

Exodus Chapter 19 Commentary

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."

We are given the time when Israel arrived at Mount Sinai. We see in this chapter that we are just continuing, from the last chapter, and getting more details about what transpired while Israel was camped before Mount Sinai.

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."

God calls Moses up to the mountain and instructs Moses to remind Israel of what God has done in their lives. Remind them of the great destruction and demonstration of my limitless power displayed upon the Egyptians. Remind them that I, God, brought you out of Egypt to be a nation of people unto me. I did this without any assistance from you.

We point out that Israel has already been chosen and saved out of Egypt. Why did God choose Israel? Because he made a covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God is reminding them that this all happened by my own power and might.

This gives us the picture of how the new birth is manifested to a child of God, and how the New Testament church was formed by the power of Jesus Christ. The new birth happens without any effort from the one who is born again, just as a newborn baby has nothing to do with their conception and birth. Why? Because just as Israel did not choose to be God's people, so we do not choose to be God's people, as demonstrated in scripture in: *Eph 1:3-6; 3 ¶ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."* and in: *Joh 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

Israel has a completely new and different life before them, which is separated from their life in Egypt, and is now to be lived following the leading of God. We should note, as God is pointing out to Israel, when we are born-again, we are brought to newness of life in Christ, and we are not to go back to our old ways and nature. We see this picture clearly in: *Eph 2:8-10; 8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* In verses 5 & 6 below, we shall see the obedience portion of this scripture.

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."

"*if ye will obey my voice indeed*," Do you notice that for Israel to be all the things listed in these verses is dependent upon their obedience to God? What is the implication of these verses? Israel is currently a peculiar treasure to God, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. If they do not obey God, they will lose this status in the eyes of God. This very same thing is true in the life of a Christian. We are a peculiar treasure to God, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation, when we are born-again. If we are obedient to God, we will retain that status. If we are disobedient to God, we lose this status in the sight of God.

Does this mean that if we are disobedient and sin that we are no longer a child of God? No. Just as Israel remained God's nation of chosen people that he had saved unto himself, when they lost their status with God, they were still his people. When we are disobedient to God, we do not lose our eternal salvation, but we lose

the joy of God's salvation being manifested in our lives, just as Israel lost the joy of God's protection and supply of their needs. When we do not obey the voice of God, we can expect God's judicial judgments upon our lives.

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."

Moses did as God commanded and told Israel all that God had said. Israel declares that we will do what God says. Moses carried Israel's response back to God.

Moses sets the example of the faithful minister of the gospel. How? He tells them "all" that God has said. He doesn't just tell them the things they want to hear. This is one of the ways we can identify false ministers. What do you mean? If the minister is only telling you what you want to hear, and not telling you the whole of what God has said, he is a false teacher and is not to be followed.

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 forever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, 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."

God has heard the answer of Israel to be obedient to God. God now tells Moses to prepare the people and on the third day he will come down, to Moses upon mount Sinai in a thick cloud, in the sight of all Israel. God tells Moses, when I come down in the thick cloud, I will speak with you, and Israel shall hear that it is God that is telling you what to do, and they will always believe you because of seeing and hearing me talk to you.

When a newborn child of God is joined to the visible church, they will be like Israel. When they see the cloud of the Holy Spirit light upon the minister of the gospel, and they hear with understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ, they will believe that Jesus is the Christ, they will believe the word of God, and they will believe that they have been given eternal life.

Remember, Israel is already God's chosen nation of people and they have already been saved. We do see that there is some preparatory work to be done before the presence of God is manifested to Israel, and they hear the voice of God. They are to wash their clothes and be ready on the third day. They are instructed to not come near the mount when God descends upon it, or they will surely die. They are to wait for the sounding of the trumpet before they come close to the mount, at which time they are to draw near to enable them to witness the sight of God upon the mount and hear his audible voice as he speaks to Moses.

When children of God assemble to worship God in visible church on earth, before they gather, they need to do some preparatory things. They need to spend some time praying for the presence of God to descend upon the minister of God, that the presence of God might be manifested, and the voice of God might be heard. They need to spend time purging their minds and hearts of all ungodliness, and cares of this world, desiring to be given bread from heaven, and to drink from the fountain of living waters, which is why we have a song service before we have the preaching service. A good, Spirit filled, song service will purge our minds of worldliness, and bring us to thoughts of things divine.

Ex 19:11 "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." This verse sends us on a prophetic trip to the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb, early on the morning of the third day. We see the veil of the temple rent in twain and the revelation of Jesus as the true Christ, the prophesied Messiah, being revealed in time. We read in scripture of the risen Christ revealing himself to Mary and others on the day of his resurrection, which points to the revealed proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We couple this thought with **Ex 19:8 "that the people may hear when I speak with thee and believe thee forever."** And we see Jesus, the Word of God, being manifested to every child of God,

who upon receiving Christ in them in the gift of the Holy Spirit, believing the revealed Word of God unto eternal life in Christ.

Well, preacher you are out of context, because the Lord said I will come down, and Christ arose. To which I reply, well reader, how did Christ get to where he could arise in resurrection? He had to come down from heaven, and he came veiled in the cloud of his flesh and mortality.

But some will object that they couldn't even touch the mountain where God was come down. Do you remember what Jesus said to Mary at the tomb? seen in: ***Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*** We cannot physically touch Jesus in our mortality because he has already ascended back to heaven. However, he can be touched by the feelings of our infirmities, seen in: ***Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.***

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."

This three days of cleansing was time set aside to prepare themselves to see the approach of God in the cloud, and to hear the voice of God speaking. It was time to lay aside all thoughts of earthly pleasures, even marital relations, so that their minds were completely focused upon seeing and hearing from God.

This reminds me of how often I go to church, and my mind is drawn away by earthly things, and is not completely focused upon worshipping God, which tells me that I have failed to take the time to prepare myself to see and hear from God.

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. 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."

This reminds me of another time that the earth quaked, seen in: ***Mt 28:1-6; 1 ¶ "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."***

Both scenes are setting forth the reverent fear we should have for God and Christ. Their power and might are so great that even the natural earth trembles at their presence upon it. How much more should our hearts tremble, in awe and reverent fear, when we see and hear the presence of God and Christ in our lives.

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. 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. 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. 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."

When the trumpet sounded long, Moses spake to God and God replied by voice. Remember, all Israel is hearing the voice of God. God calls Moses to come to him in the top of the mount. God instructs Moses to go

back down and charge the people again to not touch the mountain, which is currently occupied by God, lest God break forth and bring the punishment of death upon them.

God also tells Moses: when you come back up bring Aaron, the high priest, with you.

Moses, in the eyes of Israel, was already as a God to them, though in actuality Moses is only the mediator between Israel and God. Moses was looked upon as king of Israel, seen in: ***De 33:5; 4 "Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob. 5 And he was king in Jeshurun,*** (Jeshurun is Israel) ***when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.***" Moses was considered to be father of Israel, in that he cared for them as a father attending to his children. Wherefore, we see in Moses and Aaron going up to meet God in the mount the ascension of our Saviour and Lord into the eternal heaven. How? Jesus is our King. Jesus is our High Priest. Jesus is our Father. Because Jesus and God are the same.

God the Father sent God the Son to come down to earth and gave us the boundaries of the life of a Christian. Israel gathered before the mount, upon which God has descended, is a picture of the Church of Salvation by Grace established upon the earth. As this mountain, and God's presence upon it, are the focal point for Israel: so, our Saviour and his Holy Spirit descended upon the church, are our focal point. The assembly of the church is to worship God, not having our minds cluttered with earthly and fleshly wants and desires. Trembling with anticipation of hearing the voice of God speak to us and instruct us in all that he would have us to do.

Israel is in a unique position because they are the only ones present to see this great sight of God descending to earth and speaking to them. The New Testament church, every child of God, is in this same position. The revelation of Jesus Christ, for who and what he is to us, is not given to the world at large, it is reserved for God's people. The Gospel, the voice of God, is not for the world at large to hear, it is reserved uniquely for God's people, especially when assembled as Israel now is.

Thank you, King Jesus, for this blessed privilege and honor. Hallelujah! Amen!