

EXODUS 24:1-18**APPROACHING GOD**

It is God's good pleasure to meet with His people. He wants His people to be holy and standing in His presence. So far, in the Exodus God has revealed Himself in many ways. The Israelites have been given a display of His awesome power, majesty, grace, mercy, and holiness. He is the Deliverer and they are to depend on Him for everything. In this deliverance, He is establishing a relationship with His people. He wants them to know Him, and now He has them at a very pivotal point. He presents to them the sealing of the covenant as He has just presented the terms of the covenant. Behind all this is God's purpose, residing among His people. It is seen at Mt. Sinai, and leads to the tabernacle, which is to be the place where God dwells in the Most Holy Place. The rest of the book of Exodus revolves around that. God is accessible and wants us to boldly enter the throne room and have fellowship with us. It is staggering to think that the Almighty Creator would want to fellowship with humanity. His desire is that we would worship Him and give Him glory. This covenant which is to be ratified, is now being presented to them. In this section we will focus on two themes: the confirmation of the covenant through shedding of blood and eating and the matter of seeing God.

1. CONFIRMING THE COVENANT**24:1-8****A. INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD****1-2****1. Draw Near**

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu and the seventy elders are to ascend the mountain. The main reason is to worship. It is Israel and their presence at the mountain that drives much of the context of the chapter. These certain selected group of men have the opportunity to get closer to God than the others. God invited them to come up the mountain toward His manifestation. The ultimate goal of the covenant is personal relationship with God. Worship is the key thought here. The Hebrew word means to prostrate oneself on the ground.

To draw near to God is the thing we should always have the desire to do. This invitation was not for the whole nation. There were representatives that would make their appearance before God. They were to experience His holiness, greatness and majesty.

2. Be Reverent

As they were to go worship, most of them would worship from afar. There is to be an attitude of humility and solemnness and to know their distance.

B. THE COVENANT WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE**1. Moses tells the words of the Lord**

The sealing ceremony began with Moses telling the people what the terms of the covenant would be.

2. Response of the people

After Moses told them of the terms, they wholeheartedly agreed that they would do everything God commanded.
Exodus 19:8 They had said this before. We know that many consent to the law but do not live up to it.

3. The writing of the Word

After they had agreed to the terms of the covenant, Moses began to write them down. That is what was done when a covenant was agreed to. Moses wrote down the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Covenant. We will see that term in verse 7. Moses plays such a "divine" role in that it is Yahweh and Moses who deliver Israel out of bondage. It is both who divide the sea. It is both who write. What a status and authority Moses has.

4. The worshipping of God

Altar----- Place of worship

The altar looks ahead to what Israel will later experience. With the sacrifices that are brought to it, there is anticipation to a more developed sacrificial system later, concerning the Tabernacle.

This altar was built to bring honor to God. It represented God

Twelve Pillars-----The Twelve Tribes These 12 pillars represent

God's people, the other party to the covenant. Probably the elders stood at their respective pillar, representing their tribe

In verses 5-8, the actual oath ceremony is described. Those entering into a covenant took an oath upon themselves.

These two offerings were mentioned in 20:24, anticipating what is to come. Burnt Offerings-----Atonement These offerings would typically be made for atonement for sin and consecration. It would be for devotion and commitment to God.

Peace Offerings-----Fellowship with God

Sprinkling of the blood---Israel's atonement from sin

One half was sprinkled on the altar and the other half on the people.

This blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled upon the altar which signified their giving of themselves to the honor of God.

5. The reading of the Book of the Covenant

The people then responded with a resounding yes, we will do all these things.

6. The sealing of the covenant

The people were then sprinkled with the blood which indicated the fellowship with them and God had just been confirmed. That is why it is called the blood of the covenant.

Gen 15:9-13, Hebrews 9:12,19-22

The people are not the instigators of this covenant. You will notice in verse 8 Yahweh made this. He is the instigator, and the initiator. What the Israelites are to do is to accept and agree to live by the terms of the covenant that God alone has stipulated in the "Book of the Covenant"

Moses was a type of Christ here in being the mediator of the covenant as Christ was the Mediator of the new covenant, having offered Himself a sacrifice upon the cross, that His blood might be the blood of the covenant, sprinkled it upon the altar in His intercession and sprinkled it upon His people by His Word and Spirit, by whom we are sealed. Jesus alluded to this at the Last Supper when He Said, "this cup is the New Covenant in my blood."

