

THE NEW NORMAL #4
“Preparing to Meet God”
Exodus 19

The Israelites continue their trek in the desert to Mount Sinai. This is a critical time in their journey because it is at Sinai that God will reveal himself to the people and renew the covenant with them. Moses will teach the people how to prepare themselves to worship God and the Israelites will become a worshipping community that is to be distinct from all other peoples in the world. We learn many things about our identity as believers in Christ and what it means to be a covenant people in today’s lesson.

#1. THE LORD BROUGHT THEM TO MOUNT SINAI TO RENEW THE COVENANT, vv. 1-2

- A. Three months after leaving Egypt they arrive at Mt. Sinai, v. 1
- B. They are there for one year, (Exo 19--Num 11)
- C. They Lord would reveal himself to the people there

#2. GOD RELATES TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH COVENANT, vv. 3-5

- A. God initiated a covenant with Abraham, (Gen 12:1-3, 15)
- B. God passed the covenant through the patriarchs
- C. God is always faithful to his covenant
- D. God delivered them from Egypt—on eagle’s wings, v. 4, (Deu 9:6)
- E. God brought them to himself, v. 4
- F. God gives covenant blessings based on obedience, v. 5
- G. God initiated the New Covenant through Christ, (Jer 31:31, Luke 22:20)

#3. GOD HAS SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR ISRAEL – HIS COVENANT PEOPLE, vv. 5-8

- A. Israel will be his treasured possession out of the nations, v. 5
- B. Israel will be a kingdom of priests, v. 6
- C. Israel will be a holy nation, v. 6
- D. Israel was show God’s love to the world, vv. 5-6
- E. Israel pledged their commitment to God, vv. 7-8

#4. GOD HAS SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR THE CHURCH – HIS COVENANT PEOPLE, 1 Peter 2:9-12 (Exodus 19:5-6)

- A. The church is a chosen people, v. 9
- B. The church is a royal priesthood, v. 9
- C. The church is a holy nation, v. 9
- D. The church is God’s special possession, v. 9
- E. The church is called to declare praises to God, v. 10
- F. The church is called out of darkness, v. 10
- G. The church is the people of God, v. 10
- H. The church has received God’s mercy, v. 10

#5. GOD REVEALED HIMSELF ISRAEL IN A TERRIFYING WAY, vv. 16-25

- A. The people had to consecrate themselves to meet God, vv. 10-15
- B. The theophany – thunder, lightening, thick cloud, trumpet, fire, smoke, the mountain trembled violently, vv. 16-19
- C. The people stood at the foot of the mountain, v. 17
- D. The people & Moses were trembling with fear, v. 16 (Heb 12:21)
- E. The voice of God answered Moses, v. 19
- F. The God was teaching them the fear of the Lord, (Exo 20:20)

#6. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TODAY IN A NON-INTIMADITING WAY THROUGH THE MESSIAH, Luke 2:6-7

- A. God revealed himself in Jesus
- B. Jesus was born of a virgin
- C. Jesus was fully human & divine
- D. Jesus provided the only way of salvation
- E. Jesus isn’t intimidating
- F. Jesus enables us to approach God without fear, (Heb 4:15-16)

NOTES:

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is the deliverance from Egyptian slavery different from the deliverance we have in Christ?
 2. In what way(s) can the deliverance from Egypt be considered evidence of God's grace? (Deu 9:6)
 3. Why was it important for God to reveal himself to the Israelites rather than just bringing them into the Promised Land?
 4. Whether one is a person living under the Old Covenant or New Covenant, why should the primary concern be having a vibrant relationship with the Lord?
 5. Describe what it means to be the covenant people of God?
 6. What missional role did Israel have among the other nations of the world?
 7. Discuss how Peter applies Exodus 19:5-6 to the church in 1 Peter 2:9-12?
 8. What does Peter tell us we should do as God's people? (1 Pet 2:10-12)
 9. Why the elaborate preparations in meeting God? (Exo 19:10f)
 10. Why did God reveal himself to the people in such a terrifying way? (Exo 20:20)
 11. How does this differ in the way we approach God through Christ as New Testament believers? (Heb 4:15-16)
 12. What is your takeaway from this passage?
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Exodus 19:1-16: In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt--on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." ⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders

of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." ¹⁰And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow...¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, ¹⁹and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

1 Peter 2:9-12: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Deuteronomy 9:6: Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Hebrews 4:15-16: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Exodus 20:20: Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."