

Fire on the Mountain

Introduction: Exodus 19 is an intense chapter in the story of Israel in Exodus. It has all of the theology in the Bible in it, yet it is very dark and threatening. In Exodus chapter you see a God who is unlike any other God in his holiness. He is also unlike the people he has redeemed. Yet, he willingly and intensely treasures this people and desires to come near to them. There is a problem, however. The people must approach him on his terms. They must honor the boundary that exists between an eternally holy God and them who are sinful. Thus, Exodus 19 is preparatory in nature; God, through Moses, prepares Israel to receive the Law and meet with him.

Outline, 3 Ascents:

I. 19:1-7: The Lord calls for OBEDIENCE.

- A. God declares his ways and his word:
 - 1. The Lord DELIVERED Israel.
 - 2. The Lord intends to INSTITUTE.
 - 3. Israel must OBEY and KEEP.

II. 19:8-15: The Lord sets BOUNDARIES.

- A. The LORD gives three commands:
 - 1. Israel must wash her GARMENTS.
 - 2. Israel cannot touch the MOUNTAIN.
 - 3. Israel cannot have SEXUAL relations.

III. 19:16-25: The people draw NEAR to the LORD.

- A. What is the purpose of the thunder, darkness, smoke, and fire?
- B. The people OBEY.
- C. Aaron and Moses are established as MEDIATORS.