Only after the confirmation of the covenant can we proceed to the next scene which was introduced in verses 1-2. It says they went up and saw the God of Israel. Get that, they saw God. What does that mean?

2. GOD SUMMONS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP-24:9-18

Hebrews 10:19-25, James 4:8 God wants His people to draw near to Him.

We know first of all, they have to be in covenant with God.

A. SEEING GOD

The tension---33:20, John 1:18, 1 Tim 6:16 With this thought, there is definite tension here. This is shocking that they would still live.

They actually saw God and did not die. This is amazing. Why were they permitted to see God? This is at a very crucial time in their redemptive journey. The covenant has just been confirmed. By showing Himself to the leaders, God is giving them an added dose of His presence to prepare them for what is to come. What a vivid experience. It's not so much as seeing God but of seeing His feet and what lies under Him. They didn't actually see God in a full sense. They saw Him in part.

They saw God's feet and pavement below. Their gaze does not rise higher than His feet. Even with this low view, it is so startling that it is too much for words.

Below the feet of God Ezek 1:26 This pavement is the color of a gem that is opaque blue and the throne of God. God resides in heaven and that which is under Him is blue.

Isaiah had a vision of God's glory and all he could see was the hem of God's royal Robe filling the Temple. Here the elders have a gorgeous blue pavement under His feet.

Oh, how we long for the day we see Christ face to face. We will see Him as He is and be like Him. In some ways we see God better than Moses actually saw Him.

Christ is the culmination of God's self-revelation.

B. COVENANT MEAL

This was a meal that ratified the agreement between two parties. Their eating in God's presence is another hint of what is to come. This demonstrates their new relation of loyalty and alliance in the gesture of a shared meal, the most common symbol of a good relationship.

One day we will partake in a great feast in God's presence. Isa 25:6-8 We will take our places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the Wedding Supper of the Lamb found in Rev 19. Right now we commemorate the ratification of the new covenant with the Lord's Supper. That ratification was done by Christ.

We celebrate in this communion that pictures the ultimate communion yet to come.

C. THE HIGHER CALLING OF MOSES TO GOD'S GLORY

Next, a covenant required that there be an official copy of the text. They needed to receive it in writing. Moses is to go up and receive the Tablets. God was going to teach the people how to walk with this holy God.

1. Called up into the mount

Joshua went with Moses as Aaron and Hur were left to take care of the people.

This is why Moses was angry when the golden calf was made.

This indicates possibly that there are three areas on the mountain. There is the Foot of the mountain where Aaron and Hur and the people were. This would be like the courtyard of the Tabernacle. There was a second area on the mountain which is where the covenant meal probably was and where Joshua remained. This would be equivalent to the Holy Place, the outer room of the Tabernacle where the priests served. The third level was the place where Mose was called. This would compare to the Most Holy Place, where the high priest alone could enter, and only once a year.

2. Called up into the clouds

God will speak face to face with Moses—Ex 33:11

This reminds us of the terrifying glory of Yahweh that we saw in chapter 19.

The cloud and the consuming fire were symbols of the transcendent holiness of God that creatures can never cross over. God is the only one who can do anything about that. He can break into the realm of man and change men so they can dwell in His midst. This is God's goal, to bring His abode to them so they can dwell with Him. God is with us.

Exodus 40:34-38 Later the cloud will settle over the Tabernacle.

Most holy place Ex 26:34, Lev 16:17

The glory and holiness of God vv 15

God meets with His people at Mt Sinai, and the tabernacle is a way of making that presence portable. God's glory rests on the Tabernacle as it does on Mt Sinai. This is why the Tabernacle is to be built according to the divine pattern according to what is given Moses on the mountain.

God's goal is to bring the "mountain of God" into the center of the camp. 40:34 He desires us to be in His midst to be in awe of His majesty, glory, beauty, and holiness.