

2022.04.24 Evening Sermon in Exodus 19

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Exodus 19

¹In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. ²For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

³And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

⁷So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever."

So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

¹⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. ¹¹And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

¹⁴So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives."

¹⁶Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. ¹⁹And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

²⁰Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. ²²Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."

²³But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'"

²⁴Then the LORD said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and 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." ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Terror at the Bottom of the Fiery Mountain? Jesus Takes Us to the Top of a Better One!

Main idea: God is making us into a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, which is utterly dangerous to come near Him to do, unless we come near in Christ.

Introduction: Which is bigger to you: what God has saved you from, or what God has saved you for?

1. Our destiny: kingdom of priests
2. Our danger: God Himself
3. Our defense: the One Who takes us to Mount Zion

Conclusion: We're there in union with Christ, but He hasn't finished bringing us all the way.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus 19. These are God's words in the third month, after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt on the same day, They came to the wilderness of Sinai for they had departed from Rephidim and had come to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness.

So Israel, camped there before the mountain and Moses went up to God and Yahweh called to him from the mountain saying, thus, you should say to the house of Jacob until the children of Israel. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to myself.

Now. Therefore, If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people. For all the earth is mine and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and the holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, some laid before them all these words which you always had commanded him and then all the people answered together and said all that Yahweh has spoken. We will do. So Moses brought back the words of the people to Yahweh.

And you always said to Moses, Behold I come to you in thick cloud that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you forever. So, Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh. Then you always said to Moses, Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow and let them wash their clothes and let them be ready for the third day for on the third day off.

They will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people You shall set bounds for the people. All around saying, take heed to yourselves that. You do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain. Shall surely be put to death?

Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow. Whether man or beast. He shall not live. When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain. So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they wash their clothes.

And he said to the people be ready for the third day, do not come near your wives. Then I came to pass in the third day in the morning that there were thunderings and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and the sound of the trumpet was very loud.

So that all the people who are in the camp trembled and Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke because you always descended upon it in fire, it's smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

And when the blast of the trumpet, sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him by voice, then Yahweh came down upon upon Mount Sinai on the top of the mountain and Yah. They called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.

And you always said to Moses go down and warn the people lest they break through to gaze at Yahweh and many of them perish. Also, let the priests who come near to Yahweh consecrate themselves. Lest Yahweh break out against them. But Moses said to Yahweh, the people cannot come up to Mount Sinai for you.

Warned us saying set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it. Then you always said to him away, get down and then come up you and therein with you but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to Yahweh. Lest he break out against them.

Some Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

So, for the reading of God's inspired and inherent word

Suppose the Israelites thought that the big part had been completed. God had taken down Egypt. He had done. So, in a way, that singled out a different one, or two or few of the Egypt's top Gods. And in every plague, They just heard this wonderful sermon from father-in-law at least to Moses Jethro about how God displayed himself.

The one true God because in the very things in which Egypt was proud, He had particularly judged and destroyed them. They probably thought that the greatness of God's power had been especially displayed in what he had saved them from. And this is true, it is a great display of his power.

It's a great display of his mercy, Same for you. Dear believer. The more you learn about the hell that you deserve, even as we were thinking a few moments ago about Salma 109 and how we deserve not only God's wrath for us, but even for our children, and how we deserve the eternal infinite, hot burning of God upon us from the outside.

And that gnawing from the inside, like, worms eating, you alive from the inside forever with your conscience, quickened, and God breaking out against you from without and within forever and ever. Because you realize what it is that we have been saved from which Christ has endured in our place.

We see the greatness of God's salvation and yet God emphasizes to His people even more than what they have been saved from what they have been saved for. He's just getting started here. So he says, you have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to myself.

Now. Therefore if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people. For all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and the holy nation And so he's offering Israel to be the ones who bring all of creation, all of the earth near to God who as a nation, become a priesthood and lead the whole creation and the worship of God and our treasured by God, as the ones who who lead that worship as the priesthood.

God has saved us for worship. He saved us not to be distanced from the world and to escape our penalty so much as to be brought near to him and to enjoy our reward of him himself and his glory in his worship, to be treasured by him, which is to be given a heart.

Especially that treasures. Him for what rewards can God's treasure have? That is greater than to know God as his treasure. And so he sets before them The destiny unto, which his ultimate salvation aims, and yet there's a danger because he starts out saying, I brought you to me, and you will be a kingdom of priests and the holy nation, which means they'll draw near for worship.

But he spends the whole rest of the chapters saying, watch out that you don't come near God descends on the top of the mountain and they can't even touch the bottom of the mountain. And he turns Sinai itself into a display of how dangerous God is. If we are not counted righteous in Jesus and he alone is the righteousness that is counted for us.

But if we are not also made righteous like Jesus, then we cannot stand in the presence of God. We have to be made like him. Who is our righteousness so that we can safely draw near and enjoy. Our reward heaven is not a happy place unless you are. Holy.

And so God takes a mountain, which is supposed to be a sign of strength and stability. And he does to the mountain, what he did to the bush except for at least to the appearances. The mountain is consumed. The whole thing is set on fire. The smoke covers the whole thing and mountains are supposed to be stable, right?

God uses them as images of stability and and strength and endurance. This one is shaking like an upside down jello that you just popped out of the mold. The whole thing is quaking. It's it's not a an image of stability, but an image of terror and quaking. And then there's the sound of the trumpet, which is terrifying when it starts, but it increases and increases, God is dangerous.

