

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning we are continuing our study through the book of Exodus –

We are going to be in Exodus 24 -

Let's pray...

So for the past couple of weeks, we have been going over the laws that God the Children of Israel to abide by.

First, God gave them the Ten Commandments – that was back in Chapter 20 – and upon hearing how holy God is – they feared God.

So Moses became their mediator between them and God.

So from the end of chapter 20 until the end of chapter 23, God gave Moses other laws – this is what is known as the book of the covenant – these laws explained the original Ten Commandments by providing real life examples for them.

Now, they will actually be given more laws –

By the time we get to the end of Deuteronomy, there will be a total of 613 dos and dongs.

Church, this is the way that God wanted them to live by when they came into the Promised Land.

This is the way they were also to interact with one another.

God wanted them to be set apart from all the other pagan nations around them.

Now, once again – their redemption was not based upon whether or not they kept the law.

God had already redeemed the Children of Israel at this point. They are no longer in Egypt.

Their adherence to the law will be their response to being redeemed.

Much like the life of the believer – we don't go to church or read the bible or do works hoping that this will somehow lead to our redemption –

We do these things in response to our redemption.

As a believer in Christ, these things should come naturally to us, like breathing.

That work of redemption was already done by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the cross.

So what is going to happen here in chapter 24 – is that after God has given them the Book of the Covenant - God is now going to ratify or sign it – making it official.

**[Exo 24:1-18 NKJV] 1 Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.**

So God calls Moses up Mt. Sinai once again (I think I counted 8 times)– and this time, God tells him to bring along..

Aaron – his brother, who will eventually become the chief priest –

Aaron's two oldest sons –

and seventy elders – now, these elders were the ones that Moses appointed back in chapter 18 – you might remember that Moses was a pretty busy man everyone was coming to him with all their problems – so Jethro, Moses Father-in-Law rebukes him and advises him to set up a system of elders to rule over the people – that is who these guys are.

Now, I asked you make a note that God had called them up the mountain but told them to worship from afar –

God had already set boundaries for the Children of Israel – as they were not allowed to go up the mountain – other than Moses.

But here, God is allowing these other individuals to go come up the mountain – but God still sets up a boundary to how close they would be able to approach Him.

Church, we never find this concept of worshipping from afar in the New Testament.

And the reason is that Jesus Christ changed everything.

He made it possible for us to “worship up close”. He made it possible to know God intimately.

When Jesus died and purchased our cleansing from sin, our ability to be in right standing and relationship with God was restored. With the sin barrier removed, we are now free to pursue a much closer and more intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father than most of us realize.

Paul writes in Ephesians 2:13

**[Eph 2:13 NKJV] 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

Jesus says,

**[Mat 11:28 NKJV] 28 "Come to Me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

James writes,

**[Jas 4:8a NKJV] 8a Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

So as believers, we can draw as close to Him as we desire.

We can boldly come to the throne of grace.

We can call Him Abba

The problem that many believers today choose to still worship Him at a distance –

**2 "And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."**

So God is setting the rules for their journey up the mountain – only Moses gets to come near to the Lord – notice, at this time – there doesn't appear to be any jealousy amongst them.

Aaron didn't say "Well - why does Moses get to go and not I"

God chose Moses and they accepted it.

This is something that we as believers have to guard ourselves against – sometimes we get jealous because God has chosen to do a work using someone else – and our response is usually, well why didn't God choose me – I would have done a much better job than this other individual.

Peter and John get rebuked for this toward the end of the gospel of John where Jesus pretty much tells them – "Hey guys, it is none of your business – focus on what I have called you to do"

**3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."**

Every law that was given to Moses by God over the last three chapters, Moses spoke to the Children of Israel and they all agreed to every single law and judgment.

They are promising to do everything that God had said.

Now, they are going to keep this promise for about 15 seconds.

Before we get laugh at them, we have to remember that we are the same way.

We can read God's word and be convicted by the Holy Spirit and promise God that we will not do it again and we walk out the front door and we find ourselves doing that very same thing.

And the reason is that man is incapable of keep law the to a T. That is why we need a savior.

**4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.**

I asked you to make a note that Moses wrote all the words of the Lord – and the reason is that many people believe that much of these laws were simply passed on from generation to generation.

But the bible gives us evidence that Moses recorded everything that God told him on the mountain.

In fact, Moses went on to write Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy as well.

So Moses builds an altar – God had already provided instruction on how to build one back in chapter 20.

He got a couple of rocks piled them up and this was supposed to represent God in the covenant.

The twelve pillars were supposed to represent the Children of Israel.

**5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. 6 And Moses took half the blood and put [it] in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.**

If you are wondering why Moses is sending out these young men to offer burnt offerings instead of priests – it is because the priesthood had not been established yet.

And here in verse six we find Moses collecting the blood – and half the blood is going to be sprinkled on the altar and half of it will be sprinkled on the people.

