. 8:7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, *A new covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.