

# **The Ten Commandments**

## **(Part 1 – “Meeting A Holy God”)**

### ***Exodus 19:1-25***

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**Teaching Aim:** To explore the events surrounding God’s meeting with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai. To understand the importance of preparing our hearts and minds to worship the living God. To realize God will hold us accountable if we do not fulfill our vows to him. To examine the awesome majesty and holiness of God as He prepared to present His Law to the Hebrew people.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Background setting for the giving of The Ten Commandments (Exod. 19:1-9)**

1. What mountain was Moses on when he came upon the burning bush? (See **Exod. 3:1-7**) What made this burning bush so unusual? What did it symbolize? What special mission did God give to Moses? (See **Exod. 3:7-10**) What was the sign that God promised him? (See **Exod. 3:12**) What mountain did the Israelites arrive at a little over two months after their Exodus out of Egypt? (See **Exod. 19:1-2**)
2. According to **Exodus 19:3-4**, what metaphor did God use to describe the deliverance of His people from Egypt? What can we learn about God’s love for Israel from this word picture? Has God ever carried you through a difficult time in your life? The Bible is filled with “*if/then*” clauses that lay out the conditions of what is known as a “*conditional covenant*.” What conditional promise is given to the nation of Israel in **verse 5**? How did the people of Israel respond to God in **verse 8**? In the end, did they keep their word? What kind of vows have you made to God? Have you kept them?
3. According to **verse 9**, how did the LORD appear to the Israelites at Mount Sinai? Why did He do this? Why didn’t God reveal himself visibly to the people? (See **Exod. 33:20**) What was the purpose behind this demonstration of God’s glory (**vs. 9**)?

## Part II: The importance of preparing our hearts and minds for worship (Exod. 19:10-15)

1. What does the word “consecrate,” mean? (See Dictionary) Why do you think the LORD commanded Moses to have the people consecrate themselves before meeting with Him at Mount Sinai (**vs. 10**)? What was the significance in God commanding the Hebrew people to wash their clothes before this meeting? How should this act relate to us as we prepare to meet God in worship today? (See **1 John 1:9**)
2. God met with the Israelites on “*the third day*” to give the Jewish people the Law and to establishment what is today called “*The Old Covenant*” (**vs. 11**). On what day was “*the New Covenant*” ratified? How was it ratified? (See **Matt. 17:23; Luke 18:33; Acts 10:40**) Why do you think the Old Covenant was represented by darkness while the New Covenant is represented by light? (See **Rom. 6:23; Gal. 2:16; John 8:12**)
3. Does **verse 12** speak of the nearness of God to sinful people, or does it reveal that they are separated from Him? What does **verse 12b** indicate about anyone who would approach Mount Sinai without God’s permission? Why? What makes sin such a serious offense against God? How does sin separate us from our God who is holy? Can sinful people draw near to God? If so, how? (See **1 John 1:9; Rom. 5:8-9; 6:23; Jam. 4:7-10**)
4. God commanded the death penalty for anyone who approached Mt. Sinai without His permission. Why was judgment on them to be carried out by bow and arrow or stone (**vs. 13**)? What would happen if anyone touched a person or animal that violated the boundary set by God? What signal would be given when all was finally clear to touch the mountain?
5. What did God command Moses to do in **verse 14**? Most experts today believe Mt. Sinai is the modern-day mountain “*Jebel Musa*” (7,363 feet in elevation) in the Sinai Peninsula. How do you think the 80-year-old Moses felt every time God told him to climb the mountain? What does the word “*sanctification*” mean? (See Dictionary) How was Moses involved in the sanctification of the people?

6. What unusual command did God have Moses give to the Hebrew men in **verse 15**? Why? Marriage was instituted by God at creation and is good, why did God temporarily forbid the married couples from coming together in sexual union? (See **Lev. 15:16-18**) Why is it important for us to prepare our own hearts and minds to meet the living God today? (See **Heb. 10:31**) What practices do you have as you prepare for worship? Why is it important for us to examine ourselves to see if we are right with God and right with others as far as it be possible with us? (See **Matt. 5:23-26; Rom. 12:17-18**)

### **Part III: A visible manifestation of the holiness of God (Exod. 19:16-25)**

1. What significant sights and sounds occurred on the third day symbolizing God's arrival on the mountain (**vs. 16**)? Have you ever been caught in a large thunder and lightning storm? What was it like? How did it affect you? What message do you think God was bringing to the people through these manifestations? What is the significance of the trumpet blowing? (See **1 Thess. 4:16**)
2. How did this meteorological display affect the Israelites (**vs. 16**)? What was the effect on Moses according to **Heb. 12:21**? Where did Moses lead the people to in **verse 17**? Why? What makes you feel the closest to God when you come into His presence?
3. How did God visibly manifest Himself as He ascended onto Mt. Sinai (**vs. 18**)? Smoke and fire can be frightening at times, so can earthquakes. What message do you think was being communicated to the Israelites through these manifestations? Do you think God caught the nation's attention? How did these manifestations help to establish Moses as the leader of the Hebrew people?
4. According to **verse 19**, what followed the increasingly loud trumpet blast? Why do you think the trumpet blast was getting louder and louder? How did God answer Moses? What might the voice of God have sounded like? (See **John 12:29**) What did God tell the 80-year-old Moses to do in **verse 20**? Are you willing to do whatever God tells you, no matter how difficult?

5. What did the LORD tell Moses to do once he reached the top of this 7,363-foot mountain (**vs. 21**)? Would this have frustrated you? What important message did Moses bring back to the people? Are you willing to warn your loved ones about the impending danger of God's judgment and share the truth that salvation is found only by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ? Why do you think so many Christians are afraid to share the gospel message with others?
  
6. Since the Levites didn't become priests until **Exod. 32**, who are the "*priests*" mentioned in **Exod. 19:22-24**? (See **Exod. 3:16,18; 12:21; 13:2**) What should every person do who enters into the presence of the Lord, including priests (**vs. 22**)? What would happen if they didn't? What are some things you do to prepare your heart to meet the living God in worship?
  
7. How did Moses respond to God's command this time (**vs. 23**)? How did God respond to this unusual challenge from Moses (**vs. 24**)? Who was the only other person allowed to be on the mountain with Moses (**vs. 24**)?
  
8. What did Moses do after the LORD had rebuked him (**vs. 25**)? Have you ever questioned God about something in your life? What was it? What did God promise to do for those who will trust and obey Him? (See **Deut. 28:1-14**)

#### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- When you see a covenant with an "*if/then*" clause, it is a "*conditional covenant*"; the fulfillment of the covenant depends upon the faithfulness of the lessor party.
- As Christians, it is important to count the cost before making a vow to God, God will hold us accountable to fulfill any terms we have committed to.
- It is important for us to cleanse our hearts and minds before entering into worship. (**1 John 1:9**)
- Cherished sin will only separate us from our God. (**Psa. 66:18**)
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. (**Jam. 4:8**)
- God is an awesome God; He is worthy of our praise and worship.

