**October 12, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

588 S.E. 7th Street, Webster, FL 33597; (352) 568-2833

**Bishop James Hall, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**“KINGDOM COVENANT AND**

**KINGDOM COMMITMENT”**

**Exodus 19:1-25**

***Exodus 19:1-2***

***1 "In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they [into] the wilderness of Sinai."***

***2 "For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come [to] the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount."***

The arrival at Sinai is recorded in simple terms without fanfare. We are being reminded, here, that it had been a very short time (three months) since God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt and brought them to the mount of God. The Lord had promised Moses that Israel would worship him at this very spot (3:12). By comparing 19:1 and Numbers 10:11 it seems the nation began an eleven-month stay at Sinai. Everything that had happened to them, happened for the purpose of teaching them the ways of God. The term wilderness is repeated to emphasize that the great event of the giving of the law happened in the wilderness, a place where there were no distractions, no other associations, and nothing of the world. There was really nothing here but the Lord Himself. All other associations were set aside so that the people could focus on the covenant, the relationship about to be established. We, Christians, (spiritual Israel) can take a lesson from this, as well. Things that we call "troubles" to us are, also, happening to teach us the ways of God. God allows problems to come, to make us strong, and to make us realize that He is the source of our strength. God purposely brought them to this mountain to receive from Him the law.

***Exodus 19:3-4***

***3 "And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;"***

***4 "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and [how] I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself."***

Moses realized, all along, that this mount was the mount of God. Moses started up the mount to meet with God, but before he got there, God called out to him, and told him what to say to this group of people he was leading. I believe God called them the "...house of Jacob..." showing their covenant with God through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then He spoke of them as the "...children of Israel..." showing that they had grown into a mighty nation. God reminded them, that it was by His power they were brought out of Egypt. He said that He had protected His, all along. God told them that He had led them to this very mountain where He dwells.

***Exodus 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine:"***

On the mountaintop Moses was commanded to tell the people of Israel, If you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples. The Lord, then, was about to enter into a covenant with Israel as a whole. A biblical covenant is a spiritually created bond. For example, marriage between a husband and wife is a covenant. God intended to enter a binding relationship with Israel making them his “own possession.” If they kept the covenant stipulations, the end result would be their blessing.

***Deuteronomy 29:9 “Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.”***

God is a King with an agenda. His goal is that his kingdom will be manifested in history through the lives of those who submit to his rule and thus experience his authority and blessing. The kingdom agenda, then, is the visible manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life. Covenants are the instrument through which God’s kingdom operates. This covenant that God was trying to make with these people was a conditional covenant. It depended entirely upon them obeying His voice and keeping commandment with Him. Then, and only then, would the blessings be theirs. God had chosen them to be His alone. He would not share them with false gods. Everything, and everyone, belong to Him, but He has given man a free will to follow Him, or not. He desired to bless them above all people, but they had to do their share, as well. Covenants have two sides. Both parties have to agree to keep the agreement.

***Exodus 19:6 "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These [are] the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."***

If Israel would operate under the covering of his covenant, they would be his kingdom of priests and his holy nation, experiencing the benefits and privileges that his kingdom offers. As recorded in Old Testament history, however, the sinful people of Israel would repeatedly break God’s covenant and forfeit his blessings. Only God’s Son Jesus Christ, born in human flesh, descended from the Israelite people, perfectly kept the laws of the covenant and offered himself as an atoning sacrifice for sinners. By the shedding of his own blood, he established a new covenant. All those who trust in Christ’s sacrifice receive full atonement for sins, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and have fellowship with God. As members of the new covenant, Christians now have the capacity to obey God, so that they may experience his authority and deliverance in their daily circumstances. This message that God had given Moses, was to be told to them in total. God wished to bless them and have them for a special people set aside for Him, but they had to live holy lives. He wanted to make them all priests to fellowship with Him. Jesus is the High priest. They could reign with Him as His subordinates. Their part was to stay holy.

***Exodus 19:7-8***

***7 "And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him."***

***8 "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."***

Moses presented to the elders of the people what God had said, and all the people agreed to enter into a covenant with him.Moses did just as God had commanded him. He gave the whole message of God, without alteration to the people. It seems that, the elders of the people received this message from God through Moses. These elders carried this message to the people; and the people unanimously agreed. They had not been given the details, but they knew from experience the power of God. Their reply was "We will do the will of God". The chain was reversed here, and Moses took their reply back to God.

