

# A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation

Exodus 19-20

# The Arrival at Sinai (Vs. 1-3a)

- ◇ ... In the third month after the Israelites had left Egypt
  - ◇ The ten plagues and deliverance from Egypt
  - ◇ The destruction of the Egyptians and Deliverance at the Red Sea
  - ◇ The bitter water turned sweet at Marah
  - ◇ Manna sent from heaven to provide for their hunger
  - ◇ Water from the rock at Massah
  - ◇ Victory over the Amalekites
- ◇ They came to Sinai and pitched before the Mountain
  - ◇ Fulfillment of promise to Moses (Ex. 3: 12)
  - ◇ Brought to Sinai to serve God

# The Covenant Introduced (Vs. 3b-8)

- ◆ A remembrance of the LORD's covenant faithfulness
  - ◆ What he had done to the Egyptians
  - ◆ Bore them on eagles' wings and brought to Himself (Duet. 32:11-12)
- ◆ The people commanded to be obedient
  - ◆ Obey my voice -> Looking forward
  - ◆ Keep my covenant -> Looking back
- ◆ Promised blessings for obedience
  - ◆ A treasured possession
  - ◆ A kingdom of priests and a holy Nation
- ◆ The response of the people
  - ◆ "All that the LORD has said we will do"

# The LORD descends on Sinai (Vs. 9-25)

- ◆ Preparatory Commands
  - ◆ Wash your clothes and dedicate yourself to see the LORD
  - ◆ Set a boundary around the Mountain
- ◆ The LORD descends on Sinai
  - ◆ Accompanied by thunder and lightning and a great cloud
  - ◆ Accompanied by a trumpet blast and the ground shaking
  - ◆ The LORD descends onto the mountain in fire with smoke ascending
  - ◆ Accompanied by thousands of the LORD's angels
- ◆ Command to keep away from the Mountain repeated
  - ◆ Moses and Aaron called upon the mountain

# The Ten Commandments

- ◊ Place in the Narrative
- ◊ Place in the Mosaic Covenant
  - ◊ The Index of the Law of Moses (Deut. 5:31)
  - ◊ Foundational Principles the Law was based on
- ◊ Place in Redemptive History
  - ◊ The Fundamental Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12, 15, 17)
    - ◊ Everlasting Covenant to Abraham and his descendants
    - ◊ Promise of blessing, a seed, a royal line, a land as an everlasting habitation
  - ◊ A Temporary Addition: The Mosaic Covenant (Gal. 3:19)
    - ◊ Promise of blessing for complete obedience and curses for any disobedience
    - ◊ Disobedience severed one from the covenantal promises

# Purpose of the Law of Moses

- ◆ To show God's Holiness
  - ◆ Every single transgression punished (Heb. 2:2)
  - ◆ Holiness required to stand before God (Heb. 12:14)
- ◆ To show man's great inability
  - ◆ Israel disqualified from blessing by a single disobedience (Deut. 27:26, Gal. 3:10)
  - ◆ Israel completely unable to obey and gain the promised blessing
- ◆ To show man's great need for a sacrifice
  - ◆ Punishment for you or for your representative
  - ◆ **Who will bear our sins for us?**
- ◆ To bring about Faith in God's Promises and Love for God
  - ◆ Romans 13:10, 1 Tim. 1:5, Deut. 5:28-29

# The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other Gods before me (Lit. *before My face*)
2. You shall not make and graven images
3. You shall not take the LORD's name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not commit murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet

# Israel Responds and Final Commands (18-26)

- ◆ The people become very afraid (Deut. 5:23-27)
  - ◆ They had seen God's glory and power and still lived
- ◆ Moses asked to be a mediator for the people (Vs. 19)
  - ◆ Foreshadowing of Christ's mediation for us (Deut. 28:15-16)
- ◆ God's additional commands to the people (22-26)
  - ◆ No Gods of silver or gold
  - ◆ Sacrifice your sheep and oxen on an altar of earth or stone
  - ◆ Do not use tools to make my altar
  - ◆ Do not expose your nakedness in my worship

# Final Comparisons



## ◆ Notable Differences

- ◆ Veiled in clouds vs. open and visible to all
  - ◆ Summoned but unable to approach vs. Summoned into his presence forever
  - ◆ No man could enter vs. with His people forever
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- ◆ The LORD redeems his people from slavery and sin
    - ◆ Result: That the LORD would dwell among His people