

MEETING GOD

Exodus 19:7-25

SUMMARY...

How does one prepare to meet God? After all, God is eternal, powerful and holy. So how do sinful people prepare themselves to meet with the Creator and Sustainer of all things? As we turn our attention to Exodus 19, we not only see something that has never taken place before – God meeting with ALL of His people, but God instructing His people in how to prepare themselves to meet with God.

Three key words to keep in mind as we study these verses in Exodus 19 – obedience, consecration and mediator. Each word plays a vital role in how we prepare to meet God. The good news of the Gospel is that each of these words find their perfect fulfillment in Jesus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. Do you remember when you first met God? Share a story with your GROUP as to when you first remember meeting God – hearing His voice and experiencing His presence.
2. As you consider **Exodus 3:12**, what does this one verse teach us about God and how does it help prepare us to meet with Him?
3. **Read Exodus 19:7-8** – After leaving Egypt, the Israelites complained nearly every step they took as they headed towards Mt. Sinai. Yet, once they arrived at Sinai, they confess to God that they will ‘do everything God commands them to do.’ How did they go from complaining and doubting to being obedient to all that God commanded?
4. In **Exodus 19:10**, God calls for the people to be ‘consecrated’ – that is to purify themselves. Specifically, they are told to ‘wash their clothing’ and ‘abstain from sexual intercourse’ (v.15). In following these instructions, how would the people be preparing themselves to ‘hear from God’ (v.9)?
5. How do you prepare to meet with God on Sunday? How do you prepare yourself to ‘hear’ from Him and ‘experience’ His presence?
6. **Read Exodus 19:12** and **Hebrews 12:28-29** – How do these verses shape or change your understanding of God’s holiness? How does your understanding of God’s holiness shape how you meet with and worship God?
7. Why is Jesus a better Moses – the perfect Mediator? Spend some time reading **Hebrews 12:18-29** in order to give insight on how to answer this question. What comparisons are being made with what happened at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19) and Mt. Zion?

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED...

God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

Exodus 3:12 (NLT)

“Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.”

Exodus 19:5-6 (NLT)

So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD.

Exodus 19:7-8 (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.” Moses told the Lord what the people had said. Then the Lord told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow and have them wash their clothing.” He told them, “Get ready for the third day, and until then abstain from having sexual intercourse.”

Exodus 19:9-10, 15 (NLT)

“You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while flames from the mountain shot into the sky. The mountain was shrouded in black clouds and deep darkness. And the Lord spoke to you from the heart of the fire. You heard the sound of his words but didn’t see his form; there was only a voice.”

Deuteronomy 4:11-12 (NLT)

“Mark off a boundary all around the mountain. Warn the people, ‘Be careful! Do not go up on the mountain or even touch its boundaries. Anyone who touches the mountain will certainly be put to death.’”

Exodus 19:12 (NLT)

On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

Exodus 19:16-20 (NLT)

Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, “I am terrified and trembling.”

Hebrews 12:21 (NLT)

“This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.”

1 Timothy 2:4-6 (NLT)

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