This will show that both God and the Children of Israel were mutually bound by the covenant.

**7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled [it] on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."**

This is the only time in the Old Testament when blood was sprinkled upon people – it was done to ratify the covenant.

From now on, the blood will only be sprinkled upon the altar.

Turn with me to Hebrews 9 – because the author of the book of Hebrews provides us with more insight on this covenant.

**[Heb 9:16-22 NKJV] 16 For where there [is] a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament [is] in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. 18 Therefore not even the **first [covenant]** was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of**

calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This [is] the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Now – this was the first covenant between the Children of Israel and God –

The problem was that God was faithful in keeping His side of the covenant – but, the Children of Israel were not.

Turn with me to Jeremiah – because here we find the new covenant that God provided the prophet Jeremiah 600 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

[Jer 31:31-34 NKJV] 31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his

neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

**The Old Covenant** involved laws written on stones, laws imposed from the outside.

**The New Covenant** involves God putting His ways into our heart.

We follow Him because He changes us, He puts His ways into us.

**The Old Covenant** involved knowing what you were supposed to do without getting too close to God.

**The New Covenant** involves knowing God.

**The Old Covenant** involved guilt and condemnation for all the things you didn't do right.

**The New Covenant** involves forgiveness.

And the wonderful thing about this covenant we are connected to this covenant through Jesus Christ.

**(Mat 26:27-28 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. {28} "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

**9 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. And [there was] under His feet as it**

were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in [its] clarity. 11 But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So **they saw God**, and they **ate and drank**.

In verse 10 and 11 we have two accounts where it clearly states that Moses, Aaron and his two sons and the seventy elders clearly saw God.

And people will point to verses like John 1:18 that says that no one has seen God at any time.

Even later on in the book of Exodus God is going to tell Moses that "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

So people will say that this is a contradiction in the bible –

This is not so –

One explanation is that they saw a vision of God.

Both Ezekiel and Isaiah record that they saw a vision of God.

**[Isa 6:1-4 NKJV] 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His [robe] filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy [is] the LORD of hosts; The whole earth [is] full of His glory!" 4**

**And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.**

In John's gospel – he actually says that what Isaiah saw was Jesus Christ

**(John 12:41 NKJV) These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.**

So I believe that once again we have a theophany or a Christophany where Jesus Christ appeared in the Old Testament.

Moses, Aaron and the elders saw Jesus Christ and they all sat together and had dinner with Him as they ratified the agreement.

Nothing in the Bible shouts fellowship quite like sharing a meal.

**12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them." 13 So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.**

So they come down the mountain and after some time passed, God call on Moses to climb the mountain once again.

This is where Moses is going to be given the two tablets with the Ten Commandments.

The only difference this time is that he is going to take Joshua with him as well.

Joshua is the name Jesus in the Old Testament.

And it is fitting that Moses takes Joshua because without Joshua, Moses' ministry would have been incomplete.

You see, it was Joshua that would eventually take the Children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Moses, who represented the law, could only take them to the edge of the Promised Land.

And it is fitting because that is what the purpose of the law was – to show us that we are incapable of keeping the law and therefore in need of a Savior.

**[Jhn 1:17 NKJV] 17 For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur [are] with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."**

With Moses going up the mountain, he leaves Aaron and Hur in charge of the Children of Israel.

Moses is going to spend the next 40 days receiving further instructions from the Lord.

Aaron and Hur had already proven themselves when they held Moses' arms up when Joshua battled the Amalekites – but unfortunately we will find out that they do a poor job of babysitting the Children of Israel, especially Aaron.

**15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.**

The Hebrew word that is used here for rested is the word for dwelt or tabernacled.

Many times it is used in reference to the Shekinah glory – the visible manifestation of God on earth.

So Moses climbs the mountain – and he sits there for six days before God calls him.

Here we have another example in scripture where God makes us wait.

We don't know why God made Moses wait 6 days and not five days – maybe He wanted to prepare Moses' heart to be able to receive what He was about to give him.

Or maybe He was testing Moses.

**17 The sight of the glory of the LORD [was] like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.**

So the Lord calls Moses and Moses answers the calls and stays there for 40 days and 40 nights.

Now, you might want to write down Deut 9:9 next to the last verse because we are told that during those 40 days, Moses did not eat anything or drink anything.

You see the purpose of Moses going up the mountain was to receive the tablets from God but also he was to receive the instructions on how to build the Tabernacle – The Tabernacle was sort of a model of heaven.

The Tabernacle is the tent that God is going to dwell in among the Children of Israel.

And we will start to see next week how everything in the Tabernacle point to Jesus Christ.

Everything in chapter 24 points to God's desire that we draw closer to Him.

And I pray that we may we be like Moses and respond to God's voice when He calls us.

Amen

Let's pray...