

Bible Study September 17, 2025

Exodus 19 – Israel at Mt. Sinai – Initiating the Covenant

Exodus 19: 1-6

Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai, the location of the Burning Bush. This fulfills the promise God made to Moses that He would bring the people out of Egypt, and they would “serve God on this mountain” (Ex 3:12). The people have been on their journey for about seven weeks based on the “third new moon.” This is also the time of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) which celebrates the giving of the law (Lev. 23: 15-21). They will remain at Sinai for eleven months (Num. 10:11)

Biblical Covenants:

1. Covenant of Works – Genesis 1-2 – Forbidden fruit
2. Covenant with Noah – Genesis 9 – Rainbow is the sign
3. Covenant with Abraham – Genesis 12-22 – Circumcision
4. Mosaic Covenant – Exodus 19-24 – Law and Obedience
5. Covenant with David – 2 Samuel 7 – Promise that David’s line would always fill the throne – fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of David
6. New Covenant – Jeremiah 31 – God's promise to write his laws on the hearts of believers, fulfilled through grace and faith in Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Ex 19: 7-9 God calls Israel to be faithful to His covenant even before He has revealed all the details and requirements. They are to remember what they saw in Egypt, reminding them God was with them prior to the Exodus, and will be with them as they live their lives in and through Him. Israel is to live as a beacon of hope as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Read 1 Peter 2:1-12) Read Romans 2: 12-16

Ex 19: 10-15 God instructs the people to see the presence of the Lord and to hear what God says to Moses. They are to consecrate themselves and to set boundaries. They are to be set apart as holy to prepare themselves to meet the Most High and Holy God. They are to abstain from normal activities when coming to worship.

Exodus 19: 16-20 All the sights and sounds are to signify the Lord’s presence (Lightning, thick clouds, smoke, fire, thunder and trumpet blasts).

Exodus 19: 21-24 The people and the priests are restricted from coming on the mountain, as the Lord's glory would overcome them. Later, the Tabernacle and the Temple would have restrictions.