



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 19:1-25

1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, **3** 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: **4** 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, 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 that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. **8** All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. **9** And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, **10** the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments **11** and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **12** And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. **13** No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." **14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. **15** And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."



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16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. **17** Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. **18** Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. **19** And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. **20** The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. **22** Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." **23** And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'" **24** And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them." **25** So Moses went down to the people and told them.

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 19:1-25

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Have you ever been asked to go somewhere or do something, not fully knowing what to expect but going anyway because you have great expectations?

There's a whole lot going on in chapter 19. What a ride! It's been about 3 months since the Israelites left Egypt, and here they are camping in the wilderness of Mt. Sinai just like God promised they would do (Exodus 3:12). The Lord calls to Moses out of the mountain (Wow!) and tells Moses the words He wants him to say to His chosen people, the Israelites. The I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14) recounts his mercies telling the people of what He has done. Thus far, He has kept all of His promises, proving to be trustworthy.

He doesn't just leave his people after bringing them out of bondage to slavery in Egypt. He continues to pursue them and brings His people to Himself, desiring to make a covenant with them (verse 4). What a merciful God we serve!



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In verse 5, Moses continues speaking the words of God with an "If...then..." statement, which is the beginning of the Mosaic Covenant. It's conditional, meaning, if the nation of Israel will obey God's voice and keep His covenant, then several things will happen: 1) Israel shall be God's treasured possession among all peoples, 2) they shall be to God a kingdom of priests, AND 3) a holy nation. The Israelites agreed in unison. I'm not sure they truly understood all that God had in store for them. They were just agreeing to something that sounded great to them at the time. I mean, do we fully understand what's in it for us as followers of Jesus?

The promise of being a treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation was not just for the Jews, but for us also (1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10; Romans 3:29). The priests were to be holy as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44). As a holy nation, Israel was to be set apart. So are we as Christ-followers (1 Peter 1:16; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2). Like the priests of the Old Testament who stood between God and the people, we as Christ-followers are priests standing between the unbelievers in this world and God. We get to, as 1 Peter 2:9 says: "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." The priests also made sacrifices, which is a foreshadowing of what Jesus Christ would one day do with His life. Because of Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, we have direct access to God the Father through Him, the ultimate High Priest (Hebrews 4:14; 7:27).

When I fully realized all that God had accomplished on my behalf, how I had seen what He had done for me, how he carried me on eagles' wings and brought me to himself, I wanted to go on this journey. I didn't know what was going to happen, but having great expectations, I agreed to give my life to Him. My life as a Christian hasn't always been easy. In fact, it's been downright hard at times, but it has been the best thing I have ever agreed to. My great expectations have been superseded. There's a lot going on, but it's been a great ride!

Questions:

1. Do you understand the implications of what you agreed to as a Christ-follower?
2. Did you know, if you are a follower of Jesus, you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood? What does that mean to you? Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and 1 Peter 2:2:9-12.
3. Do you proclaim the excellencies of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light? If not, what is keeping you from telling others of Him?