

"Entering into the Presence of God"

Part 1

Exodus 19

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the life of Moses we have arrived at Exodus 19 and we have arrived at Mt. Sinai.

Notice Exodus 19:1-2, 12

The "wilderness" was a plain. It was grazing country not yet settled by men. The views from this plain would have been spectacular. The granite peaks of the mountain stretched far toward the sky. This was the very place where God met Moses at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:1-2, 12

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

It will be on this mountain that God will come down and give the Law to Moses. It is interesting that there are more than 57 chapters of God's Word that are given to what took place at Mt. Sinai. As we get into this chapter, we are going to see what God required of Israel in order for them to approach the mountain.

I. The Conditions for Communion

Notice Exodus 19:3-4

God reminds them of what He has done for them over the past months. He destroyed the Egyptians and He carried them safely "on eagle's wings" to Mt. Sinai for this meeting. I want to take a few moments to look at how God carried them "on eagles' wings".

Deuteronomy 32:9-12

⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

¹⁰ He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

¹² So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

When the young eagle cannot fly on its own the mother eagle carries her young on her wings to safety. This is what God had done for Israel. They could not escape Egypt on their own, they could not defeat the Egyptians on their own, they would have starved to death or died of thirst. God carried them like the eagle carries her young. He carried them into safety. This is also a picture of what He will do at the midpoint of the Tribulation for His people Israel.

Revelation 12:13-16

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

¹⁵ And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Application:

This makes me think about how many times I have been carried by the Lord in the times when I was weak and feeble. It all started with our salvation when He carried us from the depths of sin and set us in the body of Jesus Christ. Then there were the times when I complained and murmured when I lacked faith because of what I was facing. Praise God that in those times He was there to carry US when we needed to be carried. He rescued us from the enemy who had laid down traps and had it not been for God we would have been consumed by the roaring lion.

Just like the eagle patiently works with her young until they learn to use their wings and fly, so our Lord is so patient with us in our many struggles.

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

*³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; **they shall mount up with wings as eagles**; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Before we move on to the next verse I need to just point out that God is about to deliver the Law to the Nation of Israel and it is so important that we NOT miss the fact that it is God who has initiated all of this. Israel did not seek to know more about God, but it was God who desired to make Himself known to Israel. He desired to have fellowship with these people.

Application:

There are several verses that come to mind here.

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

This was our condition before we were saved. We did not seek God but instead we sought to satisfy the lusts of the flesh. It was God who search us out and allowed His Spirit to work in our lives to draw us to Himself.

Genesis 3:6-9

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

It was God who searched for Adam and Eve among the trees of the forest. He sought them out so as to offer forgiveness to them.

In the same way it is God who sought us out to bring us to the cross and His purpose was to have fellowship with us.

John 17:3

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Notice Exodus 19:5-7

This is the Mosaic Covenant, and this covenant was **CONDITIONAL**. It was conditioned upon Israel's obedience. The people were eager to obey.

Notice Exodus 19:8

They were eager to obey but they failed miserably. This Mosaic Covenant is also known as the Law and it was impossible for anyone to keep the Law. As we have talked about many times before, the Law was never given to save anyone but only to show each of us how sinful we truly are.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

There are those who believe if they keep certain parts of the Law that God will be pleased with them. They do not understand that the Law is a whole and it cannot be separated so that a person can say that only a certain part applies to them.

James 2:10

¹⁰ *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

So, Israel could not keep the Law, and neither can we. But we can look at the Law and see how sinful we truly are as the Law manifests the holiness of God. Therefore, God gave the New Covenant which is **UNCONDITIONAL**.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will** make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this shall be the covenant that **I will** make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will** put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for **I will** forgive their iniquity, and **I will** remember their sin no more.

The New Covenant is **CONDITIONED** upon the faithfulness of God and not man. Now let us get to the proper approach.

Notice Exodus 19:5 again.

Israel is told in this verse that they are to **OBEY**. This means they needed to:

1. **Be willing to obey.**

Application:

Let us know that when we come into the presence of our Lord seeking to hear His Words, we too must be willing to obey. God knows our thoughts and our hearts before we ever come to Him. If we come looking for answers that only suit our personal desires and we are determined to reject what we do not like, God knows this, and it certainly hinders our communion.

James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶ But **let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

⁷ For **let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

If we do not come to God with willingness to obey, then according to James we shall receive nothing from the Lord. We must come in faith, trusting every ounce of Wisdom given to us from the Lord and ready to obey no matter how the flesh rebels.

James 1:19, 22-25

¹⁹ *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

²² *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

²³ *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*

²⁴ *For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

²⁵ *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

We must come to God with a willingness to obey if we desire to have communion with Him.

Next, we see that Israel needed to:

2. Be willing to listen.

Notice Exodus 19:9

Israel not only needed to be willing to obey but they also had to be willing to listen.

Application:

This is such an important point in our day and age. There is a great amount of noise in our world. It comes from many sources. This noise of the world can be such a distraction if we are not disciplined enough to shut it out. We get tuned into the news, or to work, or to our hobbies, and when we are tuned into those things, we do not hear God. What happens is these things fill our minds every day all day and then when we attempt to get alone with God the thoughts from all the noise of the world keeps us from hearing. We all know what distracts us and so we must be disciplined enough to cut it off so that it does not interfere with our quiet time with the Lord.

Many people have a difficult time hearing God because their ears are ringing from the world's noise.

1 Kings 19:11-12

¹¹ And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

¹² And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

God can manifest Himself in supernatural events but many times it is a still small voice and if we are not tuned in, we will miss what He desires for us to hear.

Conclusion:

God desires to have fellowship with us. He has given the very best so that we can come into His presence for communion. Let us be sure to come:

1. **Willing to obey.**
2. **Willing to listen.**