

Moses Meets God on the Mountain

3-9 OCT 2023

EX 19 - 40

Week 4 --- 46 Weeks to Go

God reveals, through Moses, His law and how He is to be worshipped. The Mosaic covenant (the 10 commandments and the Book of the Covenant) reveal God's justice and righteousness, basic principles of ethics and morality, people's choice and responsibility, and God's concern for the poor, helpless, and oppressed. God's desire to be present among his people is revealed in the construction and regulations regarding the tabernacle and worship. Exodus emphasizes God's holiness. The central character of this book, Moses, is the mediator between God and his people, pointing ahead to Christ our own great mediator.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: EX 19:1 – 21:36
Day 2: EX 22:1 – 24:18
Day 3: EX 25:1 – 27:21
Day 4: EX 28:1 – 29:46
Day 5: EX 30:1 – 32:35
Day 6: EX 33:1 – 35:35
Day 7: EX 36:1 – 40:38

Outline

The Covenant at Sinai (Days 1-7)
Divine Worship (Days 2-7)
God's Glory (Day 7)

Key Characters

Moses
Aaron
Jethro
Joshua
The Israelites
Bezalel
Oholiab

Key Locations

Mt. Sinai
The desert
The Tabernacle

Key Terms

Covenant
Ten Commandments
Tabernacle
Priests
The Law
Sabbath
Holy, Holiness
Offerings
Book of the Covenant
Ark of the Covenant
Cloud of glory

Key Verses

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now the, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine. (EX 19:4-5)

I am the Lord you God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery (EX 20:2)

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness and truth (EX 34:6)

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex19: The Israelites camped near the mountain in Sinai. The LORD spoke to Moses on the mountain and made his covenant with Israel.

Ex20: I am the LORD your God. Honor the LORD above everything. Keep the Sabbath. Honor your parents. Don't do wrong to your neighbors.

Ex21: If you buy a Hebrew slave he shall go free in the seventh year. Whoever kills shall be put to death. Whoever injures shall compensate.

Ex22: Whoever steals shall make restitution. If a man sleeps with a virgin he shall marry her. You shall not oppress strangers or the poor.

Ex23: You shall not pervert justice. Each year you shall hold feasts. My angel will lead you and I will drive your enemies from the land.

Ex24: The people said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do", and they offered sacrifices. The LORD told Moses to stay on the mountain.

Ex25: Tell the Israelites to make a sanctuary for me. Make an ark with a mercy seat and two cherubim. Make a table. Then make a lampstand.

Ex26: Make a tabernacle of fine linen. Make curtains of goats' hair to cover the tabernacle. Make boards of acacia wood and a linen veil.

Ex27: Make an altar of acacia wood with bronze utensils. Make a court for the tabernacle of fine linen hangings and bronze pillars.

Ex28: Set apart Aaron and his sons to minister as priests. Make a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a tunic, a turban and a sash for them.

Ex29: Sacrifice a young bull and two rams to consecrate Aaron and his sons. Make daily sacrifices on the altar and I will dwell with Israel.

Ex30: Make an altar for burning incense. The Israelites shall each give half a shekel. Make a bronze laver. Make anointing oil and incense.

Ex31: I have filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, with skill to make everything I have commanded. The seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest.

Ex32: While Moses was away the people worshipped a golden calf. Moses pleaded with the LORD for them, but then had three thousand killed.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex33: Moses set up a tent of meeting. He said to the LORD, "Don't send us from here without your presence." The LORD passed near to Moses.

Ex34: Moses made new tablets for the law. The LORD spoke to him and made a covenant with Israel. When Moses returned his face was shining.

Ex35: Moses told the Israelites to keep the Sabbath. He called for craftsmen to make the tabernacle. The people gave gifts for the work.

Ex36: The people gave more than enough. The craftsmen made the curtains. Bezalel made the curtains, the boards, the veil and the pillars.