***Exodus 19:9 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD."***

God informed Moses that He would speak to the people from a thick cloud. God, before, had not appeared and spoken to the people. Probably, this thick cloud, that God would speak to the people from, was the same cloud that led them in their travels. This cloud being thick would keep the presence of God (Light) from burning up these sinners. This manifestation was meant to convey two truths: He was immanent (near them) and yet He was transcendent (above and beyond them). These two truths had to be acknowledged and kept in theological and existential balance. Too much immanence and He would be too familiar, and the people might be flippant about this relationship. But then too much transcendence and He might seem too distant and even unknowable. As noted later, the tabernacle was designed to keep these two qualities in balance. He was near—He was to dwell with them–but He was hidden, covered by the walls and veils to be approached only by sacrifice. He was in the thick cloud, but He could be heard, so that the people may hear when I speak. The Light of God cannot be looked upon by sinful man. This voice of God coming from this thick cloud would be heard by all the people and would leave no doubt in any of their minds that God, Himself, was leading this large group. It, also, would assure them that the messages Moses was giving them, were really from God. They would be more receptive to Moses, knowing it was actually God speaking through Moses.

***Exodus 19:10-11***

***10 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes,"***

***11 "And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai."***

Moses had gone back to tell God that the people were in agreement. Now, God told Moses to go and prepare for His descent to the people. To be truly sanctified, is to be washed in the blood of the Lamb and made pure by Him. So, the Lord commanded the people to observe three-days of purification to prepare and consecrate themselves. Sanctification really takes place inside a person's heart, but since these people were not children of grace, this type of sanctification (made right with God) was not possible. The next best thing was to cleanse them completely on the outside. This washing was symbolic of the washing away of sin. The "third day" just shows the holiness, and also, shows the reverence we are to have for God. This "coming down" just meant that He would come near enough, that they could hear His voice. He would be covered in a very thick cloud, so as not to blind them with His presence of Light, and to protect them from sudden death from His presence. The whole mountain (Sinai) would be a very holy place with the presence of God.

***Exodus 19:12 "And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, [that ye] go [not] up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:"***

Then they were to observe boundaries around the mountain. Anyone, animal or human, who touched the mountain of God’s presence would be put to death. These regulations were meant to help reveal to Israel how special and holy this event was to be. Where the presence of God is, everything must be pure. In the tabernacle in the wilderness, in the holy of holies, not anything less than 24 kt gold (pure gold) was used. Everything in there had to be 24 kt gold or 24 kt gold overlaid. Anything in the presence of God had to be pure. Not only could they not touch Him, but they could not be in close proximity of Him. God is pure and holy. He cannot be around sin, at all. Nothing impure can touch God. These people had not been purified by the shed blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ).

***Exodus 19:13 "There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether [it be] beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount."***

We see, here, an extreme holiness that God's presence had brought to this mountain. Moses was to build a barricade to keep the people from getting too close to the mountain, while God's presence was on it. If someone strayed over too close to the mountain, the people were to stone the person to death, or shoot and kill him with arrows. Even the ones carrying out the punishment could not cross the barricade or they, too, would be killed. The trumpet sounding long was a signal for them to come in hearing distance, but not to cross the barricade. The only ones who could touch the mountain, or go up the mountain, were the holy men of God, such as Moses and Aaron.

***Exodus 19:14-15***

***14 "And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes."***

***15 "And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at [your] wives."***

Moses came down and prepared the people. They washed themselves and their clothes. We see, here, a cleansing of the people, and a total separation from things of the world. They were to even abstain from sex for three days. This outward cleansing was symbolic of the cleansing that should go on inside of a believer. These three days, here, symbolized a time of acceptance of serious prayers we make to God. Fasting and prayer include total abstinence from sex relations, and all worldly things, and a cleansing of the body by doing without food for three days and nights. This is a time acceptable unto God.

