

## March 6

**Scriptures:** Read Exodus 19

**Key Verse:** “If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.”( Exodus 19:5 )

### Overview

The multitude of Israelite slaves that left Egypt were now a free people becoming an organized nation. Moses led them by the guidance of God to Mount Sinai which, it seems, is one very high peak of a mountain range called Horeb. They were traveling alongside this range (17:6), which they considered “the mountain [range] of God” (18:5), until they reached their destination – the very place where Moses saw the burning bush (3:1, 2) and was promised a “sign” (3:12). Moses alone went up to commune with God while the people camped in the territory below.

While Moses was on the mountain, God revealed his intention concerning the redeemed nation of Israel. God, as an act of grace and out of His own goodwill, had decided to allow them the privilege of entering into a covenant relationship with Him. In giving the covenant, the Lord reminded them of their swift redemption from Egypt and the grace He had extended to them. He carried them as though on “eagles’ wings” (19:4), showing them His great care, protection and compassion. He was the marker of the covenant; it was not the people’s idea, for they did not show interest in spiritual things. It was not imposed on them, but rather, out of their own free will, they were to respond to God. It is the same today; God does not make us believe in Him, rather He allows us the freedom to choose. Those that choose Him and enter into the New Covenant relationship under Jesus Christ truly enjoy the redemption He provides.

The covenant God laid before them was conditional: “if you will indeed obey My voice... then you shall be a special treasure... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation: (19:5, 6). As such, they were to be mediator between God and man, called to tell the nations of the earth about the knowledge and salvation of God, but to have this honor, they were to be obedient to Him and keep His covenant. It was God’s intention that all Israel be priests, but they later proved themselves unworthy. Therefore He chose only the tribe of Levi to be priests, for they did not fall into sin by worshipping the golden calf like the other Israelites (Ex. 32:26).

We are living today in the New Covenant era established by the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ with the blood He shed for us on the cross. In Titus 2:14 we read: “[Jesus Christ] who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people.” The whole body of believers today are the people of God, His chosen people (Ephesians 1:4-6) and in Jesus every believer is a priest (Revelation 1:6); “a royal priesthood a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

After Moses told the people all that God had said, they were quick to answer “yes” in agreement to obey Him (19:8), like pledging allegiance to a King. Perhaps they did not fully understand the significance of the vow they made before God, nor of how unable they were to keep it. Often people make rash promises which they are unable to keep, but this was more than just a promise, it was a vow, an oath before God, therefore it was a serious matter which obliged them to keep the covenant in obeying God. Decisions to follow God are not to be taken lightly. It is serious and important; the best decision a person will ever make.

The awesome and terrifying manifestation of the Lord’s presence on Mount Sinai was the fulfillment of the “sign” that God promised Moses (3:12). This must have given him great encouragement, but at the same time we read in Hebrews that he, as well as all the people were trembling with fear (Hebrews 12:21). Before the heavenly trumpet blasts and the Lord’s voice was heard, the people had to be sanctified. They washed their clothes and abstained from relationships with their spouse as a symbol of purification. This dramatic, supernatural display showed clearly the holiness of God and His separation in holiness. May we “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrew 12:28, 29).

### Prayer

Father God, we are so thankful that we’ve entered into the new Covenant by receiving Your Son, the Lord Jesus. You are a great treasure to us. May we be a treasure always available to You.