



The Essentials: Exodus

Session 7

Exodus 19:1-20

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: Exodus 19:1-20

Discussion:

1. The rest of Exodus will take place here at Mount Sinai (as well as Leviticus and some of Numbers). What do you think that says about the importance of this material?
2. In order to make the covenant, Moses goes onto the mountain for forty days and forty nights? Why do you think it takes so long?
3. Reflect on Moses' own life and calling. Why do you think Moses gets to go into the presence of God and receive the law?
4. The nature of faith is often saying "yes" to God even when we don't fully understand the implications of our response. Reflect on how this applies to the Israelites in the passage and to your life.
5. Think about all of the mountains in the Bible. Mount Zion becomes a central place of worship for the Israelites. Jesus goes onto mountains to pray. He gives his longest teaching on a mountain. Also, even while it is not a mountain, Jesus is crucified on the hill of Golgotha. What do you think is significant about mountains in the Bible?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Exodus 19:1-20

On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴‘You 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 obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.” Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.”

When Moses had told the words of the people to the LORD, ¹⁰the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³No hand shall touch them, but they shall be stoned or shot with arrows; whether animal or human being, they shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain.” ¹⁴So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵And he said to the people, “Prepare for the third day; do not go near a woman.”

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now all of Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the LORD had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. ¹⁹As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. ²⁰When the LORD descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.