Ex37: Bezalel made the ark with its cherubim, the table, the lampstand and the incense altar. He made the anointing oil and the incense.

Ex38: Bezalel made the altar of burnt offering, the laver and the court. Ithamar kept an inventory of the gold, silver and bronze used.

Ex39: They made the ephod, breastplate, tunics, turban and sash for Aaron. Moses saw that it had all been made as the LORD had commanded.

Ex40: Moses set up the tabernacle and brought the ark into it, as the LORD had commanded. Then the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Teachings About God

- God is revealed as our Redeemer.
- God expects His redeemed people to live according to the provisions of His covenant, provided at Sinai.
- God is present with His people.
- Exodus shows the great value God puts on humanity through the high price paid for Israel's deliverance from Egypt.
- God is explicit in defining His tabernacle – the primary symbol of God's presence.

Teachings About Humanity

- Humans cannot know God unless God reveals himself.
- Highlights the universality of human evil through rebellion against God with idolatry (EX 32).

Teachings About Salvation

- Humans must rely wholly on God for their redemption.
- Until Christ's coming and death on the cross, the exodus was the greatest divine redemptive act.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Christ is prefigured by Moses.
- The Spirit empowers a person for special service (EX 31:3, 35:31)
- God freeing his people from Egyptian slavery is a picture of Christ's delivering sinners from their sin and its consequences.
- Christ was with Israel as the flame that followed them through their journey to the Promised Land.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Historical narrative
- Some laws (EX 19-24)
- Composed in Hebrew
- The life and travels of Moses are an organizing principle for the book.

Author/Date of Writing

- Moses, ~1445 BC
- Traditional belief is that Moses wrote down some of God's commands.

First Audience

- The Israelites at Mount Sinai in the wilderness on their way to Canaan.

WEEK 4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- Israel agrees to the terms of God's covenant and so God promises to take up personal residence among his people in the tabernacle. How is God's presence in the tabernacle similar/different from when God dwelt with humanity in perfect relationship in the Garden of Eden? From today?
- Review EX 21-23 and discuss how much these laws are dedicated to issues surrounding justice in family, business and community relationships. What character traits of God are reflected in these laws?
- What does it mean that God is a jealous God?
- Read Exodus 34:6-7. God presents Moses with a description of his character that is the most re-quoted line in the rest of the Old Testament. How are these character traits demonstrated in God's actions in the Exodus, Sinai, and the golden calf stories?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What are the key factors that lead the people in Exodus into idolatry (review the Golden Calf story in EX 32)? In Moses' intercessory prayer (EX 32:31-32), what reasons does he offer as to why God should not abandon the covenant?
- Why do you think God wanted the tabernacle? What is the danger of localizing God to the tabernacle or its furnishings? How do the instructions God gives for the tabernacle illustrate his desire for correct worship?
- How are the Israelites expected to be different ("holy") compared to the pagans around them? Who is singled out for special attention to God? What social responsibility does this place on God's people?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you think the Lord wants you to remember the Sabbath? How often do you take time off for rest, spiritual rejuvenation and worship? Why is Sabbath observance so central to the commandments of God?
- Is God's covenant with his people, then and now, sustained by their obedience or by his grace? Why do you think so? How does that affect the promises you make to God and to others?
- How do you usually act when others disappoint you? Anger? Depression? Prayer? Ignoring them? Disappointment? How does this compare with God's reaction to our sin?
- When in your life did you most noticeably feel the physical presence of God? How is the glory of the Lord made real to you during your normal day?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What passed for an idol in the time of Exodus and what types of idols do we have today? What idols are the most difficult to give up today?
- In Egypt the Israelites lived in houses and villages but are now living in tents and wandering in the wilderness. They are now free from Egyptian domination but are subject to Yahweh. Food and water, which were once plentiful, are now scarce. They are totally dependent on Yahweh for survival. How did these factors influence their actions in the wilderness?