

Making Promises

Part 7: The Exodus

Review

- Having crossed the Reed Sea, the tribes traveled for three days through the Desert of Shur and arrived at Marah.
- Between the Reed Sea and Sinai (**Ex. 15-18**), the prominent themes become the grumbling of the people and the Lord's testing of the hearts of the people.
- God tests their trust in his provision (**Ex. 16:4, 12, 19**), and He tests their obedience to rest on the 7th day (**Ex. 16:5, 22-26**), but the people didn't listen (**Ex. 16:20-21**).
- When God tested the people with thirst, they complained to Moses and the Lord provided water from a rock.

Sinai

- Along the way from Egypt to Sinai, Moses – at the advice of his father-in-law Jethro – **pluralizes his leadership** into many judges who will decide disputes and council people in the ways of God (**Ex. 18:14-18, 24-26**).
 - Later, the Lord commands Moses to gather **seventy** of these **judges/elders** so that they too would be filled with the Spirit as Moses was and share his leadership burdens. In addition, the Spirit came upon Eldad and Medad, who prophesied in the camp (**Num 11:16-17, 24, 26**).
 - In Greco-Roman times, Jewish elders had authority in **religious and civic matters**. They handled city administration and jurisdiction. The council of elders (and chief priests in Jerusalem [or Sanhedrin]) decided cases of orthodoxy and heterodoxy with the power of possible **excommunication** (**Matt 21:23; 26:3-4, 47, 57; 27:1, 12; John 9:22; 12:42; 16:2; Acts 4:5-9; 25:15**).
 - Eventually, the empowering of the **Holy Spirit** for ministry would not be limited to isolated individuals or to a small core of people, but every person in the fellowship of God would be so endowed (**Joel 2:28-29**).
- The scene at the foot of Mt. Sinai forms an important bridge in the book of Exodus between the first half of the book (1-18) and the second half of the book (20-40). In chapter 19, God begins to establish **his covenant** with the nation of Israel.

- The sanctity of the mountain of God is also to be seen in its **three part division**. It presumably anticipates the same divisions that are to be given to Moses in the design and building of the tabernacle that follows (**Ex. 19:20-25**).
 - ▶ The top, where Moses is summoned, representing the **Holy of Holies** (**Ex. 19:20**).
 - ▶ The mountain, where the priests can go, representing the **Holy Place** (**Ex. 19:22**).
 - ▶ The base of the mountain where the people can assemble, representing the **courtyard of the tabernacle** (**Ex. 19:23**).
- God begins to administrate the blessings of the **Abrahamic covenant**, then, by giving the nation of Israel the Mosaic covenant. This covenant explains his will for their lives in terms of how they were to relate to him, the surrounding nations, and creation (**Ex. 19:4-6**).
- Like **Adam**, Israel was created to rule, but its dominion was supposed to redefine authority for a world that had perverted it. Its rule, grounded in submission to God, was intended to create life and hope in the nations by mediating God's character and glory to them. Once again, God was establishing his kingdom among an identifiable people through a covenant.
- While mankind's **access to God's presence** was lost after Adam sinned, God is restoring his presence with humanity through Abraham's family (**Gen. 12:3; 15:5; 17:7-8**).
- Ultimately, Peter will connect the **commissioning of the church** to the mission of Israel at Sinai (**1 Pet. 2:5, 9; cf. Ex. 19:4-6; Deut. 7:6; 10:15**).
- Imagery from the end-time judgments in **Revelation** is meant to draw our minds back to God's appearance on Mt. Sinai (**Rev. 8:5; 11:19; 16:18**).
- God will give the 10 commandments to the people not only to reflect his character, but also so his people will **live distinctly** from the fallen world around them, where people do not naturally reflect his character.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Exodus 18:14–18	14 When Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?” 15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God; 16 when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws.” 17 Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is not good. 18 You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.
Exodus 18:24–26	24 So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. 26 And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves.
Numbers 11:16–17	16 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. 17 And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.
Numbers 11:24	So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent.
Numbers 11:26	Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.
Joel 2:28–29	28 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
Matthew 21:23	And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”
Matthew 26:3–4	3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.
Matthew 26:47	While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
Matthew 26:57	Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.
Matthew 27:1	When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.
Matthew 27:12	But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.
John 9:22	(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)
John 12:42	Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;
John 16:2	They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.
Acts 4:5–9	5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,

Acts 25:15	and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.
Exodus 19:20–25	20 The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. 22 Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.” 23 And Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.’” 24 And the Lord said to him, “Go down, and come up bringing 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.” 25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.
Exodus 19:20	The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.
Exodus 19:22	Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.”
Exodus 19:23	And Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.’”
Exodus 19:4–6	4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”
Genesis 12:3	I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
Genesis 15:5	And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
Genesis 17:7–8	7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”
1 Peter 2:5	you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 2:9	But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Deuteronomy 7:6	“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.
Deuteronomy 10:15	Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.
Revelation 8:5	Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
Rev 11:19	Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.
Rev 16:18	And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.