

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

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Lesson 8—Covenant at Sinai

Sunday: At Mount Sinai

August 17, 2025

- **Last Week:** “The Bread & Water of Life”
 - Exodus 15 – 18
 - Journey after the Red Sea
 - Bitter water at Marah: God made it sweet
 - Lack of food in the Wilderness of Sin: God provided Manna
 - Lack of water at Rephidim: God provided water from striking the rock
 - Jethro’s advice to delegate
- **This Week:** “Covenant at Sinai”
 - Exodus 19 – 20:17
 - Israel at Mt Sinai & the 10 Commandments
 - God delivered His people from Egyptian bondage
 - He miraculously opened the Red Sea and caused the destruction of their enemies
 - God led them through the wilderness
 - Bitter water at Marah: God made it sweet
 - Lack of food in the Wilderness of Sin: God provided Manna
 - Lack of water at Rephidim: God provided water from striking the rock
 - After 2 months of traveling, they arrive at Mt Sinai
 - Ex 19:1, 2 – “In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. (2) For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.”
 - Where is God leading His people? (from lesson)
 - From Egypt to Canaan?
 - Are they heading to the Promised Land?
 - Answer is geographically correct, but theologically incorrect
 - God was leading His people to Himself
 - That is the entire point of the journey
 - That is this week’s lesson: “Covenant at Sinai”
 - This week’s memory text:

Memory Text: ““You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”” (Ex 19:4 – 6, NKJV)

- God always takes initiative to look for us first:
 - Gen 3 – God took initiative with Adam & Eve: “Where are you?”
 - Christ loved us first
 - 1 John 4:19 – “We love Him because He first loved us.”
 - Christ chose us first
 - John 15:16 – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** At Mount Sinai (Jill)
 - Ex 19:1 – 8 – God’s desire to enter into covenant with His people & Israel’s acceptance
- 2. **Monday:** Preparing for the Gift (John L)
 - Ex 19:9 – 25 – preparation to receive the covenant; discussion of the Decalogue (10 commandments)
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Gift of the Decalogue (SQ)
 - Ex 20:1 – 17 – God’s deliverance from bondage first; then, the 10 principles of His kingdom
- 4. **Wednesday:** Different Functions of God’s Law (James)
 - Multiple Scriptures – different descriptions of God’s law; relationship between the law & the gospel
- 5. **Thursday:** The Law as God’s Promise for Us (John D)
 - Multiple Scriptures – the law as 10 promises; from God to us; perpetuity of the law

Sunday: At Mount Sinai

Exodus 19:1 – 8; Num 10:11, 12; Ex 6:7; Lev 26:12; Jer 24:7; Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10; Rev 21:3

- **Giving of the Sinaitic Covenant**
 - Although the Bible speaks of covenants in the plural, there is only one basic covenant of salvation in Scripture.
 - The blessings & salvation of God are given by God – not earned by human beings
 - Humanity responds in faith & obedience
 - The heart of this covenant is God’s steadfast love
 - The plural covenants means that God advances His saving purpose by restating His covenant in various ways to meet the needs of His people in different times & settings.
- **Giving of the Sinaitic Covenant**
 - 1. Israel’s arrival at Mt Sinai
 - Ex 19:1, 2
 - 2. God’s proposal of covenant with Israel
 - Ex 19:3 – 6 (God makes the first move)
 - 3. Israel’s acceptance of the covenant
 - Ex 19:7 – 9
 - (#1 – 3, my day)

- 4. Preparation to receive the covenant
 - Ex 19:10 – 25
 - (Pastor John's day)
- 5. Proclamation of the Covenant
 - Ex 20:1 – 17 (SQ, James, John D)
 - 10 Promises / principles of His kingdom
 - Perpetuity of the law
 - Relationship between the law & the gospel
- 6. Moses as covenant mediator
 - Ex 20:18 – 21
- 7. Covenant principles explained
 - Ex 20:22 – 23:22
 - Next week's lesson
- 8. Ratification of the covenant
 - Ex 24:1 – 8
 - Following week's lesson
 - Moses read the Book of the Covenant in their hearing
 - People agreed to obedience
 - Ratified with blood
- Several weeks on the covenant
 - Then, construction of tabernacle / sanctuary & articles in there

#1: Israel's arrival at Mt Sinai

- Ex 19:1, 2 – “In the **third month** after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. (2) For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.”
 - Two months after leaving Egypt, they come to Mt Sinai
 - Mt Sinai = *Jebel Musa* (Mountain of Moses)
 - Elevation: 7,497 ft
 - Located in the Sinai Peninsula, between Africa & the Middle East (in present-day Egypt)
 - Ex 3 – same mountain where Moses was called by God in the burning bush to lead Israel from bondage
 - Ex 3:12 – “So He said, ‘I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.’”
 - Ex 24:18 – Moses spent 40 days & nights on the mountain
 - Receiving instruction for the tabernacle
 - 1 Kings 19:8 – after Mt Carmel – Elijah traveled 40 days to Mt Horeb (another name for Mt Sinai)

- Israel spent one year, camped at the base of this mountain (Num 10)

#2: God's proposal of covenant with Israel

- Ex 19:3, 4 – “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: (4) “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.””
 - **Takeaway #1: The Covenant is based on God's initiative**
 - He makes the 1st move in relationship
 - God reminds Israel that He delivered them bondage
 - He worked on Pharaoh's heart to let them go
 - He parted the Red Sea so they could go on dry ground
 - He delivered them from Egyptian bondage & can redeem them from bondage to sin
 - Rom 2:4 – it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance
 - Rom 5:8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - He bore them on Eagle's wings
 - *Mother eagle, pushes them out of nest, swoops under them to catch them when they fall
- Ex 19:5, 6 – ““Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. (6) And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
 - Special treasure = Heb, *seg-ool-law* = valued property or peculiar treasure
 - **Takeaway #2: The Covenant is based on redemption**
 - **After** He delivers them, **then** He calls them into covenant
 - Ex 20:2 – He is the One who delivered them out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage
 - **Takeaway #3: The Covenant is based on relationship**
 - God desires to enter into covenant with His people because He desires a relationship with them
 - Sin broke that relationship
 - Redemption restores that relationship
 - Ex 6:7 – “I will take you as My people, and I will be your God...”
 - Covenantal language
 - Eze 36:28 – “Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”
 - 1 Pet 2:9 – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- Rev 21:3 – “.... Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

#3: Israel’s acceptance of that covenant

- Ex 19:8 – “Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the Lord has spoken we will do.’ So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.”
 - **Takeaway #4: The Covenant is based on obedience**
 - People didn’t understand it wasn’t their own obedience
 - Isa 64:6 – our righteousness is as filthy rags
 - Their promises were ropes of sand
 - Obedience based on **love** – “If you love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15)
 - Obedience based on **grace** – Eph 2:8 – 10 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
 - Grace, faith, salvation - & works / obedience = a gift
 - Obedience based on **Christ working** in the heart of the believer – John 15 – I am the Vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me, and I in him; bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Covenant based on: God’s initiative, redemption, relationship, obedience

#4: Preparation to Receive the Covenant

Lesson 9: Living the Law