And we don't we don't perceive how holy and how dangerous. And if you thought you did, and if I thought I did, then we're wrong. We think that if we were there, we would get the message. But you know, who is there Moses? And you know what he didn't do?

He didn't get the message, did he? Because he goes back up the mountain and he waits for God's word, and God's word comes again in verse 21, go down and warn the people. And then verse 23, don't you ever do this to your parent's children? Let alone the living God.

Moses talks back, it doesn't say yes, sir. He doesn't obey the command he doesn't, go back down again to warn the people. Again, what does he do? Moses said to you always the people cannot come up to sign Mount Sinai for you warned us.

You always says, to him away, which is actually a wonderful saving word, isn't it? Because with what the Lord is doing to Mount Sinai at the time, what do you kind of expect to happen to the guy who has drawn the nearest and still hasn't gotten it and his response to the command is to talk back.

Do you see the greatness of the mercy? Shone Moses in the Word? That sends him away. And continues allows him to continue in his service and on his mission which is at this point to go down. And to warn the people again. You see our defense our defense is God, the reason there's mercy shown Moses.

The reason there's mercy shun Israel is because they are in a sense. Aren't they the ones in whom were brought near to God? Isn't this? The olive tree into which branches from all the nations are grafted, and does God not say to us who are grafted in that? He makes us a kingdom of priests and the holy nation.

And the wonderful thing is this morning. When we gathered in the worship room, The scripture tells us that we didn't come to this mountain and we didn't come to the bottom of one that couldn't be touched. Scripture tells us that by Christ's leading our worship from glory, where he sits in Zion, the heavenly Zion, and where we are seated with him and where there are the angels, not there.

Ready to defend the holiness of God against these unholy men? And where there are the souls of the just And what has been done to the souls of the just to were right with God through faith. In Jesus Christ, the souls of every believer whom you know who has passed from this world.

And with whom we gathered in worship this morning, They've been perfected. Haven't they? And we do not know what we will be like when he when what we will be as not yet appeared. But we know that we will be like Him when he appears because we will see him as he is.

And why is it that he chastens us like a father for our good? What peaceful fruit as he producing in us with that discipline throughout our lives, The peaceful fruit of righteousness, and that holiness without which, you can't see the Lord. But even now, before we get there, you are righteous in Christ.

His blood that was spilled upon earth. Hebrews tells us has consecrated heaven. After they worshiped at Sinai. They would have the tabernacle, right? And they would go around and they'd carry the tabernacle. You know what the tabernacle was? It was a place that almost no one could enter and I had within it an inner place.

A holy of holies that only one could enter and only once a year and in terror of death. But now every single week we who are led in worship not by Moses or Aaron but by Jesus Christ we go through the veil into not an earthly. Holy of holies but into the Holy of holies in heaven of which that was a copy and we come not terrified that we might be killed.

But with boldness, even to the throne because our bodies have been washed with pure water and our consciences have our hearts. Have been sprinkled clean by the blood of Christ, so that we may come with confidence, not just to the bottom of the mountain, but to the top, not just to the outside of the tabernacle, but into the holy of Holies because we are united to Christ.

And there is a sampling, every Lord's day. In that assembly of the worship that we will lead In a new heavens and a new earth forever in, which we are that kingdom of priests and that holy nation. The ones who have been brought nearest, But with complete safety, not with danger.

Because we will have been not only justified and consecrated but completely cleansed in Christ. And so the people say all that you always has said we will do and they lied. They wouldn't do it just like Joshua would tell the people at the end of his life and they say we'll serve the Lord in Joshua says.

No, you won't. But the Lord Jesus has and everyone who has joined to Jesus by faith will sanctification as a guarantee to Christians because it's necessary for glorification and those whom he justified He also glorified. So, when you read Exodus 19, remember our destiny worship. Remember your danger that God is holy and we must not come near without holiness.

He's given us that holiness in Christ but be careful how you conduct your mind and your heart in the public worship of God. Especially But remember of course ultimately our defense that we have Christ Himself through, whom to come to whom were united and like whom when he is done, we have been completely conformed.

Amen. Let us pray. Lord, there's so much more in this passage and yet, these marvelous great truths that form the contours of it. We pray that your spirit would take and that he would make to penetrate our hearts and our minds. Oh, grant us. We pray to see the greatness of your holiness to see what a great thing it is that you have given us that we may draw near and worship.

But it is what a great thing it is that you have promised us that you will complete the work and we will worship you body and soul in a new heavens and a new earth forever lead the whole earth And so help us Lord to cling to Christ. Thank you for giving us a high priest to sympathize us with our weakness who has passed through the heavens.

Thank you for giving us to pass through the veil and that new, and living way. That is his flesh. Make us. We pray to know the confidence of our baptisms that you are, the one who pours out Christ, and you are the one who applies His blood to us and helps us by your spirit help us.

We pray to come with the confidence of the supper that we might eat and drink as those who are in fellowship with you who have been brought all the way near and bound to you. In unbreakable covenant. We pray that you would make us to love that holiness that you are producing in us.

And that this whole life long, you would grant to us to be engaged in that work of seeking that holiness that is required for when we see you Even. So, come quickly, Lord Jesus. And grant that our faith would be sight and finish. What you started that we might come all the way home all the way to you.

We ask it in your name. Amen.