

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 10 Exodus 19–20

Day One: Preparing to Receive God's Law

Three months had passed since the nation of Israel left their slavery in Egypt and walked out into freedom. The Red Sea crossing and the testing at Marah and Rephidim were now behind them, as was their old life. God was bringing them into a new life—a covenant relationship with Himself. As all of Israel camped in the wilderness at the base of Mt. Sinai and waited, Moses went up to God.

Read all of Exodus 19–20. Today we'll focus on chapter 19:1–15.

In order to live as God's people, the Israelites had to know God. They grew up in an Egyptian culture that was accustomed to worshipping many gods, but now they would come to know for themselves the holiness of the one true God. It was at Mt. Sinai (also known as Horeb) that God would reveal His nature to His chosen people in the form of Ten Commandments that were designed to govern every aspect of their relationship with Him and with one another.

1. God gave Moses instructions to bring down to the people. What reminder was he to bring to their attention? v. 4
2. What did God promise in return for their obedience? vv. 5–6

Though all the earth and everything in it belonged to God, the Israelites would be set apart as His own *special treasure* (v. 5).

3. When Moses returned to share God's words with the elders, how did the people respond? vv. 7–8

Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord, who then instructed Moses to set the people apart—or to *consecrate* them—and prepare them to meet with God.

4. How were the people to prepare themselves?
 - vv. 10 and 14
 - v. 15

5. On the third day God would descend from the mountain and meet with them. What form would His appearance take and for what purpose? v. 9

6. God issued a warning for the people; what was it? vv. 12–13
 - a. What was the penalty for disobeying?

 - b. When was the only time anyone could approach the mountain?

Moses fully obeyed the Lord's instructions, telling the people to prepare to meet God on the third day. Imagine what must have run through their minds in anticipating of His appearing.

7. Personal: Take a moment to note what runs through your mind as you think about the Lord's return.

Because you belong to God, you must separate yourself from sin. To be *sanctified* means to be *set apart* for God's purpose and pleasure. According to the Scripture, how is this possible?

- a. Hebrews 10:10

 - b. Romans 15:16

 - c. John 17:17
- ❖ Are *you* looking forward to meeting God face-to-face? Why or why not?

 - ❖ How are *you* preparing yourself to meet a holy God?

Heartbeat . . . (Memory verse) *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people; for all the earth is Mine."* Exodus 19:5

Day Two:

On Holy Ground

Read Exodus 19:16–25 for review.

On the morning of the third day the nation of Israel awoke to the roar of thunder and the flash of lightening. A thick dark cloud descended while a loud trumpet sounded and the entire mountain quaked greatly! Boundaries were set in place so the people would not come too close and be harmed. As God came near, the people trembled in great fear.

1. As you contemplate this great sight, what lessons of Sinai can you derive from the following . . .
 - a. God's nature?
 - b. Moses' character?
 - c. Man's sinfulness?

2. Who was singled out for a special warning? Why was this so? v. 22

Most people today are very casual in their approach to God. Some are even careless, believing that because God loves everyone heaven is for everybody; so why do Christians make such a fuss about it? The truth is we are still dealing with the same God that exhibited those terrors on Mt. Sinai. He is still holy and there is still a barrier that exists between sinners and our Creator. But there is hope—that barrier of sin can be removed; however we cannot remove it ourselves.

3. According to 1 Timothy 2:5, who has come as our mediator to reconcile us to God?

On the Cross the Lord Jesus Christ took the penalty for *your* sin, removing once and for all the barrier between *you* and a holy God! You must still fear (reverence) Him, but now He invites *you* to *draw near* (Hebrews 10:19–22).

Look closer . . .

Contrast the terrifying scene at Sinai in Exodus 19 with that of the New Testament believers found in Hebrews 12:18–29. As you spend some time here, jot down what God ministers to your heart.

Day Three: The Ten Commandments – Part 1

The words spoken in Exodus 20 were the revelation of God's nature to Israel in the form of "Ten Words" or "Ten Laws." Written by God's own hand on two tablets of stone, they have become known to us as the Ten Commandments. They are intended to point out our need for God and to affirm His blessing upon our lives as we speak and act in a way that reflects His character. God gave these commandments to Israel—His chosen—but they were intended for all people.

Read Exodus 20:1–26.

Selah . . .

Why do you think God identifies Himself by reminding His people what He has done on their behalf? v. 2

The commandments fall into two categories: the first four pertain to our relationship with God; the remaining six pertain to our relationship with one another. Today we'll look at the four that pertain to our relationship with God.

1st Commandment: *"You shall have no other gods before Me"* (v. 3).

God is a jealous God and will not share His glory with another. He has established His right as sovereign Lord.

- What are some of the "gods" that people worship today?

- Have you allowed your attention or affection for something or someone to relegate God to a lesser place than first priority in your life? Please explain.

2nd Commandment: *"You shall not make for yourself an idol"* (vv. 4–6).

This command forbids the making of physical images of God for the purpose of worshipping them. Going after idols that misrepresent God distorts the truth about God.

- How are you commanded in Scripture to worship God? See John 4:24, What does this mean to you personally?

3rd Commandment: *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"*

(v. 7). The way we speak about God reveals our true heart attitude toward Him. To misuse His name frivolously in an irreverent manner is sin; it offends God.

- Summarize what Jesus says about your speech in Matthew 12:33–37. Are these words you live by?

4th Commandment: *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”* (vv. 8–11).

The Sabbath is not ours to do with as we please; it is for us to honor the Lord and do as He pleases. When God set His people apart, He ordained six days in which they would work and the seventh was to be for rest.

- What does the Sabbath mean to you? How can you keep it holy in the midst of your busy life?

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Four: The Ten Commandments – Part 2

Read Exodus 20:1-17 for review. Today we’ll focus on the six commandments that pertain to our relationships with one another.

5th Commandment: *“Honor your father and your mother”* (v. 12).

Children should honor their parents as they honor God. This commandment is the first with promise.

- What is the promise?

- What are some ways you can honor father and mother?

6th Commandment: *“You shall not murder”* (v. 13).

The fullness of this commandment dictates not only refraining from the taking of a life, but also refraining from vicious and murderous thoughts toward another person.

- What do you learn from Matthew 5:21–22?

7th Commandment: *“You shall not commit adultery”* (v. 14).

The sexual act is honored and blessed by God within the context of the marriage relationship. Any sexual act outside the marriage bond is forbidden.

- What does Matthew 5:27–28 tell you?

8th Commandment: *“You shall not steal”* (v. 15).

The scope of this commandment goes beyond the property rights of individuals to the heart intent of the person regarding obedience to all of God’s commands.

- What does the Apostle Paul exhort believers to do with what they possess? See Ephesians 4:28.

9th Commandment: *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”* (v. 16). In a society where the lines between right and wrong, truth and lies are often blurred, Christians must remember that we answer to a higher authority.

- According to Psalm 141:3, what should be your prayer to God?

10th Commandment: *“You shall not covet”* (v. 17).

Simply put, we must not desire anything that belongs to another person. It goes further than the visible act of taking something, dealing with the intents and desires within the heart.

- What is our responsibility in this regard? Proverbs 4:23

- How are you guarding your heart today?

Selah . . .

Later, Jesus summed up all of these commandments into two—what are they? Are you keeping them? See Matthew 22:37–40

We must remember that we cannot be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments. They were meant to show us how sinful we are and that we need our Savior Jesus Christ! However, as God’s people, we should hold them in high regard and make every effort to keep them in gratitude for what God has done on our behalf. They are the expression of who He is and what He desires for His children.

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing you can act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promise Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes