



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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God is calling the children of Israel to follow Him and promising a blessing if they will. God instructs Moses to go back down and convey the message to the people.

III- People Affirm Covenant:

Moses descends down the mountain and calls the people together in the form of the elders of the people. This was the model of getting the message out. Tell the leaders of each tribe who in turn pass it along to the people. *Exodus 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.*

The people are informed of all that God had said at this time. They were promising to *“obey my [God’s] voice indeed, and keep my covenant...They had a decision to make. Exodus 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.*

We as God’s people need to make this commitment daily in our lives. Paul said it this way, *“I die daily.”* Rick Warren said it well when he said the problem with a living sacrifice is it keeps crawling off the altar.

IV- Moses Second Ascent:

Moses ascends back up Mount Sinai with the report to God about what the people said. It was not that God was not listening but Moses came to speak the affirmation of the covenant.

Exodus 19:8 b ...And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

How do we approach God? Is it with reverence or is it more like a mechanic who has worked for two days on an old car under the tree out back without taking a bath and then without a bath trying to go courting the supermodel that lives across town? Oh, by the way there is nothing wrong with being a mechanic who works with his hands, perhaps the greater crime against God is the spiritually dirty hands and unclean hearts we try to worship Him with.

Moses is given instruction to convey to the people of their preparation to prepare to meet with God. One purpose was so the people would have no more doubt that God had sent Moses. *Exodus 19:9 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 a hand*



Coordinates:
Exodus 19:1-20:26

Sights to See:

- 1- God revealed Himself to mankind, man did not invent, discover or conjure up God.
- 2- We all face the decision each moment of each day, in each decision of life, whether we will follow God or reject Him.
- 3- We need to make sure we keep our living sacrifice on the altar each day.
- 4- The God of the universe is to be revered, feared and worshipped because of His holiness.
- 5- We should prepare to encounter God in our lives with preparation.
- 6- To stand in the presence of God is an awesome thing.
- 7- God gave Israel a warning about making false gods. I ask a question we all know the answer too. Will they obey? Is it any different we do not do the things God has told us to do?



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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.

My, what a scene is unfolding. God was going to come down upon the mountain in a thick cloud but while He was there they were to not touch the mountain or be killed. This was because of God's holiness that would destroy them.

V- Fire on the Mountain:

Exodus 19:14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. The people will sanctify themselves and get ready to meet with the Lord. On the third day God is going to show up.

Please notice the following narrative of the God of the universe, Jehovah God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob descending down upon the mountain in fire.

Exodus 19:15 And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. 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. 19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice.

What an awesome display of power, might and holiness they must have witnessed. This should move us to awe as we consider our meeting with God each time we come together at church or in our personal quiet times.

VI- Moses Third Ascent:

Exodus 19:20 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. God calls Moses to make his third journey up the mountain. He is instructed to again warned by God but instructed to bring Aaron up the mountain with him the next time.

Exodus 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. 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 spoke unto them.

VII- All These Words:

One of the things that the Bible does is it claims to be the very words of God given to mankind. *Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* God reminds them that He is the God of their forefathers and the God who had delivered them from Egypt.

What we have before us is the record of the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses by God. This will form the basis structure of what would become the Jewish law. I have inserted a number before



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each of the ten. This is the complete text of the commandments. Most of us are familiar with an abbreviated version of them.

[1] 3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

[2] 4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

[3] 7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

[4] 8 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

[5] 12 *Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

[6] 13 *Thou shalt not kill.*

[7] 14 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

[8] 15 *Thou shalt not steal.*

[9] 16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

[10] 17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*

VIII- Fear of the Fire:

Remember I asked how we would react if were to be in the presence of God? I remind us that fire represented the presence of God. The *International Stand Bible Dictionary* says,

Fire in the Old Testament is specially associated with the Divine presence, e.g. in the making of the Covenant with Abraham (Gen 15:17), in the burning bush. (Exo 3:2-4), in the pillar of fire (Exo 13:21), on Sinai (Exo 19:18), in the flame on the altar (Jdg 13:20). Yahweh was "the God that answereth by fire" (1Ki 18:24, 1Ki 18:38).

So what was the reaction of the people to them seeing and literally feeling the present of God on Mount Sinai? Remember they saw Moses go up on into this lightening and smoke.

Exodus 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

God had warned them to stay away but when they stood in His presence they wanted to get away instead of run into it. The sin in their hearts as humans convicted them of their lack of righteousness.

The people did not want to go back through this experience again. Notice what they said to Moses. **Exodus 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. 20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. 21 And the people stood afar off,**



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It seems that Moses may have gone back up the mountain the fourth time here. *Exodus 20:21b ...and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. 22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. 23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold. 24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. 25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. 26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.*

Works of man's hands could add absolutely nothing righteous to the things of God. As a matter of fact the only thing it adds is pollution.

This will set the stage for the Way Point we will address next time.

In way of conclusion notice what CI Scofield says in the 1917 version of his notes:

“At Sinai Israel learned the lessons: (1) of the holiness of Jehovah through the Commandments; (2) of their own sinfulness and weakness through failure; (3) and of the goodness of Jehovah through the provision of priesthood and sacrifice.”