



Lesson 52

Israel at Mt. Sinai

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Exodus 19:1-25 • Setting: circa 1445 B.C. near Mt. Sinai • Characters: God, Moses, and the Israelites • Plot: Israel prepares to receive the covenant from God through Moses. • Key word(s) “ _____ ” (v 5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: <i>Exodus 19:16</i> <i>And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.</i> |
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Assembly at the Mount

1. (vv 1-2) In the third month after leaving Egypt, the Hebrews came to Mt. Sinai.
 - a. “In the third month” doesn’t mean 12 weeks later but “the third new _____.” There is some debate over exactly how many days transpired between the first Passover and the giving of the law at Sinai. If it wasn’t fifty days, it would have been very close to it.
 - b. Later in the Old Testament, the feast of Pentecost (a harvest celebration) would be inaugurated. Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the morrow of Passover (Lev. 23:15). Though Pentecost was not explicitly given to commemorate the giving of the law at Sinai, it does seem to share its timing. And the parallels and contrasts between the giving of the law at Sinai and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the church at Pentecost are undeniable. Notice:
 - i. “Certainly we see some interesting Sinai-like phenomena in Acts 2. Just as God appeared on Mount Sinai in thunder, fire, and wind, so the phenomena of God's glory also filled the apostles' room and shook all _____.
 - ii. “As God had the people summoned around Him at Mount Sinai, so all Jerusalem flocked to the apostles' room to see what was going on.
 - iii. As God gave His law to Israel at Sinai, so God gave the _____ of Holiness, who would enable His people to keep His law.”¹

2. With Israel assembled around the Sinai, God’s promise to Moses in Exodus 3:12 had been fulfilled. The nation of Israel would be encamped at Mt. Sinai for about _____ months. (cf. Num. 10:11-12)

Ascending to the Top

3. (vv 3-6) Moses was summoned to the top of Mt. Sinai by the LORD who called him up. Matthew Henry notes, “In all our dealings with God, free grace anticipates us with the blessings of goodness, and all our comfort is owing, not to our knowing God, but rather to our being _____ of him, Gal. 4:9. *We love him*, visit him, and covenant with him, *because he first loved us*, visited us, and covenanted with us.”²

4. At the top, God told Moses many things:
 - a. God reminded Moses of how he powerfully delivered Israel out Egyptian bondage and bare them on “eagles’ wings.” This pictures the mother eagle caring for her young and teaching them to _____.
 - b. Then God told Moses that he will make a covenant with the nation, and that if they will keep it, then they will be his “peculiar treasure.” Note: “All the nations belong to God, but Israel was to stand in a place of

¹ < <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/the-greater-pentecost> > accessed 9-23-23. Outline formatting is mine.

² Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 122.

special privilege and enormous _____.”³

- c. A covenant is an agreement (like a _____) made between two parties (often within a superior/inferior relationship).
- d. Israel would become a “nation of _____, and an holy nation.” When God is king, then the people of the kingdom are priests. The Apostle Peter applied this language to Christians.

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

- 5. (vv 7-9) Moses delivered God’s offer of a covenant to the Hebrew leadership who responded, “All that the LORD hath spoken _____.”

Afraid of the LORD

- 6. (vv 10-15) As a part of preparing for receiving the covenant, God commanded the Hebrews to sanctify themselves to meet with God:
 - a. They were to wash their _____.
 - b. They were not allowed to _____ the mountain (an offense punishable by death).
 - c. They were to refrain from sexual relations.

APPLICATION → “When we are to attend upon God in solemn ordinances it concerns us to sanctify ourselves, and to get ready beforehand. Wandering thoughts must be gathered in, impure affections abandoned, disquieting passions suppressed, nay, and all cares about secular business, for the present, dismissed and laid by, that our hearts may be engaged to _____ unto God.”⁴

- 7. (vv 16-19) After three days, the presence of God descended on the mountain with thunder and lightning and caused it to smoke like a furnace and to shake like an earthquake. The voice of God was loud and pealed like a trumpet. Such a fearsome spectacle caused the people to tremble.

APPLICATION → How different is Law and Gospel! At Sinai, the people trembled and were kept away in fear, but when the Gospel came, we are brought near to God with grace. **Hebrews 12:18** *For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet...22 But ye are come unto mount _____, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels...*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “covenant” • 1. a. moon; b. i. Jerusalem; iii. Spirit • 2. Eleven • 3. Known • 4. A. fly; b. responsibility; c. treaty; d. priests • 5. We will do • 6. a. clothes; b. touch → approach • 7. → Sion

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

³ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition Notes* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ex 19:5.
⁴ Henry, 123.