***Exodus 19:16 "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."***

The Lord’s appearance was accompanied by dramatic and amazing manifestations: thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, a very loud trumpet sound, smoke, fire, quaking, and the trumpet sound growing louder and louder. God deals with people, many times, with thundering and lightnings. Many times, the voice of God was heard as thundering. We can look at this scene now. The people were ready. They had washed their clothes and bodies and abstained from worldliness, and they were at least cleaned up on the outside. Moses had warned them not to get too near the mountain, and now, this voice as of a loud trumpet sounded. God was covered with a thick cloud to conceal His bright Light. This trumpet voice had called them to attention and frightened them so badly that they trembled.

***Exodus 19:17-18***

***17 "And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount."***

***18 "And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly."***

This had to be an awesome sight. It appeared that the whole mount was on fire. The presence of God, many times, is seen as a fire, or smoke. "For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29) Many times, earthquakes were God dealing with mankind. All of this happened, so there would be no doubt that the voice that came from this mount, was the voice of God. It seemingly terrified them to such an extent, that the people refused to ascend the mountain as they had been commanded. Therefore, instead of God giving His covenant to the entire nation, He gave it to their mediator, Moses.

***Exodus 19:19 "And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice."***

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound in the sky to redeem us from the earth, it is the voice of the Lord, as well. The voice and the trumpet got a little confusing. Probably, they are the same. Perhaps, the voice of God is as a trumpet. Then God spoke in words understandable in answer to Moses. "By a voice" just means the words were understandable to all the people.

***Exodus 19:20 "And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses [up] to the top of the mount; and Moses went up."***

Moses was sanctified and had been ever since God spoke to him in the burning bush. Moses could be in God's presence, but not look upon the face of God. This, you see, would not be the first, or the last, time that Moses would be much closer to God than the people. God had set Moses aside for this very purpose.

***Exodus 19:21 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish."***

We can see that the barricade Moses put up, was for the protection of the people. God feared the awesomeness might cause them to try to break through, so that they might see God, and if they did, they would die. In Numbers 4:20, God forbids the looking on holy things. This should show us how reverent we should be in the presence of God.

***Exodus 19:22 "And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them."***

In addition, there were special instructions for the priests at this meeting. The priests were to consecrate themselves. These were not yet the official priests (the Levitical priesthood had not yet been established) but were most likely the family heads, or perhaps the firstborn who had been dedicated to the Lord. This was another layer of protection against mindlessness and against any casual flippancy in their approach to the Lord. God was saying, by this, the priests had to clean themselves up, also. They were not exempt from cleansing, just because they were priests. The same rules were for them, that were for the people. We will see later, that the priests who went into the holy place, who had not cleansed themselves from sin, were killed. God's ministers are not exempt from His laws and covenants. The ministers, more than the people, should live holy lives. To whom much is revealed, much is required.

***Exodus 19:23-25***

***23 "And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it."***

***24 "And the LORD said unto him, Away, get the down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them."***

***25 "So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them."***

The people were to remain at the mountain’s base. Just as God’s presence had made the ground holy when Moses first encountered him (3:5), so now the mountain was holy for the same reason. All of this was a vivid reminder of the glory of God and of the great chasm that exists between a holy God and sinful people. Moses reminded God, here, of the barricade put up to protect the mount from the people. We see, here, a little scolding from God to Moses. When God tells us to do something, our answer should be "Yes Sir", not an explanation why it isn't necessary to do it. Moses immediately did as God told him. Moses was to warn even the priests not to come near the mount. Only Moses and Aaron (chosen men of God, sanctified by God for this work) could come on the mount.

**QUESTIONS**

1. How many months had the Israelites been gone from Egypt, when they came to the wilderness?
2. What was mount Sinai called?
3. Why had all these things happened to the children of Israel?
4. Moses went up unto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What house was Moses to speak to?
6. God said He bare them up how?
7. If they did what 2 things, God would make them His peculiar treasure to Him?
8. What type of covenant was God making with them?
9. What was Moses to do to the people, to get them ready to meet God?
10. What was the washing symbolic of?
11. What was Moses to do, to keep them away from God?
12. What would happen to anyone who touched the mountain?
13. What, besides washing, did God tell them not to do to prepare to meet God?
14. How is fasting and prayer today similar?
15. What occurred on the mountain, that told them God was there?
16. Why was the mountain as if it were on fire?
17. What was the smoke likened to?
18. Who went up and talked with God?
19. Why did God tell Moses to tell the people to stay back from the mountain?
20. Were the 70 priests allowed on the mountain?