

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

Yahweh & Israel Make a Covenant

Lesson 4

November 1

Back at the burning bush, before fearful Moses took one step toward Egypt, God had made a promise:

"I will be _____ you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on _____ mountain" (Exo 3:12)

Seven weeks after their exodus from Egypt, the children of Israel encamped before Mount Sinai while Moses went up to God.

The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, _____ you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be _____ treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a _____ nation.'" (Exo 19:3-6)



When Moses came down and shared the words of the LORD, all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do" (19:8). What was happening? Yahweh and Israel were entering into a _____—a relationship based on promises. Three days later, after a truly awesome display (19:16-20), the LORD delivered the heart of his law to Moses (20:1-17):

- "You shall have no other _____ before me."
- "You shall not make for yourself a carved _____ ... bow down to them or serve them."
- "You shall not take the _____ of the LORD your God in vain."
- "Remember the _____ day, to keep it holy."
- "_____ your father and your mother."
- "You shall not _____."
- "You shall not commit _____."
- "You shall not _____."
- "You shall not bear _____ witness against your neighbor."
- "You shall not _____."

After delivering many more instructions (20:22-23:19) built on the foundation of those ten commandments, the LORD promised that an angel would guard and guide Israel all the way to the Promised Land (23:20-33). When Moses shared "all the words of the LORD and all the rules" with the people, they answered with one voice, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do" (24:3). Yahweh and Israel had entered into a covenant. The LORD called Moses back up the mountain to receive "the tablets of stone" and that's where Moses would spend the next forty days and nights.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- What do you think the LORD meant when he said in **Exodus 19:4**, “I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself”?
- Take another look at **Exodus 19:5-6**. How would you summarize in your own words what the LORD wanted Israel to be?
- **Exodus 19:9-20** describes an awe-inspiring scene. What do you think the LORD was communicating? What impression did he intend to make on the children of Israel? **Exodus 20:18-20** is probably helpful here too...
- As you look back over the ten commandments (**20:1-17**), how would these form the foundation of the rest of the law God would deliver through Moses? How would obeying these commandments lead Israel into being “a holy nation” that belonged to God?
- In **Exodus 23:20-22**, God makes a promise and provides a clear warning. What did God want the people to understand and believe?
- What did God warn Israel about long before they ever entered the Promised Land in **Exodus 23:30-33**? Is there anything we can learn from this warning?
- In **Exodus 24:4-8**, we read about a curious ceremony involving blood. What was going on? What did it mean? How does **Hebrews 9:18-21** add even more to our understanding?
- If you were standing at the base of Mount Sinai at the end of **Exodus 24**, what would have been going through your mind?